



thelanternproject

100+

SCREEN FREE

SUMMER IDEAS

100+ Screen Free Summer Ideas



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INSIDE

1. Read a book
2. Join a summer reading club
3. Create your own Summer Reading Log
4. Listen to a podcast ([link here](#))
5. Work on a puzzle
6. Play a board game
7. Build something new with cardboard
8. Build a fort
9. Host a playdate with friends
10. Help with age appropriate chores
11. Play hide and seek
12. Have a dance party
13. Make up your own dance routine
14. Practice your handwriting
15. Write in a journal
16. Play dress up
17. Put on a play
18. Learn how to braid
19. Play an instrument
20. Make a card for a loved one
21. Practice an Act of Kindness
22. Take turns making your own treasure map
23. Make a paper airplane
24. Play tic tac toe
25. Find something that starts with each letter of the alphabet
26. Make your own bracelets
27. Paint a picture
28. Finger paint
29. Turn a cardboard box into a fort
30. Throw a tea party
31. Use graham crackers and...

OUTSIDE

1. Blow bubbles
2. Ride bikes or scooters
3. Play with chalk (trace each letter, write letters and numbers)



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NO COST

Visit your local library

- Check out their Summer Reading Club
- [Cabarrus](#)
- [Rowan](#)

Explore a new park:

- Dan Nicholas Park (Salisbury)
- Ellis Park (Salisbury)
- Bakers Creek (Kannapolis)
- Village Park (Kannapolis)
- Safritt Park (Kannapolis)
- Atrium Health Ballpark - West Avenue (Kannapolis)
- Community Memorial Park (China Grove)
- Vietnam Veterans Park (Concord)
- Frank Liske Park (Concord)
- J.W. (Mickey) McGee, Jr. Park (Concord)
- Les Meyers Park (Concord)

- Explore a downtown area
- Splash or take a lap around the Atrium Ballpark/Splashpad
- Check out a local pet store or Petco
- animals
- Connect with a local church to find a community service project
- Join an active living center



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★ LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Movies In The Park
Village Park, Fridays @ 8:45pm

- FREE ADMISSION
- MAY 22** Inside Out 2
 - MAY 29** Lilo & Stitch
 - JUNE 12** Zootopia 2
 - JULY 17** How to Train Your Dragon
 - JULY 31** Super Mario Brothers Galaxy

Concert in the Park
Village Park, Saturdays @ 7pm

- FREE ADMISSION
- JUNE 06** Cheap Trick
 - JUNE 20** Josh Turner
 - JUNE 27** Charlotte Symphony with Fireworks
 - JULY 11** The Four Tops
 - AUG 08** Andy Grammer with Walk Off the Earth

Swanee Children's Theatre Series
Swanee Theatre, Thursdays @ 11am

Ticket required. Purchase tickets at www.swaneeetheatre.com

- JUNE 11** Peter Pan
- JUNE 25** The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
- JULY 09** Dino ROAR
- JULY 16** The Cat in the Hat
- AUG 06** The Tale of Beauty and the Beast

Gem Theatre \$2 Summer Movie Matinees
Tuesday and Thursdays, 10am and 12:30pm

Purchase tickets at www.gem-theatre.com

- MAY 26** Minions
- MAY 28** Minions: The Rise of Gru
- JUNE 02** Curious George
- JUNE 04** Dog Man
- JUNE 09** Gabby's Doll House
- JUNE 11** Kung Fu Panda 4
- JUNE 16** Detective Pikachu
- JUNE 18** Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
- JUNE 23** Sing



INSIDE

1. Read a book
2. Join a summer reading challenge
3. Create your own Summer Bucket List
4. Listen to a podcast ([Link here](#))
5. Work on a puzzle
6. Play a board game
7. Build something new with legos/magnets/blocks
8. Build a fort
9. Host a playdate with friends
10. Help with age appropriate chores
11. Play hide and seek
12. Have a dance party
13. Make up your own dance routine
14. Practice your handwriting
15. Write in a journal
16. Play dress up
17. Put on a play
18. Learn how to braid
19. Play an instrument
20. Make a card for a loved one
21. Practice an Act of Kindness
22. Take turns making your own treasure map and finding treasure
23. Make a paper airplane
24. Play tic tac toe
25. Find something that starts with each letter of the alphabet
26. Make your own bracelets
27. Paint a picture
28. Finger paint
29. Turn a cardboard box into a pretend house
30. Throw a tea party
31. Use graham crackers and icing to build a house
32. Write a letter to a pen pal
33. Print free coloring pages of your favorite characters ([Link here](#))
34. Make your own playdough ([Link here](#))
35. Experiment with science ([Link here](#))
36. Create a sensory bin ([Link here](#))
37. Kids' dinner night – let your kids create a menu and make dinner
38. Practice measuring solids and liquids with measuring cups (try water or dry beans)
39. Decorate cookies
40. Make a structure with dry spaghetti or toothpicks and marshmallows
41. Use painters tape to create a city for their cars
42. Learn a new card game
43. Clean your room
44. Gather old toys to donate
45. Shadow play with flashlights
46. Make a vet clinic for stuffed animals
47. Setup a pretend classroom
48. Try a new hobby (sewing, clay, jewelry making, embroidery)
49. Memorize a poem or scripture
50. Make thank you cards or cookies for community helpers (police officers, firefighters, etc.)
51. Help an adult bake something
52. Study a famous artist and try out their style of art
53. Host a talent show with friends or neighbors
54. Kids' dinner night – Let your kids create a menu and make dinner from start to finish
55. Plan a build your own pizza night
56. Host a Movie Night at home (you can make tickets, have popcorn and treats!)



OUTSIDE

1. Blow bubbles
2. Ride bikes or scooters
3. Play with chalk (trace each other, draw a picture, write letters and numbers)
4. Hopscotch
5. Play catch
6. Go for a nature walk
7. Have a picnic
8. Practice a sport or start a game with friends
9. Play "I Spy"
10. Go for a run
11. Play tag
12. Climb a tree
13. Help plant flowers or garden
14. Jump rope or hula hoop
15. Sit down and draw what you see
16. Host a lemonade stand (with an adult's supervision)
17. DIY Car Wash
18. Wash your toy cars
19. Water fun at home (use what you have– water tables/squirt guns or spray bottles/water balloons/sponges/buckets)
20. Set up sprinklers or a slipe and slide
21. Go for a hike or a nature walk
22. Play leap frog
23. Go on a scavenger hunt ([Link here](#))
24. Make a bouquet of wildflowers
25. Collect and paint rocks
26. Weed or water the garden (or the grass, whichever)
27. Take a dog on a walk or play fetch
28. Go swimming at a local pool
29. Find a friend or neighbor who plays in a summer league and go watch a game





NO COST

Visit your local library

- Check out their Summer Reading Challenges:

[Cabarrus](#)
[Rowan](#)

Explore a new park:

- Dan Nicholas Park (Salisbury)
- Ellis Park (Salisbury)
- Bakers Creek (Kannapolis)
- Village Park (Kannapolis)
- Safrit Park (Kannapolis)
- Atrium Health Ballpark - West Avenue (Kannapolis)
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- Frank Liske Park (Concord)
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- Les Meyers Park (Concord)

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- Explore a downtown area
 - Splash or take a lap around the Atrium Ballpark/Splashpad
 - Check out a local pet store or Petco to see animals
 - Connect with a local church to find a VBS or summer activities
 - Check out the local active living centers for events or camps ([Cabarrus](#))
 - Visit a farmer's market
 - Go fishing

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- Movies in the Park
 - Concert in the Park
 - Thursdays on Main
 - Stories Under the Stars

***Schedule available on next page, but please confirm through the city's website.*

LOW COST

- \$2 Summer Matinees at The Gem Theater (Tuesday and Thursdays, 10am and 12:30pm)
- Swanee Children's Theatre Series (Thursdays @11am)
- Visit [Dan Nicholas Park](#) (carousel, splash pad, animal exhibits, mini golf, paddle boats)
- Go Bowling (Sign Up for Kids Bowl Free at [Stars and Strikes in Concord](#))
- Play Mini Golf
- Go roller skating
- Grab lunch at Sam's Club or Costco (with membership)
- Get a sweet treat (snow cone, ice cream)
- Go to Dollar Tree (puzzles, crafts, outdoor toys)
- Get some reusable water balloons (they're worth it!)

SPECIAL TRIPS

- [Brick Ed](#) (Salisbury)
- [The Fun Factory](#) (Salisbury)
- [Lazy 5 Ranch](#) (Mooresville)
- [The Pit Indoor Kart Racing](#) (Mooresville)
- [FearLESS Adventure Park/Trampolines](#) (Mooresville)
- [Playland](#) - geared toward kids 1-8 (Mooreville)
- [Patterson Farm/PawPaw Carl's Playground](#) (Mount Ulla)
- [Discovery Place Kids](#) (Huntersville)
- [NC Zoo](#) (Asheboro)
- [Carowinds](#) (Charlotte)
- [Cannon Ballers Baseball Game](#) (Kannapolis)
- [SEA LIFE Aquarium](#) (Concord)





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FREE ADMISSION

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- JULY 17** How to Train Your Dragon
- JULY 31** Super Mario Brothers Galaxy

Concert in the Park

Village Park, Saturdays @ 7pm

FREE ADMISSION

- JUNE 06** Cheap Trick
- JUNE 20** Josh Turner
- JUNE 27** Charlotte Symphony with Fireworks
- JULY 11** The Four Tops
- AUG 08** Andy Grammer with Walk Off the Earth

Thursdays on Main

Veterans Park, Thursdays @ 6pm

FREE ADMISSION

- MAY 07** Band of Oz
- JUNE 11** Rivermist
- JULY 09** The Embers
- AUG 13** Too Much Sylvia
- SEP 01** Jim Quick & The Coastline

Stories Under the Stars

Location Varies, Saturdays @ 7pm

FREE ADMISSION

- MAY 16** Story Ship (Afton Library)
- JUNE 13** Sparkpoint Innovations (Afton Library)
- JULY 18** B-Rad Kids Magicians
(Main Kannapolis Library)
- AUG 15** Gravity Check (Main Kannapolis Library)

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- JUNE 09** Gabby's Doll House
- JUNE 11** Kung Fu Panda 4
- JUNE 16** Detective Pikachu
- JUNE 18** Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
- JUNE 23** Sing
- JUNE 25** Bad Guys 2
- JUNE 30** Secret Life of Pets
- JULY 02** Wild Robot
- JULY 07** Trolls
- JULY 09** Secret Life of Pets 2
- JULY 14** Migration
- JULY 16** Emoji Movie
- JULY 21** Open Season
- JULY 23** Planet 51
- JULY 28** Open Season 2
- JULY 30** Sing 2
- AUG 04** Despicable Me 3
- AUG 06** Despicable Me 4

