

(Excerpt from Disaster Relief Blog)

Summertime

Today is a Friday in May. It gets like this each year. No one wants to do anything. If one of us is slightly motivated then everyone else is napping, bugging someone else, tinkering with something, or starting and not finishing a messy project. The laundry is behind, and the house is in shambles. The school year is almost over.

Since this is my fourth cycle of this, I was going into this period very prepared with activities, assignments, and organization. But then a few things were added to the mix. And here we are again. This morning I am contemplating making it a "Fun Friday" just so we don't have to struggle through another day. Apparently, my kids need a day of fun and of my total attention.

What makes some weeks like today? Well, I can name a whole list of things. The house is a mess because we are not having our weekly family chore day, because we are taking a break from our community group meeting at our house. Much needed rest, but great cleaning motivation. We have also had family situations move in and out of our life, causing a bit of a turbulence in our normally drama free routine. All our hearts are still repairing, and we are feeling a little battered. Then there is a ministry camp we are helping with. We have been planning the cooking for 250+ people a week in June. Also directing VBS for fifth graders. Oh yes, and I am supposed to plan our annual Homeschool summer camp. And this beautiful, exciting adventure of a mobile soup kitchen ministry is flying forward...which is leaving me with a million more tasks as well, answer a million questions, confirm a board, call nonprofit lawyers, draft a nonprofit status, clear out the house, paint walls and base boards, and put house on the market....

Well, when you put it down on paper it is no wonder, we are tired. We are wonderfully tired. Why not give in and play a little? Because I do not feel like there is any time! Ha-ha! Vicious cycle!

By July our schedule should be very free. I have been getting rid of obligations for months so it should be much easier to just focus on the family and on our ministry. I know that God will give us the strength to get through and I am pretty sure we will also get some training along the way as well to help with future adventures.

So, I am trying to hold on until then.

Meanwhile, While I am typing someone just sent me this message...

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9

I have added our summer bucket list for this year!

If you have time tell me what your family does to decompress and relax during busy seasons?

I would love some ideas! Have a great day!

Thanks!

The Huff Family

Huff Summer Bucket List

1. Find Water Fun STAT!!!

Fisher Park Splash Pad! We were super excited to see a splash pad nearby, that also had kayak rentals, 2 fishing ponds, and a nature center with archaeological dig! How cool is that!

<https://www.nbtexas.org/2592/Fischer-Park>

ZDT's amusement park in Seguin, TX. We have been to the park once and it was an awesome experience all around. The entire family enjoyed the unlimited wrist band, arcades, go karts, and roller coasters. As a family of five, we were also grateful for affordable food prices. However, at the time we went the water park was closed for the day, so we have been looking forward to going again ever since. <https://www.zdtamusement.com/>

Blue Hole Regional Park. Every year when the weather starts to get nice, we try to find a day to take a little road trip to a natural Texas water spot. We love Wimberley, TX so we decided to add this one to the list! Plus, we may have some time for a nice dinner out or some shopping while we are there!

<https://www.cityofwimberley.com/202/Blue-Hole-Regional-Park>

2. MOVIES!!!

Every Summer we love to meet up at Regal Cinemas for their summer movie specials. Sometimes they are free ... or \$1. Or they have a movie and snack pack for next to nothing! It is a great way to see some family favorites in the theater and stay out of the Texas heat for a bit!

3. Find a Farmer's Market and a Real Bakery!

(My kids love doing this kind of stuff)

We always pass the City of Cibolo's Farmer's Market but don't usually have time to stop. So we really want to add that to our schedule. Why is produce from one of these stops so much more fun and tasty to kids? <https://www.facebook.com/CiboloGrangeFarmersMarket/>

Does anyone know of a really great bakery? The kind that makes fresh loaves of bread on the morning!?! I would love a recommendation!

4. Caverns!

We haven't been to The Cave Without A Name since we first started dating and way before we had three kids! This used to be one of my favorite places to take friends who came to visit. We loved that it was a little bit more of a drive from us and that it had a more natural roughing it

feel. It is so beautiful! I imagine our homeschoolers would be completely amazed!

<https://www.cavewithoutaname.com/>

5. Museums!!!

This is always a tried-and-true favorite for us, but we don't always have time to go during the busy school days! We also like to take carloads of friends since a lot of people don't take advantage of the great activities that museums offer for families! Almost every museum near San Antonio offers free evenings and special family days!

San Antonio Museum of art offers free family evenings. Most people think kids wouldn't appreciate an art museum but this one is our favorite. On certain weeknights it is free for families. Also, they have the most interesting curators to share stories about the pieces and the time periods. Often, they will have art professors volunteer from the colleges in the area and they wheel out a giant bin of sketch pads and take you around the museum to teach you some drawing techniques, share about the piece and give you time to sit and sketch.

<https://www.samuseum.org/>

Others we may pick from are:

<https://www.mcnayart.org/>

<https://www.wittemuseum.org/>

We have some fun at home things on our list too! Here are some more ideas that the kids have!

6. Water Balloons and Slip & Slide Days
7. Karaoke night
8. BBQ & Ice cream floats
9. Learn how to make Sushi
10. Game Nights
11. Go camping in nature
12. Go to the Beach
13. Visit a flea market
14. Go to the Alamo & Riverwalk
15. Practice photography (Maybe make an album of our summer)

We hope our list inspires you! If your family comes up with some more fun ideas, please share!