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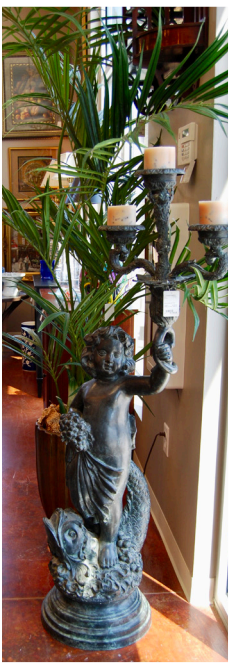
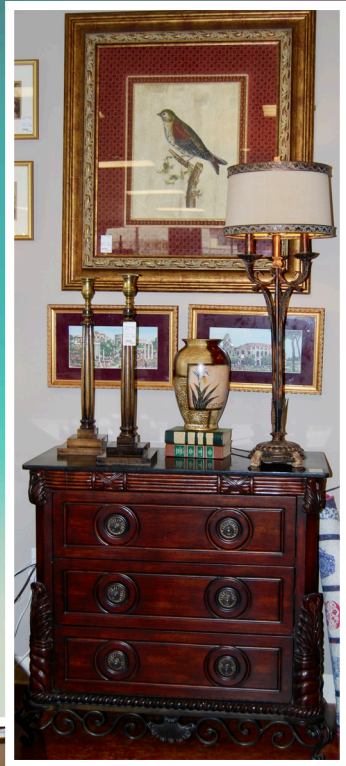
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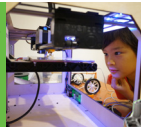
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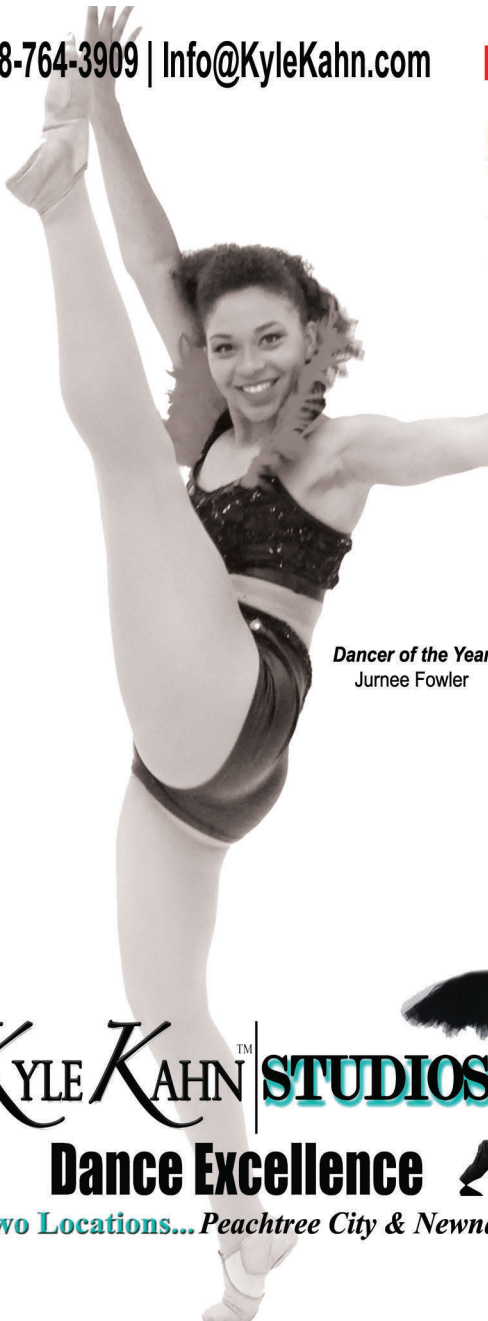
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Prepare Your Kids to Go to Overnight Camp

While going away to overnight camp for the summer is one of the most exciting rites of passage that some kids get to experience at a certain age, it is also one of the scariest. For probably the first time ever, they are going to be in a new place, among new people, 24 hours a day, without you close by. Some kids naturally adapt to this idea and are excited, but some may have some trepidation. No matter how your children seem to feel about going to camp, there are a few steps you should take to prepare them for the experience.

Try to find out as much about the camp, and the daily experience of living there, as possible. If you can

manage a visit before your children go, that's great, but if not, there are still a wide variety of resources you can utilize to find out about the camp. Visit the camp's website and read everything they have posted, whether about the daily schedule, the activities offered, the social events, or any other information they have. Get in contact with someone who runs the camp and ask if they can refer you to another parent whose children have previously attended. If so, try to find out as much as possible about what their kids both liked and didn't like about the experience. Once you have all of this information, talk it all over with your kids. The less there is for them to be surprised by,

the better they are likely to enjoy their time there.

Before your children leave, try to acquaint them with some of the elements of being at camp while they're still at home. Take them hiking or camping for a night to see how they do dealing with the outdoors, the dirt, and the bugs. Make sure to spend some time outside at night so they aren't afraid of outdoor sounds or the dark. Teach them how to take care of themselves by doing some of the things you may do for them at home, including making up a bed, doing laundry, and washing the dishes. Finally, arrange for your child to spend a few nights at a friend's house without having communication with you while they're gone.

Involve your children in the process of packing for camp. Make sure that they bring some comforts from home with them so as to make the new environment less scary. While the camp may provide a list of what to bring, it's a good idea to Google packing lists from other sources to make sure there's nothing you're forgetting.

Homesickness is something that almost every camper goes through to some extent, so do your best to prepare for it in advance. Address the potential of feeling homesick with your kids and try to help them figure out how they'll work through it. Since camp counselors are trained

in dealing with the emotions of the kids, you can recommend them as a great resource. Find out the camp's policies on phone calls or e-mails home. Some camps only allow letter-writing, so make sure to give your kids plenty of stationery to be able to write to you as needed. Find out how often they'd like to receive letters from you. If it's as often as every day, oblige their wishes as it will likely make the experience much better for your little camper. Writing a letter for your kids in advance and sending it ahead so it will be there when they arrive might make for a nice surprise on their first night away from home.

Finally, make sure that you get your kids excited about going to camp. Focus on all of the new experiences they'll get to have, the friends they'll meet, and the great memories they'll get to make. Show them positive movies and TV shows that show a good depiction of the camp experience like *The Parent Trap*, *Salute Your Shorts*, or old episodes of the Disney Channel reality show *Bug Juice*, which you can find online. The more you get your kids excited for the experience, the less reason they will have to be anxious about it. Prepare them as best you can, and your kids will have a great time at camp.



Four Tips for Camping With Children

Camping trips are a great way to get away from the city and spend some quality time with family and friends. However, when children are involved, it is essential to be prepared and ease into this new activity for them. Here are some tips to help make the process easier:

1. **DRESS REHEARSAL.** Before you set off on your first camping trip, arrange a trial run in the back yard. This will get children used to the idea of sleeping in a tent while still having the security of familiar surroundings. It also allows parents to get used to unfamiliar or new equipment in an environment where a setup mishap or forgotten component can be easily remedied. If there are hiccups

with equipment, food preparation or forgotten items, continue to do a backyard camp every few weeks until everything runs smoothly.

2. **STAY CLOSE TO HOME.** Once the art of backyard camping with children has been mastered it's time for the first outside camping trip. Look for a suitable campsite that is 30 - 60 minutes away from home. Arriving at your first family camp with children that are tired and cranky from a long road trip can start the experience off on a bad note.

Camping closer to home also means that it is easier to pack up, cut the camping trip short and go back

home if children become scared or unsettled and don't want to continue. Forcing them to complete a camp that they are not enjoying will only lead to resistance the next time a camping trip is suggested. Returning home is also a simpler option if the weather turns really ugly or major equipment failure is experienced.

3. GO WITH FRIENDS. If at all possible go camping with at least one other family with children. Having friends of similar age around helps to keep the kids amused and makes the experience more fun for them. The children will enjoy discovering things together and showing each other their treasures. They will also look out for each other and call for help if one child trips and falls, for example. Camping in a group also allows parents to take turns watching the children and preparing meals. This reduces the workload and pressure and makes the trip more

enjoyable for all.

4. HAVE A BOX OF TRICKS.

Most of the time children will find plenty to do in a campground – especially in the beginning. Sticks, rocks, pinecones and assorted bugs can all be sources of amusement. Certain campsites also have a playground or other facilities aimed at keeping children from being bored. Sometimes, though, the novelty wears off after a while. Be prepared and have equipment for ball games and other fun activities handy. Another scenario to be prepared for is if the weather turns nasty for a while. Small children confined to the inside of a tent will become bored and cranky very quickly. Board games, books, comics, small toy cars, dolls, etc. can all be taken with and kept in reserve for when boredom strikes.



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Fort Mountain Fun -- A Family Wilderness Adventure in the Chattahoochee National Forest

by Kimberly Blaker

If you're looking for a relaxing, outdoorsy getaway with plenty of awesome sight-seeing and fun for the whole family, look no further. The 749,268-acre Chattahoochee National Forest in northern Georgia is the place to go. This beautiful forest spanning northern Georgia with wondrous rolling mountains and brilliant colored foliage will keep your family intrigued for days. The Cohutta Wilderness area within the forest offers recreation for the whole family and accommodations for every family's style.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EVERY STYLE

If you like roughin' it, you'll love camping at Fort Mountain State Park. This modern campground resides at the top of the 2,800-foot high Fort Mountain. Amenities include

electricity, water, clean shower houses with flush toilets, gravel sites with scenic views, and more. The nearby Amicalola Falls State Park, with a smaller campground, offers similar amenities.

If camping isn't your style, but you'd still like a taste of wilderness living, Fort Mountain and Amicalola Falls State Parks offer spacious cottages in a variety of scenic settings. Cottages are available with one to three bedrooms and include baths. Cabins can also be found in nearby private parks.

Can't give up the conveniences of modern living? Then try a room with a panoramic view in a lodge nestled in the mountains at Amicalola Falls or atop Fort Mountain. Lodges offer casual dining and other hotel services.

PLENTY OF WILDERNESS FUN AND ADVENTURES

Every activity in the Chattahoochee Forest offers awe-inspiring views creating a new appreciation for nature. Fort Mountain offers several miles of hiking trails from short ½-mile nature trails to an 8-mile trek for more experienced hikers. Wind through the mountainous forest, across streams, along a small waterfall, up to a stone lookout tower, and even around the mountainside along steep, deep drops, where you'll find overlooks for breathtaking views. Kids will get a kick out of listening for the commonly-heard Barred Owl, easily distinguished by its "Who cooks for you?" call.

There is also a small mountain trail leading to an 855-foot-long rock wall from which Fort Mountain derived its name. The mysterious wall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are several theories why ancient Indians built it; the most prevalent that it was built for ancient ceremonies.

For the adventurous family, horse rentals are available for 1-hour trail rides or longer excursions. Bike rentals and helmets are also available for children and adults for splendoring in Fort Mountain's 32 miles of mountain biking trails.

When your family's ready for some relaxation, a clear mountaintop lake offers fishing, boat rentals, swimming, and a sandy beach.

Enjoy the magnificent Amicalola Falls only a scenic hour's drive away. Amicalola's tiered, 729-foot falls are the tallest east of the Mississippi River and can be viewed from both above and below. While you're there, Amicalola Falls State Park offers 12 miles of scenic hiking trails including an 8-mile trail that leads to the southern end of the Appalachian Trail.

Kids will also enjoy the park office with its live exhibits and nature displays. The park offers special events, as well as fun and educational weekend nature programs.



At a nearby resort, take your family on a horse drawn carriage or wagon ride. Dinner wagons are available as well.

Although it isn't likely here, if your family does begin to crave civilization, cruise down Fort Mountain to Chatsworth, and visit the Chief Vann House, a state historic site. This mansion was the first brick home within the Cherokee Nation and is decorated with hand carvings.

Also not far away is the New Echota Cherokee Capital Site, which houses several original and reconstructed buildings from the historical Cherokee capital. New Echota was once the headquarters of the Cherokee Indian Nation that covered a large region including northern Georgia.

These are only some of the things you can see and do in the Chattahoochee National Forest and surrounding area. So pack your bags, grab your kids, and go!

HIKING WITH KIDS

To keep your kids' interest on hikes, turn the excursions into adventures. The Cohutta Wilderness is home to an abundance of wildlife, from numerous species of birds, to deer and even bears. Don't forget binoculars. An inexpensive pair for each child will keep them scouting and take their minds off weary legs.

IF YOU GO...

For more information about Fort Mountain, Chattahoochee National Forest, camping, and cottage rentals, visit About North Georgia online, the website of Georgia State Parks, or call (800) 864-7275.

For lodging, check out Cohutta Lodge online or call (706) 695-9601.

For private cabin rentals, look into Wilderness View Cabins online or call (706) 517-8810.

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April Events

The Rock Ranch Easter Eggstravaganza!

Apr 8 11 AM – 4 PM

11:00 a.m. Easter Bunny photos (Bring your own camera)

12:30 p.m. – Easter Story presentation

12:45 p.m. – Egg hunts begin (Age-specific egg hunts will begin at staggered times at different locations across the ranch. Groups include: toddlers under two years old, ages two and three, ages four to six, ages seven to 12 and ages 13 and older) This free Easter Egg Hunt in The Rock, Ga. is our gift to the community. Children can hunt for more than 40,000 plastic prize eggs. This event will include a presentation of the Easter story from the Bible just before the egg hunt. Kids can also get photos with the Easter Bunny (no charge) at this popular Georgia event. Don't forget your camera! Concessions are available.

www.therockranch.com

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April 9

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Family Fun at the Woodruff Arts Center is sponsored by the Lettie Pate Evans Foundation, which is part of the family of foundations that also includes the Robert W.

Woodruff Foundation. The Lettie Pate Evans Foundation is an independent private foundation that invests primarily in education, arts and culture.

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Fayette Bras for the Cause

Apr 13 6 PM – 9 PM

The 15th Annual 5K/10K Road Race and 1 Mile Fun Run 2016 Run For Angels, is in historic downtown Newnan. Both the 5K and 10K courses are certified as PEACHTREE ROAD RACE QUALIFIERS (USATF 10K A0400WC). The Run for Angels benefits The Angels House, an emergency shelter for girls in Coweta County. www.theangelshouse.org.

The 2017 Angel's House Chicken Q will, once again, be held in conjunction with our Run For Angel's on Saturday, February 4, 2017, in the First United Methodist Church Parish Hall in Newnan. We include Huckleberry's famous chicken, potato salad, bread, baked beans and delicious homemade desserts in our Chicken Q plates! To meet the

demands of our customers, our drive-thru pick-up line will now open at 10:00am for those who would like "to go" plates. Of course, you are welcome to eat in the Church Parish Hall beginning at 10:00am until 1:30pm.

Church Basement Ladies

Book by Jim Stowell and Jessica Zuehlke
Music & Lyrics by Drew Jansen

Apr 14 - May 7

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March for Babies

April 15 Registration: 8:30 AM Start: 10:00 AM

It promises to be a fun day out with people who share our passion for improving the health of babies. There'll be family teams, company teams and people walking with friends - it's a great feeling knowing we're all helping real families. Join our event and walk with us to raise money for babies right here in our community!

Peachtree City @ Picnic Park / Luther Holt All Children's Playground.

151 Willowbend Road Peachtree City, GA 30269
(404) 350-9800

www.marchforbabies.org

April Events

Boeing, Boeing at Newnan Theatre Company By Marc Camoletti

April 20–23, 27–30

This hit comedy tells the exploits of French bachelor Bernard and three lovely flight attendants from three different countries who all believe they're engaged to him! All is well until modern jet timetables cause all three women to end up at Bernard's apartment on the same day. Get ready for a comedic sonic boom!

24 First Avenue in Downtown Newnan, GA (770) 683-6282
www.newnantheatre.org

Abby's Angels Rainbow Run & Family Fun Day

Apr 22 9 AM to 2 PM

April 22, 2017 will be a day to celebrate our Angel Abby and bring families together for a day of fun! April is organ donation awareness month. Please join us as we honor Abby's gift of life on Christmas Day 2012. The event will begin at 9:00 am with an energetic warm-up, followed by the National Anthem and Invocation. The 5K Rainbow Run will start shortly thereafter, with lots of COLOR! After the run, we will continue the celebration until 2:00 pm with Music, Food, Games, and a Raffle. It will be a day to bring smiles and laughter to all - two things Abby loved to do: Smile and Laugh!

Join us for a COLORFUL day as we celebrate Abby's life, family & friends, and our community.

Coweta County Fairgrounds
275 Pine Road Newnan, GA 30263
abbsangelsfoundation.org

Fayette County Earth Day Festival

Apr 22

Free, county-wide event featuring: Educational presentations & exhibit to help you learn about building a sustainable society Green Market vendors with eco-friendly products and services Entertainment, food, and games & crafts for children of all ages. Secure Shredding (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

140 Stonewall Ave W
Fayette County Administrative Complex
Fayetteville, GA

14th Annual WWII Heritage Days

Apr 22 10 AM - Apr 23 5 PM

Step back into the 1940s and experience the sights and sounds of The Greatest Generation. Listen to radio broadcasts announcing Pearl Harbor and D-Day, get a ration card, see Marines getting ready to ship off or have your photo taken with Gen. MacArthur. Activities include Antique Car Show Jeep and Military Vehicle Motor Pool to Jeep and Military Vehicle Rally, 1940s Fashion Show, Allied and Axis Camps with living history activities, Public battles, Air Raid at Midway, Home Front Exhibit, Hollywood Canteen, and Rides in restored World War II aircraft!

www.wwiidays.org

Bark for Life of Fayette County GA

Apr 22 10 AM - Apr 23 5 PM

The American Cancer Society Bark For Life™ is a noncompetitive walk event for dogs and their owners to raise funds and awareness for the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. By supporting Bark For Life, you help the American Cancer Society save lives, and that helps us move closer to our ultimate goal of a world with less cancer and more birthdays. So bring your best canine friend and join us for a fun-filled day starting with a walk, and then continuing with demonstrations, contests, and games. Questions?

Contact Calle Wallace: calle.wallace@cancer.org
(404) 329-5730

www.relayforlife.org

Hawaiian Run Thingy

Apr 29 4:00 PM

Break out your Hawaiian shirts and dust off your grass skirts. It's time to get ready for the Hawaiian Run Thingy! Yes, "thingy"; that which is different and fun, and includes something for everyone. If you are looking to enjoy a Hawaiian experience without the cost of travel, the Hawaiian Run Thingy is your destination. Hula dance lessons, limbo, Hawaiian shirt contest, bouncy house, coconut roll, live tropical birds, Sandbox Discovery, an amazing post-race celebration and so much more will be happening at Shakerag Knoll

McIntosh Trail Recreation Complex • Peachtree City
www.runthingy.com

Columbus Symphony Orchestra on the Sand at Callaway Gardens

This Callaway Gardens tradition of Symphony on the Sand.

Tickets range from lawn seating to stage-front tables, in addition custom meal baskets can be ordered. Advance tickets start at \$25; tickets at the gate the day of the event start at \$30. Or, make it a getaway weekend with an overnight package.

Callaway Gardens 17800 U. S. Hwy. 27, Pine Mountain, GA 31822

www.callawaygardens.com

Fayette Celebrity Dancers

May 6

Fayette Celebrity Dancers is a fundraising event for local Fayette County Charities in which local celebrities dance with local dance professionals in competition for your donations. The event is sponsored by the Fayette County Board of Realtors® and Rachel's Dance Connection.

Starr's Mill High School 193 Panther Path, Fayetteville
www.fayettecelebritydancers.com

Do you have an event for our calendar?
Email to deb@j4fd.com



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For more info: Brittany Sommers at 404-425-8567 or brittany@meadowwoodfarm.net

7975 Highway 54 Sharpsburg • www.meadowwoodfarm.net



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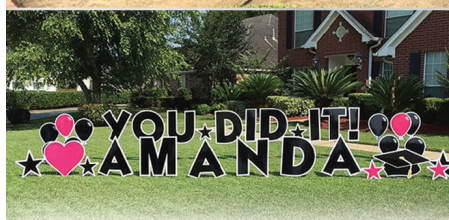
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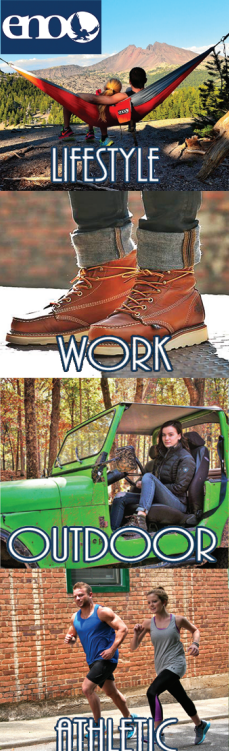
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