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Your Summer Bucket List

Don't let summer slip away - make the most of summer fun (and make memories) with this starter list of 33 ways to celebrate the season



As we near the unofficial start of summer, we've got 33 fun things to try before season's end. Don't let Labor Day arrive in a haze of regret and wondering "where did the days go?" The days are long - get going!

1. Rouse family or friends in the dark of night to gaze at the stars - telescope optional.
2. Enjoy a summer garden - even June is not too late to start. Just use midsize "starter plants" rather than seeds.
3. Start the wave at a baseball game - pro or Little League.
4. Learn a new summer sport - from speedminton (a speedy version of badminton) to stand-up paddling, for the more adventurous. Or create your own - hey, washers had to start somewhere!
5. Go camping - in your own backyard.
6. Read a book from a list of classics you missed in high school or college.
7. Take tennis lessons, or just go to a court in a public park or school and hit some balls around.
8. Pick fresh berries; find a "U-pick" farm at Pick-Your-Own.
9. Make jam from the berries you picked.
10. Enjoy a nap in a hammock or on a picnic blanket spread out on the grass.
11. Resolve to eat every meal outside for a whole weekend. Even better: Do all your cooking on the grill or over a campfire.

12. Treat someone unexpectedly to fresh lemonade.
13. Attend a small-town Fourth of July parade.
14. Try out for a part in a summer local theater production - or at least see a performance.
15. Make a summer sound track - the perfect background for a photo slide show at the end of summer (or to remember in the middle of winter).
16. Find a volunteer option that gets you outside, such as at a community garden, kids' summer camp, or park cleanup day.
17. Go to a drive-in movie - you can locate one at driveinmovie.com.
18. Experiment with fun summer salad dressings, like poppy seed and berry. (Try our classic Strawberry Poppysseed & Chicken Salad.)
19. Enjoy an amusement park or carnival ride - even if it's just the carousel.
20. Spend a day with a child you know; follow his or her lead for what to do.
21. Buy the freshest farm-stand tomatoes you can find, and make a tomato-and-mayo sandwich.
22. Sand and paint a neglected piece of furniture - do it outdoors to minimize mess.
23. Blend a different smoothie a day for a week - try these tips.
24. Have a watermelon-seed spitting contest.
25. Make a big batch of sun tea (a few tea bags, a large glass jar of water, and a few hours in the sun).
26. Ambush someone who won't hold a grudge with water balloons.
27. Brew an extra pot of extra-strong coffee in the morning, and pop it in the fridge for iced coffee later in the afternoon.
28. Grab a friend on a quiet afternoon and go out for a cool drink and a cookie - just because.
29. Discover a local tourist attraction you'd ordinarily pass right by.
30. Send postcards to friends you haven't heard from in a while.
31. Experiment with cold summer soups, like watermelon, strawberry, avocado, or gazpacho.
32. Visit your alma mater and tour your old haunts - if you have kids, bring them along.
33. Finish off this list with your own ideas for summer fun!

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