



9 Things to Try This Summer

The summer is the perfect time to have new adventures, meet new people and try new things. School is out of session and the weather is warm enough to spend time outdoors. Plus, the days are longer. If you're trying to expand your list of fun and interesting activities to try this summer, then look no further.

Plan a Picnic Party

Don't just settle for a simple picnic in your backyard or at the park. Establish an elaborate event by developing a theme and coordinating complimentary food. Plan a PJ Teddy Bear Picnic that starts at 7 pm and turns into a sleep over. Invite your friends to bring their favorite spa items along with their old playmate, Teddy. Or, decorate your backyard with mismatched furniture, playthings and dishes for an Alice in Wonderland Tea Party Picnic. If you're more of an outdoorsy adventure type, explore a new location you've never been and let your picnic of trail mix and other hiking treats be the reward for making it to your destination.

Maximize Your Movie Marathon

Having Movie Marathons are commonplace during the summer months. But, if you're interested in trying something new, create a theme to your marathon event. Have friends dress up as characters regarding the theme and watch a mix of new and old films pertaining to your theme. Instead of watching Frozen again, have all your girlfriends dress up as their favorite Disney princess and watch the old classics like Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella.

Concoct Aromatherapy Skin Care

Essential oils can change your mood and offer a relaxing escape. Create your own 'healing' line of products. Mix 2 ounces of Jojoba with 20 drops of lavender for soothing bath oil. Or, combine an ounce of Jojoba, Vegetable Glycerin, Liquid Castile Soap with a ½ teaspoon of Vitamin E Oil and ¼ teaspoon of Peppermint Oil. Pour over and mix with 8 ounces of brown sugar for a fun facial scrub.

Class Out of Your Comfort Zone

Take a class for something you've never dreamed you'd do. If you're an introvert who hates public speaking, try a theater class. If you're always on the move and into multiple sports, take a poetry class. If you're into photography and painting try cheerleading. Take the summer season to explore and define more of your character.

Outdoor Bound

Take a day trip to the beach or the mountains with your family or friends and leave your phone at home. Capture the world around you for a day without the lens of your phone. Instead, admire God's creation for its true beauty.

Culinary Craze

Taste cuisine that is new to you, not just a new item on the menu at your favorite burger joint, but try something culturally unfamiliar. Explore sushi, Vietnamese or Ethiopian food. Look up what the residents of Central America or India eat and create your own authentic feast at home. Your local grocery store may not have all the ingredients on hand, so you may need to find a specialty grocer or use substitute ingredients.

Redecorate Your Room

Pick a theme and redecorate your room around the new world you want to create. For example: Winter Wonderland, Hawaiian Hideaway or Flower Power. Check out the latest furniture and accessories at Ikea and Target for affordable updates or create your own DIY projects utilizing supplies at Hobby Lobby. Check out your local thrift store for some incredible savings as well.

Pet Sit

It's a fun way to make some extra money and spend time with cute and cuddly creatures. With a lot of dog walking, you'll get great exercise too. Check with neighbors, friends and family for opportunities. For a greater adventure, don't limit yourself to dogs and cats - feed a goldfish, a hamster or a pet iguana while the owner is on vacation or needs someone to look after his pet for a few hours.

Surf, Water-Ski or Go Rafting

Don't let the summer go by without trying new outdoor recreation. Always wanted to go parasailing, rock climbing or hang gliding? Then try it! If you gain your adventurous spirit from your parents, then they'd probably love to join you. Take lessons or have a guide direct your outdoor extravaganza. But, always make sure you have proper safety gear.