



15 BRAIN-VENTURES FOR THE FAMILY

Adventure that is both fun and educational is within reach at these Katy and Houston area museums, parks, and more

Written by Kennan Buckner

Every family needs a little adventure now and then, but why stop at just having fun? These brain-ventures are sure to provide learning experiences and loads of fun for the whole family.



1 Art Car Museum

140 Heights Blvd., Houston
713-861-5526 | artcarmuseum.com
You and your kids are sure to enjoy this eclectic mix of contemporary art not shown anywhere else in the area. Don't be fooled by the name, this museum offers more than just crazy decorated cars. Admission is free.

2 Children's Museum of Houston

1500 Binz St., Houston
713-522-1138 | cmhouston.org
Kids can create their own masterpiece with a 3D printer, play games in Cyberchase, or come up with their own invention in the Inventors' Workshop. Little ones under 35 months will love the Tot Spot as they play in the padded area. Visit Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. for free family nights. Admission is \$12 per person for adults and children over age 1.

3 George Observatory

Brazos Bend State Park
21901 FM 762 Rd., Needville
979-553-5102 | tpwd.texas.gov
The stars at night really are big and bright - especially when you're looking through one of the three domed telescopes at the George Observatory. The observatory is open Saturdays from 3 to 10 p.m. Park admission is \$7 for adults and children 12 and under are free. Tickets for the observatory are \$7 for adults and \$6 for children.

4 George Ranch Historical Park

10215 FM 762 Rd., Richmond
281-343-0218 | georgeranch.org

This 23,000-acre ranch gives city-dwellers the chance to tour homes from the 1800s such as the Jones Stock Farm, the 1860s Ryon Prairie Home, Davis Victorian Complex, and the George Ranch Cattle Complex. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 15, and free for kids 4 and under.

5 The Health Museum

1515 Hermann Dr., Houston
713-521-1515 | thehealthmuseum.org
With exhibits like the Amazing Body, the Doctor's Garden, and the McGovern 4D Theater, your family will have a blast while exploring the wonders of medical science. Admission is \$9 for adults, children ages 3 to 12 are \$7, and children under 2 are free.

6 Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

4501 Woodway Dr., Houston
713-681-8433 | houstonarboretum.org
Walk the many trails and look for different birds, plants, and flowers. Visit the Discovery Room and learn about Houston's urban wildlife that you may not be able to see in the forest. Admission is free for adults and children.



7 Houston Fire Museum

2403 Milam St., Houston
713-524-2526 | houstonfiremuseum.org

Take a tour through the Houston Fire Museum, once a real fire station, to learn all about fighting fires. See real firefighter uniforms from 1890 to 1980. Be sure to check their website for current exhibits. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 2 to 12.

8 Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land

13016 University Blvd., Sugar Land
281-313-2277 | hmns.org/hmns-at-sugar-land

Study sand samples from around the world in the microscope lab and then dig for dinosaur bones in the dig pit. You are not going to want to miss watching a show in the Digital Dome theater to embark on a space mission or explore the solar system. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Permanent exhibits are free on Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

9 Houston Zoo

6200 Hermann Park Dr., Houston
713-533-6500 | houstonzoo.org

From the playful sea lions and tree-swinging primates to creepy crawly reptiles and amphibians, zoo-goers are sure to connect with animals as they learn about their world. Visit the first Tuesday of the month (Sept. through May) from noon to close for free admission. Admission is \$17 for ages 12 and up, \$13 for ages 2 to 11, and guests 1 and under are free.

10 Katy Contemporary Arts Museum

805 Avenue B
832-857-1340 | katycam.com

Located in Historic Katy in the former lumber company building, KCAM showcases contemporary art including photography, painting, and sculptures. The museum often hosts special events for kids, so be sure to check their website for updates. Admission is \$2 and children 5 and under are free.

11 Katy Veterans Memorial Museum

6202 George Bush Dr.
281-391-8387 | cityofkaty.com

Study military memorabilia as your family takes a tour of the Walk of Heroes and the Hall of Freedom at Katy's own Veterans Memorial Museum. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

12 Moody Gardens

1 Hope Blvd., Galveston
800-582-4673 | moodygardens.com

This is the premier location for the opportunity to view and visit with a collection of over 5,500 animals representing 650 species in the Aquarium Pyramid and the Rainforest Pyramid. Finish your fun watching a movie in the 3D or 4D theaters or cooling off at Palm Beach water park. Ticket prices are available online.

13 The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

1001 Bissonnet, Houston
713-639-7300 | mfah.org

The museum has made it easy for families with children of all ages to enjoy artwork. Before your visit, go to the website where there are a list of activities and ideas to bring with you. General admission is \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for youth (13-18), and children 12 and younger are free.

14 Rosenberg Railroad Museum

1921 Avenue F, Rosenberg
281-633-2846 | rosenbergrrmuseum.org

Check out the Rosenberg Railroad Museum with just a short drive down FM 723. Tour Tower 17, the Quebec Railcar, and the model train in their education station. Admission is only \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and children under age 2 are free.

15 Space Center Houston

1601 NASA Rd. 1, Houston
281-244-2100 | spacecenter.org

Get an up-close look at NASA's mission control room or stand in awe of the full-scale replica of the space shuttle reaching 54 feet in the air. Then test major myths in the MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition where you will use the same methods as the Discovery Channel's *MythBusters* series. Admission starts at \$24.95 for adults and \$19.95 for children ages 4 to 11.
KM



KENNAN BUCKNER is a freelance writer and mom to her always smiling 1-year-old son Jaxson.

INFANTS · TODDLERS · PRESCHOOL · BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL · SUMMER CAMP

WE NURTURE CREATIVITY

Expanding a student's mind means learning, playing and exploring in unique ways. We teach children at their own pace using music and movement to help children take advantage of every opportunity to learn.

REGISTER TODAY AND RECEIVE ONE WEEK FREE!

New customers only. Not redeemable for cash. One offer per child. Call academy for details. Coupon Expiration Date: 10/14/2016. Coupon Code: KMS16

Kiddie Academy® of Grand Harbor, Katy
24404 Kingsland Boulevard | Katy, TX 77494

(832) 870-7017

kiddieacademy.com/grandharbor

AMAZING
Starts Here.™



KIDDIE ACADEMY.
EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE

Dancewear Apparel Shoes Tights Costumes Accessories Gifts

The Dancers Closet



OPEN MON-FRI 10-7 SAT 10-4

Katy's premier store for

**DANCE
GYMNASTICS
CHEER
DRILL TEAM**



20% OFF
ONE ITEM

Excludes sale items. One coupon only.

© 2015 Katy Magazine

22764 WESTHEIMER PKWY. (AT THE VILLAGIO) KATY 77450 281-693-2248 WWW.THEDANCERSCLOSETKATY.COM

STRENGTH POWER CONFIDENCE

Our confidence building instructors teach takedowns, grappling, self-defense, anti-bullying, and powerful techniques that give your child self-protection skills that stay with them for life.

- Kids & Juniors ■ Fundamentals ■ Advanced
- Self-Defense ■ Private Classes ■ Seminars

Fitness, Capoeira and Yoga also available!

We are Katy's authentic Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy, the only associated with Rilion Gracie, and the most effective form of self-defense ever developed.

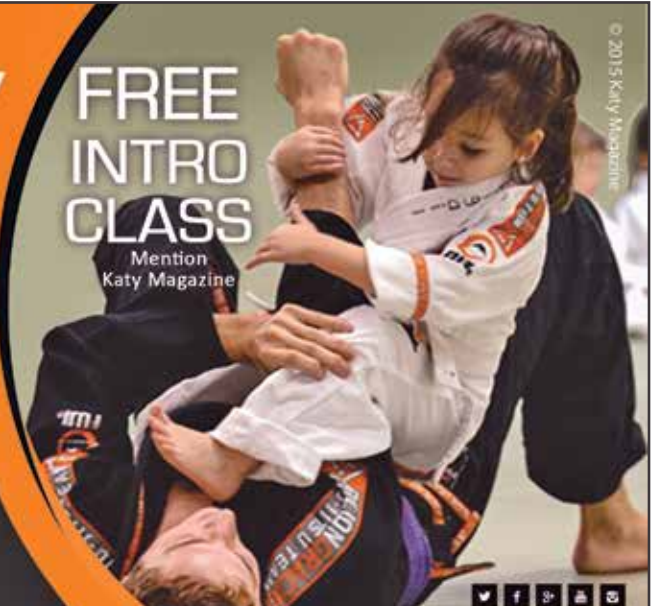


JIU-JITSU ACADEMY
SCHOOL OF SELF DEFENSE

962 S Fry Rd.
832-291-3813 riliongraciekaty.com

FREE INTRO CLASS

Mention Katy Magazine



© 2015 Katy Magazine

