

The Fall Family Bucket List Planner

A printable companion to 30 Fall Family Activities

Print this planner and keep it on the fridge. It turns the season from a vague intention into a plan you can actually tick off: the full activity checklist, a pick-your-own shortlist grid, a four-weekend timeline, a rainy-day backup set, a budget tracker and a memory log. Nothing here repeats the article — it is the working version you write on.

The Season Checklist

Thirty activities, grouped the way the article groups them. Tick the box when you have done it, and write the date beside it so you can see the season filling up.

Outdoor & Nature

- Take a phone-free fall colours walk
- Take a scenic drive with conversation starters
- Take a family bike ride
- Have a backyard bonfire with s'mores
- Go on a leaf hunt with a colour card
- Rake a leaf pile and jump in it

Pumpkin Patch & Orchard

- Visit a pumpkin patch and let each child choose one
- Go on a hay ride
- Pick apples at an orchard
- Get lost in a corn maze
- Decorate a pumpkin without carving it

Festivals, Games & Spooky Fun

- Go to a football game, big or small
- Visit a haunted house or haunted hay ride
- Shop a farmer's market together
- Plan a weekend getaway
- Attend a fall festival

Cozy Nights In

- Start a family book club
- Build a slow-cooker recipe list
- Cook something new with pumpkin
- Make a special seasonal grocery run
- Sip cider and watch a fall movie

Crafts & Creative Projects

- Deck out the front door and porch
- Do a seasonal closet clean-out
- Hold a fall craft-a-thon
- Decorate for the whole season, not just one night

Gratitude & Giving Back

- Start a gratitude jar
- Donate coats, books and food
- Write thank-you notes to someone who helped this year

Pick Your Twelve

Thirty is a menu, not a to-do list. Choose twelve — roughly three a month — and write them here. Twelve is the number most families can actually finish, and finishing is what makes the list feel good instead of guilty.

1. _____ **when:** _____

2. _____ **when:** _____

3. _____ **when:** _____

4. _____ **when:** _____

5. _____ **when:** _____

6. _____ **when:** _____

7. _____ **when:** _____

8. _____ **when:** _____

9. _____ **when:** _____

10. _____ **when:** _____

11. _____ **when:** _____

12. _____ **when:** _____

Rule of thumb: at least four of the twelve should be free, and at least two should be things you can do on a weeknight without leaving the house.

Four-Weekend Timeline

Anchor the big outings to weekends so they do not get squeezed out. Leave the last weekend of the month deliberately empty — that is your weather buffer.

Weekend	Anchor activity	Backup if it rains	Done
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4 (buffer)			
Week 5			
Week 6			
Week 7			
Week 8 (buffer)			

Rainy-Day Backup Cards

Cut these out, fold them, and drop them in a jar. When a planned outing gets rained off, pull one instead of negotiating.

Indoor leaf hunt	Hide twenty paper leaves around one room. Give each child a colour to find. Ten minutes of setup, forty minutes of quiet.
Blanket fort + book club	Build the fort first, then read one chapter inside it. The fort is the reward for sitting still.
Kitchen science	Bake one thing together and let them do every pour and stir. Choose a recipe with five ingredients or fewer.
Craft-a-thon	Set out paper, glue, leaves and crayons on a wipe-clean cloth and let them work. No instructions, no sample.
Movie matinee	Cider, blankets, lights off, phones in another room. The phones are the whole point.
Gratitude jar	Everyone writes three things on slips of paper. Read last month's slips out loud before adding the new ones.

Budget Tracker

Fall outings add up quietly. Write the estimate before you go and the actual after, and you will know by October which activities are worth repeating.

Activity	Estimated	Actual	Worth repeating?
TOTAL			

Free activities worth counting as real: the leaf hunt, the bonfire, the bike ride, the craft-a-thon, the movie night, the gratitude jar. Six of the thirty cost nothing at all.

Memory Log

One line per activity, written the same evening while it is still fresh. By December this page is the best thing in the house.

Date: _____ **What we did:** _____

Date: _____ What we did: _____

Date: _____ **What we did:** _____

Date: _____ **What we did:** _____

Date: _____ **What we did:** _____

Date: _____ **What we did:** _____

Date: _____ **What we did:** _____

Date: _____ **What we did:** _____

Before You Go: The Five-Minute Check

- Water bottle per person, filled
- Snack that does not melt or crumble
- One layer more than you think you need — fall afternoons cool fast
- Wet wipes and a spare bag for muddy shoes
- Bathroom stop planned before the drive, not during it
- Phones charged, then put away

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