



















OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

AUSTIN DUCK ADVENTURE

Austin Visitor Information Center 209 East Sixth St. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.477.5274

Take a tour of Austin in a converted amphibious vehicle that starts the trip on city streets, then rolls into the waters of Lake Austin. The experience is unforgettable, the views are one-of-a-kind, and the historical patter from the tour guide is interesting. You and your children are going to love the Duck! Info: Adults \$25.95, Seniors and Students \$23.95, Children 3-12 \$15.95, Children two and younger free

Hours: Vary

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN GHOST TOURS

603 East 3rd St. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.853.9826

See the City of Austin in a whole new light — a spooky one — with a downtown walking tour that covers the scariest corners of town. Learn — if you dare — of the ghosts of Governor's Mansion, the spirits that haunt the warehouse district, and the strange tale of one of America's first serial killers, the Servant Girl Annihilator. Not for the squeamish, but for children (or parents) with a taste for the macabre, this is Austin at its ghoulish best. Visit the website or call to reserve tickets.

Info: \$20 Hours: Vary

Age: Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN SEGWAY TOUR

621 East 6th St. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.402.9299

Familiar with Segways? Those strange little two-wheel electric scooters that allow you to roll — almost float — down city streets? Well, imagine taking a tour of Austin where you get to rent and ride a Segway of your own for an entire two-to-three-hour tour. You'll see everything from Sixth Street and the Bremmond Block to the Governor's Mansion, and the Capitol, all from your very own Segway. It has to be one of the most unusual "walking" tours of Austin for you and for your children.

Info: \$65 per person Hours: Vary according to trip Age: Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN: BERTRAM FLYER

610 Brazos St. Austin, TX 78767 - 512.477.8468

Every Saturday and Sunday, year-round, every generation can join in on a trip through Hill Country in a three-hour ride aboard the Bertram Flyer. You'll see everything from rolling pastures to rocky tundra, and you'll get a chance to explore the Bertram Train Depot, built in 1912, now fully restored to its old glory. Note: If the Flyer itself, an original steam engine, is in the process of restoration, you may be hauled around by an equally cool 1960 Diesel locomotive, but the trip is fun for everyone, either way.

Info: Prices from \$12 to \$33.33 per person

Hours: Vary according to trip

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN ZOO

10807 Rawhide Trail Austin, TX 78736 - 512.288.1490

Three hundred animals, 100 different species. All of them living in a beautiful Hill Country environment within easy driving distance of the city. And because of its relatively small size, you and your children can see the animals, outdoors and relaxed. A multigenerational day trip for everyone — and a fine facility for wildlife.

Info: Adults \$8, Seniors \$6, Students (with ID) \$6, Military (with ID) \$6, Children ages 2-12 \$5

Hours: MON to SUN: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

BARTON SPRINGS POOL

2101 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78704 512.476.9044

Barton Springs is an amazing place — three acres of water fed by a series of underground springs, always at a constant temperature, and perfect for swimming, fishing, or just floating. It's an ideal spot to relax and people-watch: the perfect centerpiece for a day-long outdoor adventure with the children.

Info: Adults \$3, Seniors \$1, Children 12–17 \$2,

Children 11 and younger \$1

Hours: Open year-round, 5:00 AM - 8:00 PM for

varying activities

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

BOGGY CREEK FARM

414 Lyons Rd. Austin, TX 78702 -512.926.4650

Children who grow up in the city rarely get a sense of where their food is coming from and what goes into putting it on their table. Here's a chance to give them a glimpse of the rural world: Boggy Creek Farm. What began as a single family's journey "back to the farm" has become a great destination. Set aside a Wednesday or Saturday, from 9am to 1pm, and visit the Boggy Creek Market that takes place under massive oak trees. You'll get a chance to see a small farm at work, buy the yield straight from the field, and watch the harvest in progress. Now that's green.

Hours: WED and SAT: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM **Age:** Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

BUTLER PARK

1000 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78704 512.495.1963

Butler Park, formerly known as Town Lake Park, has a beautiful set of amenities for parents and children. There's a lovely meadow, and 35-foot hills with a sweeping view of downtown. But the best is the interactive fountain with 25 different patterns of water and light that kids (and adults) can walk through, dance in, and play with. It's a special attraction in an already excellent park, and a fun place to spend an afternoon.

Info: Free

Hours: 8:00 AM - 9:45 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

CAPITAL CRUISES

208 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78704 512.480.9264

Now you can give your children a new look at the flora and fauna of Austin's urban jungle as seen from a tour boat in Town Lake. How about a river view of the Capitol, or a glimpse of the thousands of bats that live under the Congress Avenue Bridge? There are regular tours at reasonable rates, or you can customize your own excursion and include food and entertainment. The public tours take place almost every night, just before sundown — when it gets

interesting in Austin.

Info: Bat-Watching Tour: Adults \$8, Seniors \$6, Children 4 – 12 \$5; Prices vary by cruise **Hours:** Tours daily from Capital Cruises Dock;

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

CATHEDRAL OF JUNK

4422 Lareina Dr. Austin, TX 78745 - 512.299.7413

Imagine a maze of amazing stuff: skis, canoes, computers, car doors, hubcaps, shopping carts, bicycles, and more, built into a Cathedral of Junk. That's what Vince Hannemann has created here — an attraction that's been featured in The New York Times, and one that your children will be talking about forever. If you're looking for an unusual adventure, take a trip to Alreina Drive. (You'll even have a chance to use the tents and firepits there and stay overnight!) But be sure to call Hannemann first for a weekday appointment. He does have a day job. Info: Free

Hours: SUN: Noon – 6:00 PM and by appt. only **Age:** Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

CLAY MADSEN RECREATION CENTER

1600 Gattis School Road, Round Rock, TX 78664 512.218.3220

The Clay Madsen Recreation Center houses two full size gymnasiums, an indoor pool, racquetball courts, a game room, and more. Families can find a variety of fitness and sports classes, including tennis, martial arts, and more.

Info: Day passes: Adults \$5-\$10; Seniors \$2.50-\$5;

Children \$1-\$5

Hours: Mon-Thu 5am-10pm; Fri 5am-9pm; Sat 7am-

7pm; Sun 10am-6pm Age: All Ages

CLEARWATER DIVERS

6215 N Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78752 - 512.452.6990

Scuba diving can be an exciting and educational pastime at any age, and Clearwater Divers is a highly regarded center for teaching the basics of diving. Parents and children can take classes together in basic open-water diving, rescue, and first aid, with skill levels that are ideal for beginners and those working for technical certifications. And if you're not quite ready to dive yourself, gift certificates available.

Info: Varies by class

Hours: Dive times vary by class **Age:** Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

CONGRESS AVE. BAT COLONY

305 South Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78704

What can you say about the world's largest urban bat colony? It's amazing, awe-inspiring, a little scary, and right here in Austin. The fact is, there are more than 1.5 million bats living under the Congress Avenue Bridge. You can see their nightly quest for food and family from the street, from the water, or from the Austin American-Statesman's Bat Observation Center. A visit to the website will give you a great deal of information and even updated 'emergence' times. What a way to show your children something absolutely original about Austin.

Info: Free

Hours: Feb. to Nov.: Near sunset or dawn **Age:** Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

DEEP EDDY POOL

401 Deep Eddy Dr. Austin, TX 78703 - 512.472.8546

Way back when, Deep Eddy Pool was just a swimming hole along the Colorado River. In the 1920s, it became a public pool and bathhouse and it remains the oldest swimming pool in Texas. There's a major movement to restore the bathhouse to its former glory, but in the meantime it's still a beautiful and historic place for you and your children to visit and while away a relaxing afternoon.

Info: Varies with time of day and group Hours: Open year-round, hours vary seasonally Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

DIE GELBE ROSE CARRIAGE TOURS

1301 East Fourth St. Austin, TX 78702 - 512.477.8824

When was the last time you took your children on a carriage ride through Austin? What, not yet? Here's your chance. Die Gelbe Rose Carriage Tours have regular tours and charters available, lasting from 30 minutes to 90 minutes. The tours wend their way around the Capitol, or past historic homes, or trot along Town Lake, or take in the sights of 6th Street, Austin's renowned entertainment district. It's beautiful, absolutely elegant, and something your children will always remember.

Info: Prices vary with tour and reservation Hours: TUES and WED: 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM THUR and FRI: 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM SAT: 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM SUN: 1:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

ELIZABETH MILBURN PARK

901 Sun Chase Blvd. Cedar Park, TX 78613 512.401.5530

Some days all you're looking for is nothing more than a really nice park and pool — a place for you and your children to enjoy the afternoon, have a picnic. maybe catch a swim. When that's what you're after, consider Elizabeth Milburn Austin. It's rarely overcrowded, and there are plenty of things for kids to enjoy and parents to appreciate - and it 's right in Cedar Park.

Info: Adults 18 and older \$3, Seniors 60 and older \$1, Student 9 to 17 \$2, Children 4 to 8 \$1, Children three and younger Free

Hours: Varv

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

EMMA LONG METROPOLITAN PARK

1706 City Park Rd. Austin, TX 78730 - 512.346.1831

This is one big, beautiful park: 1.150 acres, 70 of them developed, with a beautiful beach, 20 camping sites, volleyball courts and boat ramps. The Emma Long Park is a daylong or weekend adventure for you and your children. If you enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, or simply kicking back, Emma Long is an enjoyable and easy-to-get-to alternative.

Info: Monday to Thursday \$5, Friday to Sunday and Holidays \$8, Camping without utilities \$6, Camping with utilities \$15

Hours: MON to SUN: 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

FAMILY FUNN ENTERTAINMENT

301 Chisholm Trail Rd, Round Rock - 512.255.3866

Golf & Games. Classic Pinball Machines and Arcade Video Games or free play in our game room.

Info: Tickets: \$5 per game

Time: 11am-10pm/Fri-Sat. 10am-12am,

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

JOURDAN-BACHMANN FARMS

10621 Pioneer Farms Dr. Austin, TX 78754 512.837.1215

What was life really like in Austin 100 years ago or more — living and working on a small farm, making your own tools and clothes, growing your own food? Pioneer Farms offers a chance to experience all this firsthand, with classes in woodworking and blacksmithing, for example. Costumed interpreters show you and your child how the world worked in the 1800s on one of three historically accurate farmsteads. There's a general store, a place to buy produce that's still grown on the farm, and 100 hands-on opportunities to learn something very new & very old. Info: Adult \$8, Children \$6

Hours: SUN: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM FRI: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

KNEE-HIGH CHESS AT WOOLDRIDGE SQ.

900 Guadalupe St. Austin, TX 78701

Wooldridge Square Park is one of Austin's four original parks, and it has one thing you probably won't find around: a life-size chess game that you and your children can be play. The "knee-high chess" events take place every Saturday, 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM; they're appropriate for beginners as well as experts. And Wooldridge is the home of a summer concert series as well. Stop by on a Saturday or call for more information.

Info: Free

Hours: Park open daily

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

INTER SPACE CAVERNS

Exit 259 (20 miles north of Austin), Georgetown

Explore this limestone cavern and discover beautiful examples of nature's perfect artwork such as "The Flowing Stone of Time", the mysterious "Lake of the Moon" and the intricate "Soda Straw Balcony". Among the amazing variety of formations found within the cavern you will see beautiful helictites, ancient flowstones, and giant columns. Our tour guides will take you back in time so you can experience the fascinating story of the cave's history and discovery.

Time: 9:00am - 6:00pm, Tickets: \$ N/A Hours: Adventure Tour (1 hour & 15 minutes) Adults \$19.95

Children (Ages 4 - 12) \$11.95 Children (Ages 3 & under) Free

Info: (512) 931-2283

LADY BIRD WILDFLOWER CENTER

4801 La Crosse Ave. Austin, TX 78739 - 512.232.0100

Yes, it's 279 acres of stunning flora, a center for conservation of endangered plants, and the home of a valuable database on native species. And the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is also a great place for children and parents to learn how to grow and nurture plants and to learn about the local environment. Visit the camps and take the tours, and cultivate your own set of multigenerational green thumbs.

Info: Adults \$7, Seniors 60 and older and Students 13 and older \$6, Children 5 to 12 \$3, Members and children 4 years and younger Free

Hours: TUES to SAT: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM SUN: 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

LONE STAR RIVERBOAT

South 1st St. Austin, TX 78763 - 512.327.1388

There are plenty of river-based tours of the city for you and your children to enjoy, but there's only one Lone Star Riverboat, a real paddle-wheeler. There's a sunset cruise that shows you the Mexican free-tail bats of Congress Bridge and other tours of the city; the tours include clever narration and glimpses of the wildlife and city life that are only available on the water. And this family-owned operation gives a portion of its sales to the Austin Park System, so you're doing good while you're having a great time. Info: Adults \$10, Seniors 60 and older \$8, Children 11 and younger \$7, 2 and younger Free

Hours: Vary

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

MCBETH RECREATION CENTER

2401 Columbus Dr. Austin, TX 78746 - 512.974.9011

The McBeth Recreation Center is some place special - a city-owned facility that puts the emphasis on play and care for disabled and challenged young people. It has an accessible playscape, a picnic area, a craft room, and game room. And its staff works closely with the young visitors to offer programs for kids at all levels of ability. There are even evening classes and bingo. If your family includes specialneeds children, you can all find a place to play and enjoy yourselves together at McBeth. The Center is named for Danny McBeth, who was an advocate for the disabled community in Austin for many years.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to THUR 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

FRI: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

MCKINNEY FALLS STATE PARK

5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy Austin, TX 78744 512.243.1643

The ghost of mountain man Thomas McKinney may still stroll the 744 acres of this wonderful recreation spot. There's fishing, biking, hiking, camping, and more to do in this beautifully maintained wilderness area. And you can swim in Onion Creek these days. Be sure to take your children to the ruins of McKinnev's own homestead. There are interpretive tours available; get in touch with the visitor center or go to the website for details. And have fun, naturally.

Info: Per person 13 and older \$4 a day

Hours: Open daily

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

MOUNT BONNELL PARK

3800 Mount Bonnell Dr. Austin, TX 78731 512.974.6700

One of the best views of Austin is the view from Mt. Bonnell Park. It's a surprisingly small number of stairs and a relatively easy walk. But when you arrive at the top, you and your children will be standing almost 800 feet above sea level, and will enjoy a breathtaking view. A perfect place to start the day at sunrise or see the city as the sun goes down — and don't forget vour camera.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to SUN: 5:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

ROCK'N RIVER FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER 3300 E Palm Valley Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78664

512.671.2737

This 40,481-square-foot park, complete with a lazy river, crazy slides and a water playground, is located within Old Settlers Park. Additional amenities include tunnel showers, water cannon, tipping buckets, floor geysers and zero beach entry play area.

Info: Adult 18-54 \$4.50, Children 17th and under \$3.50

Hours: The center is open summers only; call for specific dates.

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

ROUND ROCK GHOST TOURS

204 East Main St. Round Rock, TX 78664 512.809.1204

If your children are into ghost stories, and you enjoy a little chill yourself, call Round Rock Ghost Tours. The tours involve a walk through Round Rock, a visit to some of the unusual buildings and shops along Main Street, and storytelling of ghosts, ghouls, and haunted houses. You might find a little bit of local history sneaking in, but you'll still have a shiverin' good time (though it's not for the faint-hearted, so be selective).

Info: Varies by tour

Hours: September to October: Call for times

Age: Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

THE ZILKER ZEPHYR MINI TRAIN 2100 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78746

512.478.8286

Zilker Metopolitan Park is on our most best loved list for its playscapes, hiking and biking trails, picnic spots, and the ever-popular Barton Springs Pool. But it also has the Zilker Zephyr, a miniature train that will take you and your younger children on a leisurely tour of Barton Creek and Town Lake. It's a great centerpiece for one of the finest parks in town.

Info: Adults \$2.75, Children \$1.75, Children 1 or vounger Free

Hours: MON to FRI: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM SAT and SUN: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

WESTCAVE PRESERVE

24814 Hamilton Pool Rd. Round Mountain, TX 830.825-3442

About 40 miles outside Austin, you'll find a natural treasure deep in the Texas Hill Country: the Westcave Preserve. The meadows and limestone canyons, the 30 acres of wilderness, and the interactive educational programs for children and adults are worth the trip. But the highlight by far is the 40-foot waterfall in front of the Preserve's network of caves - a beautiful place built entirely by nature. Pack a lunch, put on your walking shoes, and make a day of it.

Info: Weekday Tours: For organized groups and school children, \$4 per person; Weekend Guided Canyon Tours: Adult \$5, Children \$2, Families \$15

Hours: Public tours 10AM, Noon, 2PM, 4PM **Age:** Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

TOWN LAKE HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL

Austin, TX - 512.974.6700

This may be the one of the best places for walkers and bikers in Austin - more than eight miles of trails and paved paths that wander around Town Lake. It's complete with abundant water fountains, rest areas, and trail markers. It also offers some of the best views available for you and your children, whether

you're on wheels or on foot. A special all-day outing for everyone.

Info: Free

Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE

805 N Capital of TX Hwy. Austin, TX 78746 -512.327.7622

You and your children will enjoy nature at its most pristine and beautiful in the Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. You're told to "leave pets, bicycles, and picnics at home" and bring plenty of bottled water. There are educational kiosks all along the three-mile trail, and you'll see beautiful vistas, endangered species, and unusual flora all along the way. And Wild Basin also hosts a variety of family events, concerts, adult workshops, children's and school programs. This is the real thing -- nature in its original elemental form. Info: Adults \$3, Senior \$2, Children 5 to 12 years old

\$2; Concert prices vary Hours: Daily dawn to dusk;

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDENS

2220 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78746 512,477,8672

The Zilker Botanical Gradens are hip and happening, with 30 acres of stunning native, hybrid, and exotic plants. There's also a number of events that attract adults and children of all ages. And where else will you find DinoLand, the event that takes place each fall over two weekends. When you visit Zilker Park, stop at ZBG, and you and your children will discover a fascinating, active botanical world.

Info: \$3 per car

Hours: March 11 to November 4: MON to SUN: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM November 5 to March 10: MON to SUN: 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITS

ART ON FIFTH

1501 West 5th St. Austin, TX 78703 - 512.481.1111

Eclectic and unusual are adjectives that apply to Art on 5th; it offers wonderful and surprising examples of the unexpected in art. The exhibitions and programs provide a gateway for you and your children into a wild and rewarding new world. Check out the collection of the Secret Art of Dr. Seuss, and other original contemporary works that don't fit any specific genre.

Hours: MON to SAT: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

ARTHOUSE

700 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.453.5312

Arthouse is one of Austin's main locations for appreciation of contemporary art and artists, with exhibitions and programs at the Jones Center and throughout the state. If you're interested in introducing your children to exquisite examples of modern art, put Arthouse on the short list - it's dedicated to deepening public understanding of the field, and you can be the beneficiaries.

Info: Free

Hours: SUN: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM TUES, WED, FRI: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM THUR: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM SAT: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER

810 Guadalupe Austin, TX 78768 - 512.974.7480

Ready to learn more about the history of Texas and about Austin in particular? Take your children to the Austin History Center, a beautifully restored neoclassic structure — Austin's original public library — that holds hundreds of thousands of books, magazines, maps, photographs, recordings, and everything else you can imagine. All offer a window on the past, locally and regionally. Visit the Center's website for more details — then have every generation in your family embrace history together.

Info: Free

MON to WED: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM Hours:

THUR and FRI: Closed SAT: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM SUN: Noon - 6:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART DOWNTOWN

823 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.495.9224

The Austin Museum of Art - Downtown is an informative and informal site, and a fine place to get your children interested and involved in contemporary 20th- and 21st-century art. You'll find educational programs for the whole family, as well as performances, gallery tours, and a gift shop with art-inspired merchandise.

Info: Adults \$5, seniors and students \$4, children 12 and younger free, Tuesdays \$1

Hours: SUN: Noon - 5:00 PM

TUES, WED, FRI: 10:00AM - 5:00 PM THURS: 10:00 AM - 8:00PM SAT: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

MUSEUM OF ART AT LAGUNA GLORIA

3809 W 35th St. Austin, TX 78703 - 512.458.8191

There are actually two Austin Museums of Art, and the one at Laguna Gloria is situated on a 12-acre estate that overlooks Lake Austin. It's also home to the Art School, where children and parents can choose from more than 400 classes. Like the more modern installation downtown, AMOA at Laguna Gloria doesn't stand on ceremony — it's informal, lively, and fully immersed in the sheer joy of art. A terrific introduction for even the most jaded young person (or adult).

Info: Suggested donation \$3

Hours: TUES and WED: Noon - 4:00 PM THUR to SUN: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM **Age:** Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

301 Nature Center Dr. Austin, TX 78746 - 512.327.8181

Explore the natural world in this small and wonderfully designed facility for children and adults. Get an up-close-and-personal look at everything from pre-historic life to the secrets of the current flora and fauna, like the red-tailed hawk and the covote. And add to your own collection in the Naturalist Workshop and Trade Center. It's a place for the potential naturalist or researcher in the family and their parents, too.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to SAT: 9:00 AM - 5:00PM

SUN: Noon - 5:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

200 East MLK Blvd. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.471.7324

Blanton is one of the largest university-based (University of Texas) art museums in the United States. It offers hands-on public programs, including talks with artists, public tours, traditional art history classes, and yoga. Best of all is "The B Scene," a night of art and live music with local bands and performers; it takes place on the first Friday night of every month. The event is exciting (and early) enough so that your children will have a swell time alongside you - even if it is in a museum. Visit the website or call for details about everything Blanton has to offer. Info: Adults \$7, Seniors 65 and older \$5, College students with valid ID \$3, Youth 13 to 21 \$3, Children 12 and younger free; Thursdays free to the public Hours: Closed MON

TUES to FRI: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM SAT: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM SUN: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

1800 N Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78711 - 512.936.8746

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is a three-story structure committed to making history come alive for every generation - a listen-up, feeland-learn interactive museum with some of the most surprising installations in the state. What's to see? A full-scale windmill, the Capitol's original Goddess of Liberty, and an actual 1940 AT-6 "Texan" airplane hanging in the central atrium. Take a special look at the computer center in the rotunda; it will give you and your children incredible access to information and insight into Texas history. And then there's al-

Info: Adults \$7, Seniors 65 and older, Students and military with ID \$6. Youth 5 to 18 \$4. children 3 and 4 Free, Other museum program prices vary

Hours: SUN: Noon - 6:00 PM

MON to SAT: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

CELTIC CULTURAL CENTER

1105B Taulbee Lane Austin, TX 78757 - 512.431.6290

The Celts of Ireland and Scotland have a rich tradition in Texan history, and the Celtic Cultural Center is dedicated to promoting and preserving Celtic music, language, literature, and dance. The center features programs, plays, and special events, with a full schedule every week. It could be a night of Scottish Poetry or a performance of Dylan Thomas; whatever it is, it's bound to be entertaining for you and your kids.

Info: Varies by event Hours: Vary by event

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

FRENCH LEGATION MUSEUM

802 San Marcos St. Austin, TX 78702 - 512.472.8180

One of Austin's most elegant destinations is the French Legation Museum, a beautifully preserved mansion built by King Louis Philippe of France's representative, Jean Pierre Dubois de Saligny, but never occupied by him. Today, it commemorates French culture in the days of the Republic of Texas, and includes a French country kitchen. If the bygone days of the Republic interest you or your children, take the guided tour on Sunday, or stop by for a visit. Info: Adults \$5, Seniors ages 62 and older \$3, Students and teachers \$2

Hours: TUES to SUN: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

JULIA C. BUTRIDGE GALLERY

1110 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78704 -

512.974.4000

One of Austin's premier art galleries, you and your children will find a wide range of original art in the 1,800-square-foot exhibition space that covers all media and subject matter. And as part of the Dougherty Art Center, it's a must-see stop that can be part of a day of theater, art, and learning for you and your children.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to THURS: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM FRI: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

SAT: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

KERR ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER

228 Earl Garrett St. Kerrville, TX 78028 - 830.895.2911

The Kerr Arts & Cultural Center is housed in Kerrville's historic post office, but don't let that throw you. You and your children will find an astonishing variety of local crafts — especially handmade furniture — in this multimedia exhibition space. The KACC plays host to the Texas Furniture Makers Show exhibiting local woodworkers' creations; there's a beauty and depth in their work that every generation will appreciate. If you're in Kerrville, stop by and and take a look, and visit the gift shop, too.

Info: Free

Hours: SUN: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Closed MON

TUES to SAT: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM **Age:** Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

LA PEÑA GALLERY

227 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.477.6007

La Peña is an interdisciplinary cultural and educational organization dedicated to the enhancement of art in all its forms. La Peña's mission is to support artistic development, to provide exposure to emerging local visual artists, musicians, poets and other performing artists, and to offer Austin residents the full spectrum of traditional and contemporary Latino art. Attend workshops, film festivals, and celebrations. Call or visit the website for more information.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to FRI: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM SAT and SUN: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2313 Red River St. Austin, TX 78705 - 512.721.0200

The LBJ Library and Museum is not only an excellent exploration of the life and service of President Johnson, it's also a nationally recognized research institution. When your children are ready to get a glimpse of life in the White House and the world of the Johnson Era, visit this remarkable place, view its permanent and traveling exhibits, and enjoy the programs for children and adults.

Info: Free

MON to SUN: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Hours: Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+) 419 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701 - 512.480.9373

The Mexic-Arte Museum celebrates Latin American art and culture of today, yesterday, and the distant past — artifacts of the Aztec and Pre-Columbian eras. It is home to furniture, jewelry, painting, and sculpture by modern masters. The back gallery features an ongoing exhibition of 1950's Mexican horror films. What child could resist? And there's a continuing series of classes and events for young people and

Info: Adults \$5, Senior citizens and students \$4, Children 12 and younger \$1, Mexic-Arte Museum Members

Hours: SUN: Noon - 5:00 PM

MON to THUR: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM FRI and SAT: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

MITCHIE'S GALLERY

6406 N Highway 35 Austin, TX 78752 - 512.323.6901

This gallery and cultural center specializes in African American art, but it puts a special emphasis on working with children. There are regular story times, holiday events, summer programs, sign-language workshops, and poetry readings. All the activities offer a wonderful perspective on African American culture. See the art and stay for the fun and you just might stay all day.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to FRI: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM SAT: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Closed SUN

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE MUSEUM

2310 San Gabriel Street Austin, TX 78705 -512.478.2335

The master builder of the Governor's Mansion, Abner Cook, built this Greek Revival-style home out of local Texas limestone. Today, the Colonial Dames of America have transformed it into a museum that celebrates historical home design and interior decoration, including individual rooms decorated in Colonial, Empire, Rococo Revival, and Victorian styles. This was once the home for the Texas School for the Blind, and Federal troops were housed here during Reconstruction. You and your kids can learn all its secrets in tours and self-exploration.

Info: \$5 per person

Hours: TUES to SAT: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

O. HENRY MUSEUM

409 East Fifth Street Austin, TX 78701 - 512.472.1903

O. Henry is Austin's best-known favorite son; a terrific writer and storyteller whose work is still read in your children's English classes. And the museum is actually O. Henry's home, a commemoration of his works and of his world. There are writing clubs for your children to join, Victorian Christmas celebrations, and an annual "pun-off." And there's a workshop where a chosen few can write in O. Henry's house. Take the guided tour and learn the history of this home and its famous occupant.

Info: Free

Hours: WED to SUN: Noon - 5:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

SPLASH! INTO THE EDWARDS AQUIFER INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT

2201 Barton Springs Drive Austin, TX 78746 512.478.3170

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM

Terms like "aquifer" and "water quality" can put a kid to sleep in ten seconds. But the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center (formerly the Barton Springs Pool Bathhouse) has a way that makes the all-important concepts come alive. Splash! is an interactive and exciting learning experience that takes place deep inside a simulated limestone cave. In the cave, your children will learn how the aquifer was formed, how it maintains its average daily flow of 32 million gallons of water, and why local water quality is so important.

Info: Free

Hours: SUN: Noon - 5:00 PM

TUES to SAT: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL

1100 Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78701 -512.463.0063

The Texas State Capitol is awe-inspiring, and you can make a visit there more interesting for you and your children if you pick up one of the self-guided tours. And make sure you take a walk to see the entire population of beautiful monuments and statues, including the Heroes of the Alamo, Volunteer Firemen, Confederate Soldiers and Terry's Texas Rangers.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to FRI 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM SAT 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM SUN 1:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

1 University Station Austin, TX 78712 - 512.495.4532

The next time your children need a little help on a research paper or a school project, take them for a visit to the Center for American History. It is a huge repository of books, manuscripts, photographs, and films covering every aspect of American history. The rotating exhibits drawn from the collection are fascinating and informative for you and for your kids.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to FRI: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SAT: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN

605 Robert E. Lee Road Austin, TX 78704 512.445.5582

The Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum is something that will get your grandkids interested in this art. This converted estate, which includes a wonderfully developed garden and studio, offers more than 130 works of art that kids can enjoy and appreciate as much as adults do. There's even a special Sculpture Safari packet especially for kids; you can pick one up on the way in and return it for a special reward as you leave. Engaging and beautiful, the Umlauf may make your children look at sculpture in a whole new way.

Info: Adults \$3.50, seniors \$2.50, students \$1, children 6 or younger and members free

Hours: WED to FRI: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM SAT and SUN: 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

VSA ARTS OF TEXAS

3710 Cedar Street #7 Austin, TX 78705 - 512.454.9912

VSA stands for "Vision, Strength, and Access" and VSA Arts of Texas is a vital organization that creates programs, offers services, and presents events dedicated to arts education and cultural access. Live performances, art exhibits, writing projects, and other

activities are available to any children, friend, or family member with physical disabilities or developmental challenges. Visit the website or call VSA to hear about the programs that are coming up.

Info: Varies with program Hours: Vary with program

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

LIVE PERFORMANCES

AUSTIN CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

8909 Wildridge Drive Austin, TX 78759 -512.345.3399

Introduce your children to the Austin Chamber Ensemble to learn about this special style of music. Listening to the Ensemble is an especially exciting experience for those grandkids who are playing an instrument already. Besides concerts, the Ensemble offers performances that are highly accessible to new listeners, including some with narration, stories, and even programs based on movie music. It's very approachable and fun for everyone. Call for performance schedule.

Info: Adults \$20, students and seniors \$15, children

12 and younger \$5

Hours: Vary by performance

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

AUSTIN LYRIC OPERA

901 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704 512.472.5927

This renowned opera company offers well-known classics, tragic and comic, from the familiar to the unexpected. But the ALO is also dedicated to education, with the Armstrong Community Music School one of the first of its kind. It offers classes on opera and music in general for students from kindergartenage to adult. It's the perfect place for children and parents alike to discover or re-gnite a passion for music. Visit the website to get the details of upcoming performances and its impressive array of educational opportunities: austinlyricopera.org.

Info: Ticket prices vary by performance

Hours: Vary by performance Box office:

MON to FRI: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SAT: 9:00 AM - Noon

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

BALLET AUSTIN

501 West 3rd Street Austin, TX 78701 - 512.476.2163

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes people near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning 53 years, a commitment to education as well as lifelong fitness, and acclaimed productions in Austin and across the nation, the organization is equally committed to the international craft of dance as it is to the community it serves.

Info: Prices vary

Hours: Vary by performance;

Box office:

MON to FRI: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SAT: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

BASTROP OPERA HOUSE

711 Spring Street Bastrop, TX 78602 - 512.303.6283

Children's theater is always an exciting way to make a

connection with your children. And the Bastrop Opera House offers a wide range of plays at modest prices that will fascinate and entertain every age. The company has taken on Annie and Macbeth: A Kid's Cautionary Tale, which continues year-round through its YOUTHeatre. Visit the website or call for the upcoming schedule: bastropoperahouse.org

Info: Varies by performance Hours: Vary by performance

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

CITY THEATRE

3823 Airport Boulevard Austin, TX 78722 512.524.2870

The City Theatre offers a full season of great plays (check out the web site for the current and upcoming performances). But this year it's also beginning The Green Room, a series of low-cost classes for Austin's aspiring actors and performers. If any (or every) member of your family, from child to adult, has an interest in the stage or live performance of any kind, get on board right now!

Info: Varies by performance Hours: Vary by performance

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER

1110 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704 512.974.4000

If it's happening in the arts in Austin, it's probably happening at the Dougherty Arts Center. There's an 1,800-square-foot gallery, a 150-seat theater, an art school, classrooms, and more - an active and attractive home for all things artsy. If you're looking for something to do, to see, to hear, or to learn, call or visit the website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty and see what the Dougherty is doing this week. You and your children will be pleasantly surprised.

Info: Vary with program

Hours: MON to THUR: 9:00 AM - 9:30 PM FRI: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM SAT: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Closed SUN

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

EASY THEATRE

1110 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704

The EASY Theatre does original works for the whole family and exclusively for kids. Visit its 150-seat theater at the Dougherty Arts Center in central Austin. The company will also come to you, just about anywhere you like, to perform a comedy or drama you've never seen before but one you'll certainly remember. Call or visit the website to learn about upcoming performances. There are different programs for different age groups, too.

Info: Varies by performance Hours: Vary by performance

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

EMO'S

603 Red River Street Austin, TX 78701 - 512.477.3667

It looks a little like a circus with motorcycles, but don't let the décor intimidate you: Emo's is one of the best "all ages" music venues in Austin — including the youngerthan-18 crowd. You and your children will appreciate the environment that invites young ones and presents some of the best new bands in the nation. Visit the website and make plans to stop by for a show. You'll look totally hip to your children.

Info: Varies by performance

Hours: Vary by performance Age: Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

FRANK FRWIN CENTER

1701 Red River Austin, TX 78701 - 512.471.7744

Frank Erwin Center is the location for the biggest and best sporting events and mega-concerts in Austin. It's the University of Texas' major stadium, and home to both men's and women's basketball. Among the other events here are wrestling matches and rock and country music concerts. Start your search with a visit to the website and see what's coming up at the Erwin Center. It's always on fire.

Info: Varies by event Hours: Vary by event

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

JANE DUNN SIBLEY SYMPHONY SQUARE 1101 Red River Austin, TX 78701 - 512.476.6064

The Jane Dunn Sibley Symphony Square is a beautiful performance space in a city that's filled with beautiful performance spaces. The complex of four buildings includes a 350-seat amphitheater, the Jeremiah Hamilton Building, Hardeman House, where you'll find a great Tex-Mex restaurant, and the New Orleans Club Mercantile, a restored 19th century structure. In the summer, every Wednesday morning, the Austin Symphony hosts Children's Day Art Park for kids from preschool to 9 years old. ArtPark includes a musical performance, an instrument "petting zoo," storytelling, art activities, and more.

Info: Varies with event

Hours: MON to FRI: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM **Age:** Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING **ARTS**

701 West Riverside Drive Austin, TX 78703 512.457.5100

The Long Center for the Performing Arts is three separate spaces: The Michael and Susan Dell Hall that hosts some of the biggest events of the year, a smaller studio theater for community-arts groups, and the City Terrace for outdoor performances. It's a venue for your children to view some of the best entertainment in town, and a wonderful place to see all by itself.

Info: Varies with performance and space Hours: MON to FRI: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM SAT: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

ONE WORLD THEATRE

7701 Bee Caves Road Austin, TX 78746 - 512.329.6753

One World Theatre is a special meeting-place for young people and the arts. More than 300 performances a year have reached more than 50,000 elementary to high school students, expanding their knowledge and appreciation of world art as it spans many cultural traditions. And your children may have a chance to get close to world-renowned performers like Herbie Hancock and Pat Metheny.

Info: Varies by event

Hours: Varies by performance

Box office: MON to FRI: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER 900 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704 512.404.4500

ventions, and exhibitions, many open to the public. On a regular basis, visit the website to view the center's calendar. You'll find once-a-year opportunities for you and your children alike - interesting homeand-garden expos and fun comics conventions. Info: Varies by event Hours: Vary by event Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

The Palmer Events Center is part of the Austin Con-

vention Center. Year-round, it is home to expos, con-

RUTA MAYA

3601 South Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78704 512 707 9637

Delicious food, good music, shakes, smoothies, and a colorful place to get together for all. You'll find folks selling jewelry and artwork, a family yoga class on Saturday mornings, and a free show just for kids every Sunday at 10:30am. This is much more than just a coffee shop; it's a place to truly enjoy with your grandchlldren, even on a regular basis.

Info: Free

Hours: MON: 7:00 AM - 11:00 PM TUES to THUR: 7:00 AM - 1:00 AM FRI: 7:00 AM - 2:00 AM

SAT: 8:00 AM - 2:00 AM SUN: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

SUNDAY GOSPEL BRUNCH AT STUBB'S

801 Red River Austin, TX 78701 - 512.480.8341

Stubb's Bar-B-Q has some of the best barbecue in Texas every day. But if you want a truly inspirational morning meal, stop by for the Sunday Gospel Brunch. You and your children will hear some truly outstanding live music, and dig into a buffet that features southern-style grits, migas, fried catfish, and Stubb's famous BBQ brisket. It is a memorable and delicious - Sunday morning experience.

Info: Free

Hours: TUES to THUR: 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM FRI and SAT: 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM SUN: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

WATERLOO RECORDS

600 A. North Lamar Austin, TX 78703 - 512.474.2500

If your children are desperately seeking that special recording or a live-cut that's not available online, take them to Waterloo Records. It's one of the last old-time independent record stores especially for music lovers. The store has more music than you can imagine, a friendly and knowledgeable staff, and an almost unheard-of "listen before you buy" policy. Waterloo also has a regular schedule of record signings and appearances by local and nationally recognized artists. And it's been voted Austin's best record store.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to SAT: 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM SUN: 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

ZACHARY SCOTT THEATRE CENTER

1510 Toomey Road Austin, TX 78704 - 512.476.0541

In the list of performances at the Zachary Scott Theatre the key words are "reinvention" and "revival." The company is dedicated to giving every play and musical it performs an innovative twist and a fresh new approach. The actors explode out of the audi-

ence, and the audience often ends up on stage. The large-scale productions are so close to the kids and adults that there's a sense of intimacy, involvement, and fun

Info: Varies by event and program

Hours: Showtimes vary

Box Office: MON to SAT: Noon - 7:00 PM

SUN: Noon - 2:30 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER

2206 William Barton Drive Austin, TX 78746 512.477.5335

Austin is full of live performance sites — where else can you listen to professional-quality music while having a picnic under 100-year-old pecan trees? You can at the Hillside Theater, right across the street from Barton Springs Pool. And admission is always free, which makes this a beautiful alternative for you and your children in more ways than one.

Info: Free, parking \$3

Hours: Open daily, show times vary

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

ARTS & CRAFTS

ABRAKADOODLE ART CLASSES

Austin, TX - 512.380.7555

Here's a wonderful opportunity for your younger children to express themselves and have a fun time doing it. All over Austin, Abrakdoodle offers programs that introduce kids to color, texture, shape, and creativity. You can even set up an art party of your own for your children and their friends. If you're lucky, you'll even get to meet Splat, the Abrakadoodle stuffed-toy mascot. Open up their minds and hearts, and join in the fun yourself. Call or visit the website for public programs and reservation info.

Info: Varies by program Hours: Vary by program

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12)

BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP

2901 S. Capital of TX Hwy Austin, TX 78746 512.347.0620

Build-A-Bear workshops are an irresistible attraction for the plush-lover in your family. Your "builder" gets to choose a stuffed animal — a bear, bunny, dog, or kitten - then adds a customized voice chip and stuffs a silk heart deep inside. After adding an outfit and accessories to the animal, the builder gives it a name and a bar-code so it can be returned if found. These hands-on workshops create memories for you and your child that will never fade.

Info: Free

Hours: MON to SAT: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

SUN: Noon - 6:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

CERAMIC BAYOU

3620 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746 - 512.328.1168

Bring out the artist at any age at Ceramic Bayou, a wonderful walk-in workshop. Every member of the family can create a personal piece of pottery (more than 400 choices), with paints, brushes, sponges, and stencils. No appointment required. You and yours can walk in and have the run of the studio to make something memorable!

Info: Varies accrding to project
Hours: MON to WED: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
THUR and FRI: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
SAT: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
SUN: Noon – 5:00 PM

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween

(9-12), Teen (12+)

FUN & GAMES

BLAZER TAG ADVENTURE CENTER

1701 W Ben White Blvd. Austin, TX 78704 512.462.0202

It's not just laser tag — it's BLAZER tag! It's also three stories of high-tech shoot-em-up adventure for children, age seven and older (and adults who can't resist being a kid again). And the center has a video arcade, a revolving rock-climbing wall, and a snack bar. You can also hold birthday parties here at reasonable rates.

Info: 1 Laser Game: \$7.90 a person, 2 Laser Games: \$15.80 a person, 3 Laser Games: \$23.70 a person;

group discounts avaialable

Hours: MON and THUR: 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM FRI: 4:00 – 12:00 AM SAT: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM SUN: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

HOPPIN HOUSE

4040 S. Lamar Blvd, Suite B, Austin, TX 78704 512.447-3000

1335 E Whitestone Blvd, Suite T-160, Cedar Park, TX 78613 (512) 260-3535

2105 Ranch Road 620 S. Suite 201 Lakeway, TX 78734 (512) 263-0060

Hoppin' House was created to provide a safe and clean atmosphere for kids to play and have fun with facilities to celebrate special occasions.

Info: Under 3 - \$5.50, 3 to 11 - \$8.50 Birthday Party Costs Vary. Call for Details.

OPEN PLAY Hours: MON-THUR: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

FRI: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM SAT: 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM SUN: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Age: 3-11 Years

INFLATABLE WONDERLAND

11200 Lakeline Mall Dr., Cedar Park, Tx 78613 (512) 377-5867

No reservations required! Inflatable Wonderland is open every day during regular mall hours for your kids to come jump and play!

An all day pass has 'in and out' privileges. Have dad watch the kids play while you shop, enjoy lunch together, then while he shops you enjoy time with the kids. The perfect family day!

Info: Monday – Friday \$7.00 + tax Saturday and Sunday \$10.00 + tax

OPEN PLAY Hours:

MON-SAT: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM SUN: 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

JUMPSTREET

12617 Ridgeline Blvd. Suite B, Cedar Park, TX 78613 (512) 506-8583

Are you looking for a unique and fun activity for your next group or corporate event? Look no further than jumpstreet*, your day time, night time, any time, fun place. Boasting over 20,000 square feet of wall to wall trampolines, trampoline dodge ball and other unique and fun activities. We are the perfect place to "Come Bounce Off Our Walls"!

Info: Ages 8 Years Old + (or anyone under 8 accompanied by someone 12 or older that is on the main trampoline courts and dodge ball courts). Ages 4 to 7: Earthquake Access only. (Main trampoline courts or dodge ball courts not included).\$6-\$12.

OPEN PLAY Hours:

SUN-MON: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM TUES-THURS: 10:00AM-10:00PM FRI-SAT: 10:00 AM - MIDNIGHT

MAIN EVENT

13301 N US Highway 183 Austin, TX 78750 512.401.0000

This is the place your children really want to visit: bowling, billiards, laser tag, video games, glow golf, and rock climbing. Children love it on sight; parents will appreciate the fact that it's safe, well-maintained, and carefully staffed. It stays open until 2am for you and the older kids.

Info: Varies by activity

Hours: MON: 11:00 AM - 2:00 AM TUES to THUR: 11:00 AM - 12:00 AM

FRI: 11:00 AM - 2:00 AM SAT: 10:00 AM - 2:00 AM SUN: 11:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

PUMP IT UP

9330 United Drive, Suite 180 Austin, TX 78758 512.832.1100

Pump It Up is an "inflatable party zone" where your children can jump, slide, and soar with giant, interactive air-filled inflatables to their hearts' content. It's available for parties on the property of your choice, but Pump It Up also offers a Pop-In Playtime on Monday and Thursday mornings, where the company sets up the interactive inflatables on its own site. Your kids can join in and get jumpin' at a reasonable price.

Info: Pop-In Playtime: \$5.00 per child, 2 to 6 years

Hours: Pop-In Playtime:

MON and THUR: 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM **Age:** Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9)

SPORTING EVENTS

AUSTIN AZTEX

300 N Lake Creek Dr Round Rock, TX 78681 512.335.8881

Soccer is something special for children; join in their enjoyment — take them to an Austin Aztex game. It's Austin's professional soccer team, part of the United Soccer League. You'll find the games well-attended and just as exciting as our ancient pastimes like basketball and football. The Aztex play their games at Round Rock High School's Dragon Stadium, and the ticket prices are ultra-reasonable. If your grandkids are already soccer fans, this is a swell way to share an afternoon. If they're not — hey, it's the wave of the future.

Info: Individual game tickets \$18 to \$22

Hours: Varies by game

Age: Tdlr./Pre-Schl. (1-5), Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12)

AUSTIN WRANGLERS

1701 Red River Street Austin, TX 78701 - 512.491.6600

Are you ready for some football? How about some arena football, courtesy of the Austin Wranglers of the Arena Football League? From late March through July, the Wranglers play at the University of Texas at Austin Frank Erwin Center, and just going to a

single game is a fantastic getaway for you and your children. There are also youth camps, birthday party promotions, and more for the truly fanatic family. **Info:** Tickets range from \$18 to \$125; call box office

or visit website for details **Hours:** Vary by game

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE

5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd Austin, TX 78723 512 926 1100

Whether your children are simply interested in golf or are already duffers, the Harvey Penick Golf Campus is a spot for them to learn the basics or sharpen their game. The setting is complete with a 9-hole golf course, a driving range, knowledgeable instructors, and competitively priced greens fees. Because education is the major emphasis, there are classes and facilities for all levels of expertise.

Info: Adult greens fees: 9 holes \$12, 18 holes (all day) \$18; junior greens fees: general 9 holes \$7.50, youth 9 holes \$5.50; scholarships, ball, and cart fees apply Hours: MON to SUN: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

ROUND ROCK EXPRESS

3400 E Palm Valley Blvd Round Rock, TX 78665 512.255.2255

If you and your children are big-time baseball fans who crave Major-League action, visit the Dell Diamond. Catch a game of the Round Rock Express, Austin's AAA farm team for the Houston Astros. The prices are moderate, the action is terrific, and you can get a guided tour of the Diamond if you time it right. Think about enjoying a pregame picnic; dine at Old Settler's Park — right behind the Diamond.

Info: Tickets range from \$6 to \$13 Hours: Varies by game; Call for information. Age: Elementary (5-9), Tween (9-12), Teen (12+)

