

The Go To Resource For San Antonio Families Since 1985

Free Sep. Issue

San Antonio

ourKids

Magazine

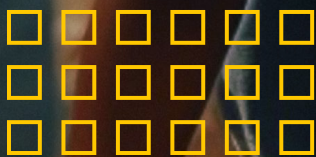
Fun Birthday Parties for Busy Parents


Birthday Budget

Reuse and Repurpose Birthday Decor

Opportunities to serve with your kids

Party Edition



September 2023 // Vol. 38 No. 9

ourkidsmagazine.com

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A note from the publisher

Thanks for picking up this issue of ourKids Magazine! This issue is all about parties; find out how you can save money on parties and how to handle birthday planning when you're a busy parent. I also included one article about how you can give back to your community with your children. There are plenty of things you can do to help the less fortunate and cleanliness of the city!



Andres Flores

Is it really possible to cut party costs without losing the fun and excitement that parents and kids alike have come to love? Yes it is!

Find on page 4



Reach the publisher:
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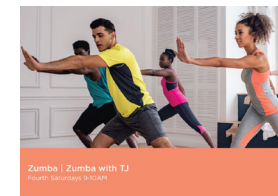
Calendar

To see more upcoming events, follow the QR code or visit our website at ourkidsmagazine.com



Resource Center at Villa Coronado Grand Opening
Sep 16
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Metro Health looks forward to opening its doors and welcoming community members and organizations to the newly renovated Resource Center at Villa Coronado. The center is located at 11030 Ruidosa St, San Antonio, TX 78214



Zumba | Wellness at the Tobin
Sep 23
9:00 am

Free Event - Wellness at the Tobin is a series of free public experiences designed to address aspects of living and being well. Come prepared with comfortable shoes and clothes that you can move in. This event is kid friendly!



The Briscoe Western Art Museum - Full Steam Ahead
Oct 1
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Learn more about the pottery made by Native Americans in the Southwest, including the techniques they used to craft their pieces. Use those techniques to create a piece of pottery of your own.



Free Family Nights at The DoSeum
Oct 2
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Explore The DoSeum's fun interactive exhibits alongside your family for free! A link for ticket reservations will be posted on thedoseum.org at 8 AM the morning of Free Family Night. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.



The Nightmare Before Christmas | H-E-B Cinema on Will's Plaza
Oct 13
Doors: 7 pm, Movie: 8 pm

Free Event - Full concessions and bar available. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the movie on our 32-foot LED video wall! (Chairs also available at the venue). This event is located at the Will Naylor Smith River Walk Plaza



Birthdays on a Budget

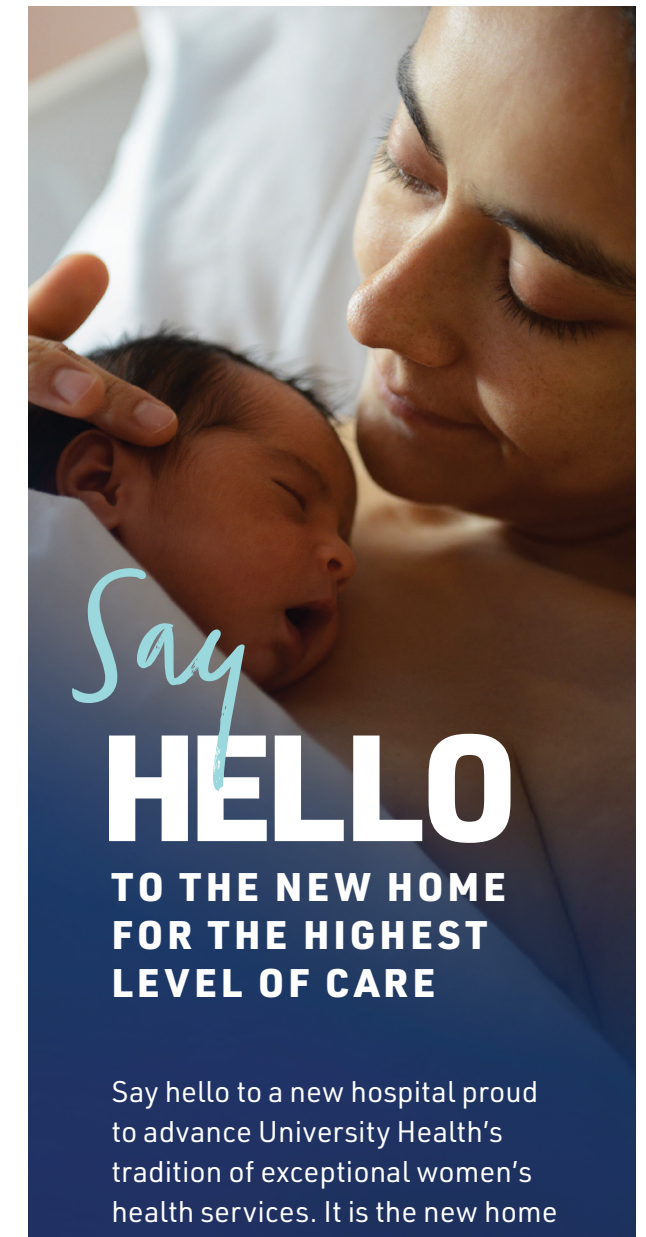
Story by
Sarah Lyons

Every parent wants their child's birthday to be special but the cost of throwing a party can really add up, especially if you have multiple children. Is it really possible to cut party costs without losing the fun and excitement that parents and kids alike have come to love? One way to cut down on costs is by purchasing birthday supplies that can be reused or repurposed year after year.

The easiest way to start saving on party decor is to stock up on items when they are on sale or clearance. Choose items that are not theme

specific and select a variety of colors that are gender neutral. Basic birthday signs, party lanterns, and photo backdrops can be reused again and again. You can even make your own decor out of stronger materials like cardstock or cardboard or hit up the dollar store for streamers and signs that can be used repeatedly. As you collect a stash of items, store it someplace that is organized and easily accessible when the next birthday arrives.

When purchasing items for the special day, it



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may be wise to spend a little extra money on birthday items that you know can be used many times over several years. Purchase games that can be used every year like bingo, bean bag toss, or yard games such as badmitten. These games are fun for any party and will see a return on your investment quickly. Chalkboards for birthday signs, cake stands, and punch bowls can also be purchased once and used for many parties.

You can also buy dress up items that can be used for a photo booth year after year such as hats, silly glasses, feather boas, or masks. Kids of any age will have a great time posing in different costumes. Many of

these items can be purchased at a dollar store, garage sales, or may be laying around your house. Choose a basic birthday backdrop for your photo booth or use a plain sheet or tablecloth to keep things simple and affordable for your photo backdrop.

There are also fun apps that allow you to put in different backdrops if you use a green background. Photos taken in the photo booth can double as thank you cards for your guests.

Money can be saved on tableware in a few different ways. Cloth tablecloths and

plastic plates can be washed and used again. They will last for years with a one time investment. If the thought of extra cleanup doesn't appeal to you, try buying a giant roll of white butcher paper and unrolling on the table to be

“Purchase games that can be used every year like bingo, bean bag toss, or yard games such as badmitten.”

used as a tablecloth. Allow kids to color right on the tablecloth during the party. When the party's over, simply roll up the paper and toss it. One roll of paper will last for years and because of its a neutral color it can be used for many holidays and birthdays.

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Another way to save on birthday expenses is to replace balloons with party lanterns. These can be purchased for about the same price as balloons but instead of one time use, they can be used over and over again. By choosing a variety of neutral colors you will save money without losing the festive look.

Once the party's over, theme-specific party decorations can be repurposed in many ways. Cards and invitations can be made into wall art, ornaments, gift tags, or garland. Crepe paper and napkins can be made into confetti or garland. Old ribbons and balloons can be used to make a festive wreath.

The key to saving money by reusing or repurposing party decor is to get creative. Scour the internet or Pinterest for ideas, shop smart by buying generic birthday items on sale, or create your own decor from things you have around the house. Once you have your basic party decor, add small touches to help create a fun birthday theme. Try to find items that can be used more than once. For example, animals from a Noah's ark party could be reused for a zoo or circus themed party at a later date. A little creativity can make for a fun, affordable, and environmentally conscious birthday party your child will love.

All-over Cactus Print Bandana

\$39.00

Get ready to make a statement! Mix up your outfits by using this as a headband, necktie, or armband.



Lemon Stainless Steel Tumbler

\$29.00

Enjoy hot or cold drinks on the go with this stylish stainless steel tumbler! 20 oz (600 ml), Straw and lid included with the tumbler.



Spotted All-over Gym Bag

\$69.00

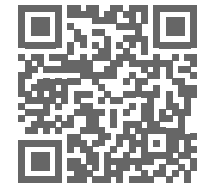
Ready to get your fitness on? Add some punch to pumping iron with this all-over print gym bag.



Bee Tough Case for iPhone®

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Protect your phone with style using a durable, dual-layered case. The outer shell is impact-resistant



Order Here

What is OurKids Apparel?

Introducing an exciting new venture from our beloved kids magazine, tailored exclusively for families in vibrant San Antonio! We are thrilled to unveil our in-house clothing and accessories line, crafted by our editor.



Halloween - Mummy Premium Sweatshirt

\$59.00

Rock a classic sweatshirt silhouette with ribbed crew neck, long sleeve cuffs, and a flat hem. "Deaddy" also available online to match!



Super Dad / Mom Snapback Hat

\$35.00

This hat is structured with a classic fit, flat brim, and full buckram. One-size-fits-most hat

ourKids APPAREL

More at OurKidsMagazine.com/store

So your child's birthday is just around the corner, and you don't have time to plan and prepare the perfect party? Don't despair. There are plenty of fun places to hold kids' parties that'll save you time in planning, preparation, and cleanup. Most importantly, your birthday child and guests will have a blast.

Try some of these party places for kids of all different ages. When you call, ask what amenities are available and included. Many sites provide invitations, food and cake, balloons and decorations, a private party area, a gift for the birthday child, and other special birthday services.

Skates & Blades - Roller skating rinks are again gaining popularity, and most offer a choice of inline or roller skate rentals for today's kids. Also,

Fun Birthday Parties for Busy Parents

Story by
Kimberly Blaker

consider ice-skating and ice or a roller hockey party as a fun alternative.

Strike it Big - Bowling parties are a fun form of recreation for kids of all ages. Preschoolers can score every time with bumper bowling, while teens can go cosmic for glow-in-the-dark fun. Add to the amusement by offering small prizes for low and high scores and the most and fewest gutters.

Pizza and Play - Preschool and early elementary children thrill at invitations to these parties. They can play kiddie arcade-style games, win tickets for prizes, hop on coin-operated rides, and romp in soft play areas.

Water, Water Everywhere - Head to a wave pool or water park where big kids can ride the waves, swish down water slides, take a plunge, and go on tubing adventures. What better way to cool off and party on a hot summer day? Indoor water parks are a fun alternative for the colder months.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm - Check with your nearby farm, ranch, or apple orchard to find out what activities are offered. Many include hayrides, petting zoos, corn mazes, apple picking, and more. These are perfect for fall birthdays.

Recreational Romp - Recreation and fitness centers offer a wide variety of activities for birthdays, including gymnastics, swimming,



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basketball, and arts and crafts.

You Should be Dancin’ – Check with your local dance studio for birthday party packages. Some offer professional dance instruction and allow food and party treats to be brought in, so the whole shebang is done right there.

Music Marvel – Big kids will be in awe to see one of their favorite performers in concert. For young children, look for a kiddie musical adventure offered by an area musician or music center.

Craft Magic – Young kids love to create. So schedule a craft party at a fabric shop, craft store, or scrap-recycling center where kids’ activities are offered.

Cops and Robbers – Kids will thrill at testing their skills and cunningness in a game of laser tag. These centers often offer on-site party areas and birthday packages.

Fast Food Fun – For a simple and inexpensive toddler or preschool party, McDonald’s, Burger King, and other fast-food joints are excellent choices. Children can crawl through a playscape and dive into a pool of balls while enjoying their favorites: hamburgers and French fries. Call ahead to make your reservation.

Putt-Putt & More – Family fun centers offer a variety of entertainment, including batting cages, miniature golf, video games, bumper boats, and go-carts.

ourKids



SCIENCE FAIR

Nurture Curiosity:

This science fair is a great platform for your children to quench their thirst for knowledge and develop critical thinking skills. They can explore the world of science, challenge their preconceived notions, and cultivate a lifelong love of learning.

Showcase Creativity:

Every young scientist will have the opportunity to demonstrate their unique insights and creativity through hands-on projects and experiments. Whether your child is into physics, biology, chemistry, or earth science, there’s a platform for them here.

Build Confidence:

The science fair is more than just an event; it’s a confidence-building exercise. Presenting their project in front of judges and peers can significantly boost their communication skills, resilience, and self-esteem.



Enroll By November 1st 2023

ourkidsmagazine.com/science-fair

We are thrilled to invite you to participate in our upcoming 2024 ourKids Science & Engineering Fair for Homeschools and Small Private Schools – a platform where innovative minds meet scientific curiosity.

Hands-on Science – Kids of all ages will be thoroughly engrossed and entertained at one of the many hands-on science museums. The party-goers can try out gadgets, watch or participate in experiments, play instruments, construct, and much more.

Rock Climbing Adventures – Daredevils won't want to miss one of these exciting quests. Look for a rock climbing gym in your area where party guests can do rock climbing with a professional instructor.

Beach Party – Give your teen some fun in the sun with a beach bash. Contact the park for information on volleyball equipment and to make a reservation for a covered picnic area. Look for a spot with horseshoes and plenty of sand, and don't forget the beach balls, pizza, and cooler of pop.

Amusement Mini-Party– Theme parks make for big-time fun for older kids who are content to take only one or two guests. When planning the guest list, don't forget to budget meals, snacks, and drinks, which add up quickly in theme parks.

Monkeyin' Around – Parties away from home don't have

to be costly. Reserve a shelter at a nearby park with a large, fenced-in, frontier-style playscape. Little ones can run, climb, and play to their heart's content. Bring along your party supplies and set up under a pavilion. To keep things simple, call ahead for pizza delivery.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat – An afternoon canoe excursion for teens is the ultimate outdoor fun. Contact canoe rental facilities for details. Bring along pop and a picnic lunch, and make sure the food stays in the chaperone's canoe where it'll be safe from tips. Don't forget balloons for water balloon fights during rest stops.

Z is for Zoo –Zoos are an excellent source for birthday entertainment. Many offer party packages that include meals, cake, invitations, live animal presentations, and more.

PARTY TIPS:

When planning your child's party, keep in mind what's important is not how perfectly the party goes. Instead, it's that your birthday child and guests have fun. To ensure success, follow these tips:

Keep the guest list manageable to avoid chaos, confusion, and

conflict. The number of guests should correspond with the child's age or slightly over.

Request an RSVP with a specific deadline, so there is time to invite others should the guest list fall short. Be sure to include your phone number and email address.

Offer your child choices for the party, ask for input, and allow them to assist in planning.

Send out written invitations. Verbal invitations are easily forgotten and make the invitee feel that he or she was an afterthought. Also, it can leave the parents of the invited child wondering whether the invitation was approved by the birthday child's parents.

Include all details on the invitation, including a start and end time, address and directions, phone number, and what guests need to bring, such as a bathing suit and towel.

Play it safe, and set a rain date for outdoor parties.

Keep the length of the party within reason. Unless it's a sleepover or special event, preschool parties should be limited to one hour, and two to three hours for older children.



Opportunities to serve with your kids

Story by Sarah Lyons

When children have the opportunity to serve in their community, they develop a desire to help others and make a difference. Not only do they become more aware of others who are less fortunate, they will learn to appreciate the blessings in their own lives. Kids who serve others are more likely to give of their time and treasures for a lifetime. When you choose a family service project, try to pick something that excites or interests your children because they are much more likely to become invested in the project. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Organize a drive

Collect coats, hats and gloves, blankets, toys or clothing to donate to those in need. Have the kids clean their rooms and sort through items that are in great shape but are no longer needed. Many organizations will collect these items to give to shelters, foster care, or victims of fire.

Fill the food pantry



Talk with your kids about others who may not have enough to eat. Take them shopping to choose their favorite non-perishable items for meals and snacks to donate to a local food pantry. Try going door to door in your neighborhood to collect even more items.

Work outdoors

Help a neighbor, friend, or family member who may be unable to do their own yard work. Offer to rake leaves, shovel snow, or mow the lawn. Ask if there are other projects like painting, gardening, or maintenance that your family

The Time to END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE is NOW

San Antonio receives **5 domestic violence calls every hour**. The time to end domestic violence is now. You are not alone. Step out of violence and call 211 for help or 911 in case of an emergency.



**You are NOT alone.
Call 211 or 911.**



can help with.

Work in the kitchen

Everyone loves cookies. Get the kids to help out in the kitchen by baking up some tasty treats to share with friends and neighbors. Consider taking them to a local police or fire station to show your appreciation for their hard work in the community. If you know a family in need,

consider taking them a meal and, if appropriate, deliver it as a family.

Send cards

Words of encouragement, handmade cards, or coloring pages are a great way to brighten a soldier's day and show your appreciation for the sacrifice they are giving for our country. This is a great way

to talk to kids about soldiers, veterans, and our country's freedom they defend. Nursing homes also appreciate delivery of items like these for their residents.

Help a four-legged friend

Animal lovers will enjoy volunteering at a local animal shelter. Typically shelters need help walking dogs,



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For parents, by parents

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- Personal stories from families like yours
- Answers to your questions about insurance, schools, diagnosis, and more



Find the resources you need at navigatelifetexas.org/our-kids

Todo el contenido disponible en español

a project of: 





cleaning cages, and giving lonely animals attention. Oftentimes shelters can also use donations of food, cat litter, bedding, and cleaning supplies. Contact your shelter to see if there are things your family can donate as well.

Give back to mother Earth

Kids who love nature may enjoy volunteering to clean up a local park, adopting a street in your city, or cleaning up the green space in your

own neighborhood. Contact your local school or church to see if there is landscaping that needs attention. Kids can help plant trees, flowers, pull weeds, and lay mulch. They will see the beauty of their hard work in no time.

Donate proceeds

Do you have a budding entrepreneur in the family? Consider hosting a lemonade stand, garage sale, or bake sale and donating the

proceeds to the charity of your choice. This is a great way to teach kids money management and business skills while helping others in need.

These are just a few ideas of how you can serve your community, there are countless others. When parents take the time to serve others, their kids will see volunteering as a priority and will develop a desire to give back as they become adults.

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