

Mellow days, starry nights

At today's laid-back family camps, options range from golfing to fly-fishing

Southern California

SANTA BARBARA

Family Vacation Center at UC Santa Barbara

Remember what it was like to take trips B.C. (before children)? University of California at Santa Barbara's Family Vacation Center lets parents relish a beach holiday without worrying about keeping kids entertained. Adults play golf, kayak, surf, or swim while counselors keep junior busy cranking out arts and crafts, touring the Santa Barbara Zoo, and exploring tidepools at Goleta Beach. Finicky teens are appeased by outings such as an overnight camping trip at a local state park. The center even offers infant care for kids 2 and under—a rare find.

For parents who want to play hooky, the shops, museums,

and public gardens of downtown Santa Barbara are just 10 miles away. Each week-long session includes two family picnics, one on the beach and one at a local park; a kids' night out, when children take part in contests and a scavenger hunt; and an adults-only dinner, a gourmet meal at the university's Faculty Club.

One catch: you must be members of the UCSB Alumni Association, but anyone can join for \$45.

DURATION: 1 week.

DATES: Eight sessions Jul–Aug.

COST: \$640, \$580 ages 8–12, \$560 ages 4–7, \$450 ages 1–3, infants free.

CONTACT: www.familyvacationcenter.com
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