

Finding Family Fun on a Budget (Tyler Edition)

Don't let the struggling economy throw a wrench in your summer plans. If your family can't take a vacation, plan a "stay-cation" instead. There are lots of fun things you can do right here in Tyler, and many of them are free, so grab the kids and the camera and make this a summer they'll never forget!

- **Faulkner Park**
<http://www.trailfu.com/mountain-bike/texas/tyler/faulkner-park/Default.aspx>
Strap on your bike helmet and hit the trails for some great off-road riding. Or if biking's not your thing, take advantage of their tennis courts, picnic and playground areas, fishing pond, and sprayground—all for free!
- **Brookshire's Park and Wildlife Museum**
<http://www.brookshires.com/museum/>
Our kids love the big fire engine on the playground, the various animals in the museum, and (especially) the 5-cent candy at the general store.
- **Green Acres Baptist Church Library**
<http://www.gabc.org/library>
You do not have to be a member of GABC to enjoy their wonderful library. In addition to books they have a wide selection of movies and audio tapes.
- **Home Depot Kids Clinics**
<http://ext.homedepot.com/community/blog/free-home-depot-kids-workshop-first-saturday-month/>
Kids can build a free wooden project at Home Depot the 1st Saturday of every month. Lowes offers a similar program on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, but advanced registration is required (<http://www.lowesbuildandgrow.com/Home.aspx>).
- **Tyler Museum of Art**
http://www.tylermuseum.org/programs_family.aspx
TMA offers free admission the 2nd Saturday of each month for Family Days.
- **East Texas Symphony Orchestra**
<http://www.etso.org/history.php>
Don't let squirmy kids or pricey tickets keep you from enjoying the beautiful music of the ETSO. There are free open rehearsals at The Cowan Center in the afternoons before each performance. Call box office for dates and time.
- **Fun Forrest Pool and Sprayground**
<http://www.cityoftyler.org/Default.aspx?tabid=413>
Free admission and free swim lessons are offered during the summer months at this community pool. See website for hours of operation (closed Sun-Mon).
- **Bergfeld Park**
<http://www.cityoftyler.org/Portals/0/docs/departments/communications/2011%20Tyler%20Parks%20Activity%20Guide%20Winter-Spring.pdf>
There's always something going on at Bergfeld—art shows, free concerts, outdoor movies, ballet performances, 5K races, Easter egg hunts, family festivals, flag football matches, etc. Check their calendar of events for details.

For more ideas of fun stuff to do in East Texas, check out the following websites:

<http://www.doctorwick.com/tyleratoz.html>

<http://www.visittyler.com/attractions.php>