

## Shutterfly's Ideas For Summer Fun

### If you are an Epicurean...

#### SAVOR SUMMER FUN

Enjoy the tastes of summer with scrumptious activities that bring joy to your family and friends. Consider these ideas for capturing and preserving every last mouthwatering memory.

- Organize a pie baking contest
- Host a backyard BBQ
- Make homemade ice cream
- Picnic in the park

#### Who bakes a blue ribbon pie?

Invite friends and family to show off favorite recipes, and indulge in a day of pie tasting—finger-licking fun!

#### Planning tips:

- Select a theme—like “best berry” pie or “most decadent” pie—and provide guidelines in your invite.
- Visit a crafts store for judging supplies: pencils, ballots, and a blue ribbon for the winner.
- On the day of, make sure you have a table to display the entries, and enough pie servers, forks, and milk for the hungry judges.
- As guests arrive, assign each pie a number to allow for blind taste testing and candid comments!
- Ask all participating pie makers to email their recipes in advance and make a recipe Photo Book on Shutterfly as a party favor.
- Need more inspiration? Visit The American Pie Council at [www.piecouncil.org](http://www.piecouncil.org)

#### Pictures that tell the story:

- Capture the anticipation of your contest by shooting each contestant as he or she arrives, asking them to pose with their entries in hand.
- Get close to your subjects! Zoom in on participants' expressions as they taste the pies, and keep the camera on hand to capture candid moments throughout the event.
- Tilt your camera to capture interesting angles; sometimes a change in perspective will improve your image. Don't be afraid to stand on a chair to capture the crowd from above, or to get down on your knees when photographing kids and pets.
- Recipe for a great grand prize: consider giving the winning pastry chef a Shutterfly Gift Certificate to buy a photo Apron, featuring their blue ribbon creation.

## Host a BBQ bonanza

Round up your friends and family for a party they will remember long after the grill is retired for the season.

### Planning tips:

- Choose a theme and create invitations, decorations and menu to match—may we suggest “Americana,” “Luau,” or “Fiesta.” String holiday lights in the backyard to make it look festive.
- Make sure you have a clean grill and plenty of charcoal or propane.
- Serve hot dogs and hamburgers for those who swear by the classics, and at least one other grilled item guests won’t expect, such as Portobello mushrooms, plantains, or fish with an exotic marinade.
- Remember to include menu alternatives for guests who don’t eat meat.
- Pay tribute to Betsy Ross with an American Flag cake: <http://allrecipes.com/HowTo/Decorating-a-Flag-Cake/Detail.aspx>, or make simple favorites like S’mores or grilled pineapple.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Begin with shots of the decorated yard and your chef working the grill. Look for patterns in nature or even in the food you’re serving, for example, sizzling grill lines or stacks of hot dogs on a plate. This will enhance the visual interest of your photographs.
- Include close-ups of guests as they enjoy all the fixins’. A simple background will best compliment your subjects. Compose your image in a way that minimizes a very bright or a dark background and avoid shooting your subject straight on to add visual interest. You can subtly pose your subject by suggesting a new angle: don’t be shy!
- End the story with photos of friends giving a goodbye-hug or your littlest guest waving goodnight.

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## We all scream for ice cream

Go from average Saturday to super sundae by making an old favorite. Or invent your own flavor with the kids during a relaxing weekend at home.

### Planning tips:

- Select an ice cream maker. Go for an authentic rock-salt-and-crank model or choose the easy way out with a countertop model. To learn how to make ice cream in a Ziploc plastic bag, visit: <http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/icecream.html>
- Ask the kids to use their imaginations and suggest new and wacky flavor creations.
- May we suggest you visit a pick-your-own orchard or your local farmer’s market for fresh fruit, nuts and other ingredients. (Don’t forget the candy sprinkles!)
- Select a recipe from a trusted cookbook or online food site.
- Consider making chocolate dipped cones while the ice cream freezes.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Begin with photos of the ingredients that will star in the delicious day and line up the little chefs for a group shot that conveys the excitement.
- As the fun begins, get down to knee-level so you're close to the action. Keep snapping as the kids add ingredients and churn the mixture.
- Experiment with portrait mode on your camera: your subject will be sharply in focus while the back ground will appear softer.
- Zoom in as the chefs enjoy their first tastes and end with shots of the kids licking their fingers—the messier the better.

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### Dine in the great outdoors

Take advantage of the glorious weather, and delight your family and friends with a gourmet get-together—whether there is a picnic table available or you're dining on blankets.

### Planning tips:

- Rolling meadows, beaches and or even a nearby park make terrific backdrops for picnic photos. Keep this in mind as you select your picnic spot. Bring along sunscreen, bug repellent and a Frisbee!
- Carefully pack up home baked creations or let your local deli do the heavy lifting. Line your picnic basket with plastic or paper towels to protect it from spills and bring extra trash bags to carry away recyclables and disposables.
- Ask one guest to bring plates, pre-moistened wipes, corkscrews and other incidentals in lieu of a food item.
- Remember a roomy, machine washable picnic blanket. Or of course, a bed sheet works well in a pinch.
- Group activities like kite-flying or water balloon games appeal to all ages and make for great icebreakers to get the party started.
- For more suggestions visit: [www.picnictips.com](http://www.picnictips.com)

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Integrate elements of your surroundings into your photos, such as pictures of the picnic blanket, basket and goodies.
- Look for intimate shots throughout the day—photos of friends laughing and lounging; children nestled in their moms' laps.
- Use your camera's continuous-fire mode to photo Frisbee tosses and other fast-moving moments.
- Are you always the designated camera-woman or man? Let your self-timer act as family photographer for a change. Compose your image and run behind the camera. If you don't get the perfect shot the first time, that's ok—try again.
- End your picnic story with a shot of the sunset or family members piling into the car at the end of an exciting day.

## If you are a Social Butterfly...

### MAKE TIME FOR CHIT-CHAT

Summer is the perfect time to catch up with old friends and create memories with new ones. Incorporate your nearest and dearest with activities that celebrate life.

- Host a garden party for the girls
- Hold a family reunion
- Organize a neighborhood block party
- Produce a talent show

### Get chic in the garden

Entice your girlfriends to enjoy summer blooms, fresh ingredients and warm breezes...

#### Planning tips:

- Plan a light menu featuring fresh, in-season ingredients. Use herbs and other produce from your garden if available.
- Dress up table settings with bright linens, cloth napkins and simple centerpieces, and have citronella candles or tiki torches on hand to ward off mosquitoes.
- Express your creativity with original place cards like seed packets, miniature potted plants embellished with guest's names or one-of-a-kind photo Coasters from Shutterfly.
- Establish the mood with a fun garden themed soundtrack; choose songs like "Put Your Records On", "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden", and "Tiptoe through the Tulips".
- Delight the ladies with a special house drink, such as ice-cold Mojitos or sparkling lemonade.

#### Pictures that tell the story:

- Great stories begin with a sense of excitement. Create it with photos of the preparations: stringing the lights, setting out flowers, mixing the Mojitos.
- Complete the scene with photographs of the garden from various angles.
- Remember to take pictures vertically as well as horizontally. As a rule of thumb, capture horizontal subjects (like the backyard landscape) horizontally and shoot vertical subjects (like your first guest coming down the garden path) vertically.
- To flatter your subjects, don't shoot them straight on. Have them turn their face slightly away from the camera or raise your camera slightly above your head, capturing them at a downward angle.
- Close-ups create intimacy. Aim for tight shots of your guests that capture the nuances of their expressions and the feelings of summer.

## Round 'em up

Celebrate your heritage, renew relationships, and enjoy those you love by organizing a memorable family reunion.

### Planning tips:

- Choose a date early in the process and then plan a budget based on what family members can comfortably afford.
- Select a reunion site that can accommodate social activities for all ages—horseshoes and badminton for adults; sack races for kids; bingo for everyone—and book the site as early as possible.
- Personalize the invitations with family photos from decades past. Try a Shutterfly collage Greeting Card or 4x8 Cards, both are simple and fun ways to highlight many family members in an invitation that will truly stand out on your recipients' cluttered refrigerators.
- Include at least one traditional family recipe favorite, when planning your menu—and maybe even include the dish that only your family could love (think Aunt Susie's Jello mold).
- Ask each family member to bring a scrapbook page that represents personal milestones from the prior year. Assemble them into one book that serves as the event's centerpiece.
- For more ideas about preserving family memories and history, go to [www.familytreemagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com) and look at their top 101 web sites

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Begin your story by documenting each family member's arrival.
- Use a variety of angles to photograph your family mingling and participating in group activities. A picture of grandma with the grandkids is always a great idea and will result in a treasured keepsake.
- When shooting outdoors, make sure that your subjects are not positioned between you and the sun. This will create dark shadows on their faces.
- Family gatherings are the perfect time to capture a family portrait. Set up an area where each family can get a commemorative shot taken to remember the occasion. Take turns snapping each others' pictures.
- Not every picture needs to reveal a smile. Use a noise-making toy to attract young subjects' attention—their natural reactions will be perfectly portrait-worthy.

## Meeting up with the Joneses

Enhance community spirit. Make new friends. Meet your new neighbors! Throw a block party.

### Planning tips:

- Create a committee to help plan the event and to post flyers around the neighborhood. Remember to research and secure any necessary permits (for closing the street or live music, alcohol consumption, etc).
- Based on the beginning letter of their last name, have each family bring drinks (A-G), main dishes (H-Q), or desserts (R-Z).
- Name tags may seem formal, but they can help ease introductions between strangers. Incorporate photos or other elements that make the tags conversation pieces.
- Make families comfortable by providing an area of children to play—a jump house, an area of a street with balls, or a bike track.
- Plan a few signature events, such as a pet parade, street wide tug-of-war or your own neighborhood “American Idol” competition.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Begin the story of your block party with a photo of a flyer that has been posted for the event.
- Use a variety of angles to capture the spirit of the day, with fun shots of the food and decorations, and neighbors mingling and laughing.
- Be sure to get close-ups of your neighbors who lead special activities and all of the children enjoying them.
- Don’t snap your picture so quickly that you fail to realize distractions in the background. You wouldn’t want a street sign “growing” out of your subject’s head, for example. Change your position to include a neutral background or zoom in to minimize the background altogether.
- End your story with shots of neighbors congratulating each other on a party-planning job well done, cleaning up and heading home for the evening.

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## Way off Broadway

Set the scene for some good-natured fun by bringing together family, friends and neighbors for a summer talent show extravaganza.

### Planning tips:

- Designate a space with plenty of room for performers and audience—whether it’s a large backyard, a school gymnasium, or a room at the community center.
- Make an open-casting-call announcement at least one month in advance of the show date. To keep the action moving, limit your talent show to an hour or so in length.

- Create several award categories – one for each act so everyone wins – for audience members to choose winners. The more outrageous, the better. Print award certificates for winners.
- Arrange seating around small tables with candle centerpieces to promote an intimate nightclub setting.
- Add a professional feel to the event by distributing programs, selecting a volunteer usher, and scheduling an intermission where guests can enjoy baked goods and treats.
- Feeling overwhelmed just reading this? Organize a caravan to the local drive-in movie theatre for similar, entertaining summer fun.

### **Pictures that tell the story:**

- Begin your story with close-ups of performers before they go on stage and take action.
- Include rapid-sequence shots of the performances, as well as lively images of the audience responding.
- Use your camera's low-light setting to ensure adequate lighting for your photographs. Keep in mind that your flash will be too dim to do any good if your subject is more than 20 feet away, plus it will distract your fellow audience members.
- Get a group shot of all performers and event organizers.
- End with a sequence of photos that captures the moments winners are announced and award certificates presented.

## If you are a Traveler...

### EMBRACE YOUR TRAVEL BUG

Explore the hidden treasures in your hometown or cross the ocean for an exotic vacation.

- Attend a state fair
- Visit a National Park
- Take a beach vacation
- Catch a baseball game

### A fair to remember

Pack your car and head to your state fair for some down-home fun. You'll enjoy music, contests, live-stock exhibits, sporting events—loads of "fair game" for great photos!

#### Planning tips:

- Visit your state fair's Web site for the schedule of concerts, exhibits and attractions. They may even have a "kids' day" or other special programs.
- Check the newspaper for discounts on tickets. Local retailers sometimes run promotions tied to the fair and sell advance tickets for less.
- Prepare for a crowd. Even the smallest state fairs draw several hundred thousand visitors. Book hotel accommodations well in advance or make arrangements to stay with nearby friends or relatives.
- Most state fair websites have information on fair history or fair trivia; print the page to entertain the whole car during the ride and prep kids for what they'll see.
- Wear comfortable shoes, arrive hungry and apply sunscreen often!

#### Pictures that tell the story:

- Start your story with a photo of your family holding tickets at the entrance gate.
- Mix photos of lively characters and attractions with images of the quieter moments, like breaks for funnel cake or meeting a lamb nose to nose.
- Resist the urge to check every picture snapped when you're out for a long day of shooting to help preserve your battery.
- Take a break from shooting around lunch time. Midday sunlight can produce harsh, unflattering shadows and besides, squinting is no fun for your subjects. Or, you could move your subjects into the shade, where you'll find indirect sunlight.
- End your story with a photo of your family leaving the fairgrounds or even arriving home, falling into bed.

## Back to nature

Revel in breathtaking scenery and rugged activity while visiting one of the United States' 388 National Parks.

### Planning tips:

- Decide on an activity the whole family will enjoy—like rafting, hiking, or fishing—and select a park accordingly.
- Reserve overnight camp sites well in advance. Popular national parks, such as Yosemite, require reservations at least a year in advance. For more campsite information, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)
- If you plan to make s'mores over the camp fire, confirm in advance that your campsite allows fires; for other hot foods, a camp stove or portable grill is best for beginners.
- Don't forget to bring entertaining diversions, like a deck of cards, a paddleball kit or book of camp songs.
- Have some rain gear on hand and prepare a rainy day activity as a back-up plan. Pack a flashlight, first-aid kit, loads of sunscreen and bug repellent.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Photos of your maps and outdoor gear help build anticipation for what's to come.
- Part of the fun is getting there. Take photos while en route to your destination and get a shot of the park entrance.
- Experiment with the landscape mode on your camera to achieve a wide range of focus.
- Shoot plenty of candid photos on the trails, next to landmarks and by the campfire. These snapshots make your story unique.
- Close the story with a photo of a sunset or your group breaking down camp.

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## Surf, sand and fun

Adventure to exotic lands or rediscover nearby watering holes.

### Planning tips:

- Check out your destination's visitors bureau for the scoop on accommodations and activities.
- Gather shells, beach glass, weathered rocks and maybe even some sand to bring home and display in a clear vase, as a reminder of your relaxing trip.
- Bring or rent bicycles to explore area sites up close, and to eliminate parking headaches during busy summer months.
- Some books were made for the beach. Ask a friend or visit the local book store for recommendations.
- Carry your digital camera in a Ziploc bag to keep it free from sand.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Select a preset scene mode on your camera—such as sports, sand and snow, or portrait—that best represents the type of pictures you want to take.
- Photos of sea life, crafts and other local treasures will help communicate the look and feel of your destination. Intersperse these with action shots taken in continuous-fire mode—shots of surfers catching waves or birds taking flight.
- While a picture speaks a thousand words, a series of several photos works together in a way that tells a story. Shoot your subject from several angles and throughout all the points of the day for example, your child building a sand castle or the tide coming in – or both.
- Capture all the details of your day, including quiet moments lounging in the sand.
- Finish your photos with a shot of the family at sunset.

### Bleacher madness

Summer wouldn't be complete without a ballpark adventure. Grab your mitt and catch a day game for sun-kissed fun.

### Planning tips:

- Buy tickets in advance for the best deals and to avoid sellouts.
- Catch tomorrow's stars today at a minor league game; visit [www.minorleaguebaseball.com](http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com) for the team near you.
- Baseball caps were made for the ballpark. Get in the spirit by wearing one. For day games, you'll also want to wear sunglasses and sunscreen.
- Carpool or take public transportation to avoid parking lot jams.
- Include the whole family in the fun. Many teams have kids clubs and senior citizens programs that offer opportunities to get on the field and close to the players on certain nights.
- Get famous during the seventh-inning stretch with an outrageous sign during televised games.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Set the scene with photos of the ballpark from several angles, especially if the park is one of the classics like Boston's Fenway Park or Chicago's Wrigley Field.
- Experiment with the sports-scene mode and/or rapid fire mode on your camera to capture your moving subjects; this way you'll have the best chance of catching the action you're hoping for.
- Your weather isn't perfect? The soft, indirect light on overcast days compliments your subjects and results in beautiful shots.
- Zoom-in on kids cheering, players lounging in the dugout and coaches talking to players.
- Close with a photo of children running the bases or a favorite player waving goodbye to the fans.

## If you are a Creative Spirit...

### NURTURE YOUR MIND AND BODY

Reconnect with your inquisitive side this summer. Revel in the wonders of nature with activities that spark your imagination.

- Plant a garden
- Visit the zoo
- Build a tree house
- Plan a scavenger hunt

### Discover your green thumb

Remember the joy of playing in dirt? Plant a garden this summer, and you'll enjoy the fruits of your labor all year round.

#### Planning tips:

- Start small. Select a few plants to test your green thumb, and learn which are best suited to your garden's soil and location. Expand the plot next year.
- Contact a local garden club for advice on best-bet blooms, herbs and vegetables or visit [www.gardenweb.com](http://www.gardenweb.com) for online advice.
- Household items like coffee grounds, egg shells and vegetable scraps make great compost to nourish your soil.
- Enclose the garden with wire mesh to protect it from rabbits, deer, curious dogs and other unwelcome critters.
- Get kids involved—after all, they love getting their hands dirty and will delight in harvesting the fruits of their labor!

#### Pictures that tell the story:

- Enhance your garden photos by taking advantage of your camera's preset scene modes: flower, landscape and portrait. Use them for beginning shots of your garden bed and the seeds before planting.
- Photograph the garden bed in various stages of planting to show the progression of your story.
- Capture as many details of the day as possible, from raking the soil to breaking for lunch to laughing at the dog's attempts to get in on the digging action.
- Include close-ups of your garden mates, especially after they're covered in dirt.
- Finish by capturing the fruits of your labor—your garden in bloom.

## Where the wild things are...

Discover the joy of watching orangutan toddlers wrestle. Pack up the kids and head to the zoo for a day of animal antics.

### Planning tips:

- Visit early or late in the day, when the animals are most active. Some zoos open for night hours during the summer
- Many zoos allow outside food. Save money and avoid lines by bringing your own snacks and drinks; and remember, please don't feed the animals.
- Consider buying a membership. It usually costs just a bit more than a day pass, and enables you to visit all year.
- Check the zoo calendar in advance for special demonstrations; some zoos will let you lend a helping hand on special days.
- Keep the visit alive after you've returned home. Participate in an adopt-a-species program to learn more and support animal care at the zoo.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Convey your children's anticipation with images of them reading books about animals and standing at the zoo entrance.
- When photographing animals at play, try to frame the action as tightly as you can, putting only a few animals in the frame. Your best opportunities for photographs will be when there are baby animals present or when groups are interacting at feeding time.
- Photograph a wide variety of moments and activities during the visit—everything from feeding the lorikeets to breaking for lunch.
- Consider making your own zoo animal picture book. Taking snapshots of the animals you see along with the signs that explain the species for easy reference as you create your story.
- Animals could easily be spooked by your flash so turn it off at the zoo. Place your lens between the fence posts or close to the glass so neither shows in your picture.

## Get out on a limb

Move life outdoors. Create an exquisite adult getaway or magical play room for children in your favorite backyard tree.

### Planning tips:

- Take a long weekend to allow ample time to complete the project and gain the help of a skilled friend, if necessary.
- Research floor plans, building techniques and other considerations at [www.TheTreeHouseGuide.com](http://www.TheTreeHouseGuide.com)

- Choose a mature tree that is sturdy and healthy enough for your structure and build no more than 10 feet off the ground for the safety of children.
- Choose an inexpensive wood, like treated-pine to deter bugs and don't forget to waterproof the boards to prevent rot. Most importantly, select a name for your new house and paint a sign for all of your neighbors to see.
- Feeling overwhelmed just reading this? Investigate a prefabricated model and then focus your attention on quick assembly and decoration. Or, consider pitching a tent in the backyard.

### **Pictures that tell the story:**

- Photos of the tree house in various stages of construction will show the progression of your story. Start with a series of before shots and keep the camera handy for candid shots throughout the experience.
- Your subjects will look more natural (and happier!) when you shoot them in comfortable positions or in action. Capture your child resting on the grass or interacting with his or her favorite tools.
- Details make the story. Photograph moments that are easily forgotten, such as visiting the lumberyard or screwing in the first bolt.
- Get down low or climb the ladder to capture that perfect shot. Experiment with shooting your subjects at their eye level and then taking a similar shot from an extreme angle.
- Nothing shows a job well done better than a closing shot of friends and family marveling at your finished project.

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### **The amusing race**

Experience the delight of finding hidden treasure. Inspire your friends and family with a scavenger hunt that leads you to new experiences all around town.

### **Planning tips:**

- Map out your town's most colorful, unusual, or otherwise notable things to do and see. Create a list of activities to be photographed that will encourage teams to have a great time and learn a few fun facts about their hometown.
- Supply each team with a nominal budget and make sure they have a camera to record their journey.
- Some starter ideas: Take a photo with the town librarian; lead a crowded bus in "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"; climb aboard a fire truck (with your fire chief's permission of course!); visit the local historical society; and get someone to show you their brand-new tattoo.
- Print the official ground rules that include geographic boundaries and time limits for the hunt.
- End the hunt with a party where everyone can share pictures and swap stories.

### Pictures that tell the story:

- Shape your storyline with an opening series of pictures: the list of photos to be taken and the cast of characters on the hunt.
- When shooting groups, pose the subjects in different positions on different levels rather than a straight line. Take several shots to ensure that at least one picture snaps everyone with their eyes open.
- Designate a team photographer for each team to capture the details of the hunt, such as people checking maps, discussing strategy, looking for items or simply looking confused.
- Try placing your subject off center to help lead your viewer into the picture. Your point and shoot camera will automatically focus on whatever is in the center of your frame. If you want something else to be in focus, you need to trick your camera by first focusing in on your desired subject and then repositioning your camera before snapping the picture.
- Finish the story with a photo of the winning team receiving their prize and enjoying the after-party.