



Splashway Water Park



Alyssa Moses and Quinn Loocke at the Children's Museum



Imaginations run wild as kids invent their own robots at the Children's Museum



Things You'll LOVE in Katy This Summer!

Try these fun family activities to beat the summer blahs

Written by Susanna Donald and Cherri Northcutt

Ah, those lazy days of summer. Katy parents cherish the free time beyond the hustle and bustle of the school year, and kids love the long summer days...until you hear the inevitable whine: "I'm boooored!" That's where our summer boredom busters come in. With a little planning and creativity, you can banish boredom and enjoy some summer fun with your Katy cuties.



Laugh and Learn at Summer Camp

Katy is full of fun summer camps sure to inspire and interest even the most blasé Katy cutie. Campers can register for day camps or overnight camps with subjects covering sports, robots, art, music, and everything in between. You can also contact local churches for information about vacation Bible schools in the area. For a listing of some great area summer camps, visit bit.ly/katymagazine_summertime2013.

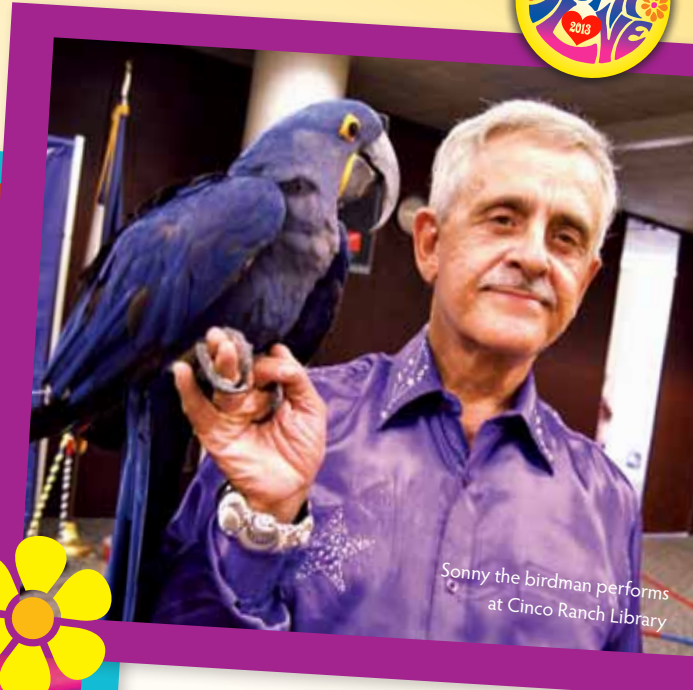


Splash Away Boredom

Family fun is only an hour away at Splashway water park in Sheridan, Texas. The park is open to the public from May through September with free parking and inner tube use. From Toddler Bay and Kiddie Cove to the high-speed Jet Stream and Pirate's Plunge, there is something for all ages at Splashway. General admission tickets range from \$6 to \$24, with season passes starting at \$30. Discounts are available for senior citizens and military. Visit splashwaywaterpark.com for daily specials, camping rates, and more.



Play a variety of arcade games at Times Square Entertainment



Sonny the birdman performs at Cinco Ranch Library



Track Down the Katy Trains

Connect with Katy's railroad legacy as you search for the seven iconic locomotives that are part of Katy's first large-scale community art installment. Find the custom-painted fiberglass sculptures at various locations around town: Agave Road, CHRISTUS St.

Catherine, Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP), Exley Elementary, Katy Heritage Park, Multiplicity, and Tradition Bank. Discover the Katy trains on a photo scavenger hunt! Grab the family, your cameras, and team up to see who can be the first to find all of the trains, then send us your photos at editor@katymagazine.com! Visit katyheritagesociety.com.



Get Lost in a Book

Beat boredom with some of the fun, free programs at your local libraries and bookstores. Both Harris County and Fort Bend County libraries offer summer reading programs, story times, book clubs, and special performances. Local bookstores Katy Budget Books and The Bookworm Shop also host

book clubs and special events throughout the summer. For preschoolers, Katy Budget Books has a weekly story time Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Check schedules at hcpl.net, fortbend.lib.tx.us, katybooks.com, and bookwormshop.net.



Play All Day

With arcade games galore, pool tables, bowling, laser tag, black light mini-golf, and more, Times Square Entertainment and Tilt Studio are places where you and your family are sure to blast away the summer blahs. Check the websites for specials like Family Fun Wednesdays at Times Square or Ten

Buck Tuesdays at Tilt Studio. Prices vary according to the activities you choose, so check prices at timessquaretx.com or tiltstudio.com.



Try for a hole-in-one at Mary Jo Peckham's miniature golf course



One Stop Entertainment

Appealing to fun-lovers of all ages, the Santikos Palladium AVX offers an experience like no other. This cutting-edge entertainment complex with 80-foot movie screens and crystal clear 3D sound, also features two auditoriums with D-BOX motion seats, synchronized with the on-screen action

and sure to make you feel like you are part of the show. Perhaps one of the most unique aspects of the Palladium is that you can reserve your seats ahead of time, leaving your family time to enjoy the many activities Palladium offers right up until show time. Practice your strike at the 16-lane bowling center, take in a game at the arcade, get a sugar rush at the specialty candy store, and pay a visit to the movie-themed retail store. You'll be able to feast on a variety of dining options from Tex-Mex and sushi to burgers and pizza. Don't forget to take your family to a free summer movie including titles such as *The Lorax* or *Hotel Transylvania* on select Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. To reserve your tickets, visit santikos.com.



Cool Down With a Sweet Treat

Nothing beats the heat - and the summer blues - quite like a creamy, frozen concoction from one of Katy's ice cream, custard, or yogurt shops. Try Ritter's Frozen Custard or Sweet Things Ice Cream Shoppe for ultra-premium ice creams and custards, or choose from a smorgasbord of frozen yogurt flavors and toppings at Tutti Frutti, Berripop, U-Swirl, Orange Leaf, or Menchie's. Be careful not to get too carried away with your fro-yo creations - these establishments charge by the ounce.

“I always look forward to taking my family to the LakeWest Water Park. It's as close to an old swimming hole as you can get and great fun.”

- Thomas H.



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Perspectives
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“My girls just love the options at Katy Family YMCA like pools, activities, and day camps.”
 - Steve E.



Collin and his sidewalk chalk are ready for some summer fun



Take a Swing at Top Golf

Check out Katy’s newest craze and whack away at summer boredom with three floors of driving bays and unlimited micro-chipped golf balls. Challenge friends and family to an addictive point-scoring competition where you aim for targets on the ground and score big. Arrive early on the day you want to play - high demand means long wait times at this uber-popular venue. If you get stuck with a long wait, relax at the on-site restaurant until a driving bay opens up. Pricing ranges from \$20 to \$40 per hour depending on the time of day you choose to play, so visit topgolf.com for details.

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Explore a host of exhibits at the Houston Museum of Natural Science



Learn about the marvels of science at one of the Children's Museum's interactive stations



Visit a Museum

Katy has two historical museums families can enjoy for free: The Katy Heritage Museum, with artifacts from Katy's past, and the Katy Veterans Memorial (G.I. Joe) Museum, with military displays from all U.S. foreign conflicts. Visit cityofkaty.com for more information. If you're up for a day trip, drive into Houston and take in the exciting exhibits at Houston's Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) or the Children's Museum of Houston. Tickets to HMNS are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Special exhibitions may cost more. Visit hmns.org. Tickets for the Children's Museum are \$9 with a free family night Thursdays after 5 p.m. Visit cmhouston.org.



Explore the Prairie

Hike, bike, bird watch, practice your wildlife photography, or simply enjoy the great outdoors at the Katy Prairie Conservancy's nature preserves. Wildlife viewing platforms and preserves are open to the public on a limited basis, so visit katyprairie.org for rates and times. You can also sign your kids up for summer science nights (Tuesday and Thursday evenings in June), where they can explore the prairie with hands-on activities. Each of the three unique sessions is offered four times throughout the summer. Classes are designed for kids ages 5 to 10 and cost \$7 per child. KM



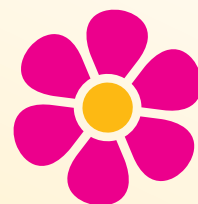
CHERRI NORTHCUTT is a freelance writer and loves the relaxed pace of summertime in Katy.



SUSANNA DONALD is looking forward to trying out some of these boredom busters this summer with her son, Asher.

“We love making trips to Bahama Mama's sno cones!”

- Diane W.





Cool down at a local area water park



More Things You'll Love to do this Summer

- ❁ Play mini-golf at Mary Jo Peckham Park
- ❁ Create a masterpiece at Ceramics by Tess
- ❁ Enjoy an outing at Painting with a Twist
- ❁ Tour the Blue Bell Ice Cream factory in Brenham
- ❁ Visit Houston's Downtown Aquarium
- ❁ Visit the petting zoo at Clay's Restaurant
- ❁ Jump around at Pump it Up or Inflatable Zone Katy
- ❁ Take a road trip to Galveston or Kemah
- ❁ Explore the farmer's market at LaCenterra
- ❁ Splash in the fountain at Discovery Green
- ❁ Cool off with a signature sno cone at Bahama Mama's
- ❁ Go on an exploration at Camp Cinco

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