Winning The Battle Against Boredom This Summer

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Four Fun Outings Near Home

Tes, school's out. Yes, it is summer. Yes, you are invariably going to be at the receiving end of 'I'm bored' chiming at you all day. Fear not! Here is a roundup of just the right bunch of fun activities for your restless young ones.

FOR THE GREEN-THUMBED: Trees Atlanta has an exciting new summer camp for Atlanta high school students! The inaugural Junior TreeKeepers Program offers five days of interactive and handson activities in environmental science. Children will explore 200-year-old forests, learn about GPS orienteering, participate in nature projects, and have fun with scavenger hunts and biking. Field trips to local attractions such as the Atlanta BeltLine Arboreturn and Stone Mountain are included. A summertime extension of Trees Atlanta's popular youth environmental education program, offered for free to more than 20 schools in the metro Atlanta area, Junior TreeKeepers educates children about Atlanta's urban forests, pollinator insects, community connections and environmental stewardship. If you're looking to get the kids out of the house and out exploring this summer, register them for Junior TreeKeepers with TreesAtlanta.org







FOR THE CREATIVELY-INCLINED: The High Museum's latest exhibit "Dream Cars: Innovative Design, Visionary Ideas" is for both the design devils and the car crazies. Inventive, historic concept cars are on display including some of the rarest, most imaginative designs by Ferrari, Bugatti, General Motors and Porsche, Bringing together 17 concept cars from across Europe and the U.S. from the early 1930s to the 21st century, the exhibit pairs conceptual drawings, patents and scale models with realized cars, demonstrating how their experimental designs advanced ideas of progress and changed the automobile from an object of function to a symbol of future possibilities. Highlights include the electric bubble car, Scarab, the genesis of the contemporary minivan, and the BMW "GINA Light Visionary Model" featuring an exterior made of fabric, among others. Visit High.org for details.



FOR THE ADVENTURE-MONGERS: Georgia State Parks offer a plethora of options. Archery ranges abound at Elijah Clark, Panola Mountain, and Victoria Bryant State Parks. While there is a small fee to use most archery ranges, Tallulah Gorge has a range available free of charge and you can bring your own equipment or rent from park offices. You can also saddle up and indulge in some equestrian activities at several Georgia state parks including Cloudland Canyon which has new riding trails. Most parks also provide equestrian campsites, horse stalls and riding rings, and equestrian adventures for every level. Also, have you considered Geocaching? Using just your smart phone and a GPS app, search dozens of state parks and historic site locations to discover hidden containers or caches. In other words, a modern day treasure hunt, and you can join the "GeoCampers" for such events at Red Top Mountain State Park. GAStateParks.org

And if you simply want an indoor space where you can spend hours and (and it's not a mall) then consider perfecting your bowling kills all summer long. Keep your wallet and your kids happy with the Stars and Strikes Kids Bowl Free Program. Choose from five Georgia locations. The Sandy Springs location also has the 710 Grille attached if you want to catch a quick bite as well. Children under the age of 15 who have registered for the program receive two free games of bowling, Monday through Saturday, all summer long. All you cover is the shoe rental! The program runs through August 31 and is the perfect blend of fun and physical activity, especially if your children don't tire easily. Visit StarsAndStrikes.com for details.





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