

Schletterbahn is a short drive from Sugar Land and offers two locations for summer fun

**Exciting Summer Adventures
for the Whole Family
In & Around Sugar Land**

Hot Fun in the Sugar Land Sun

Looking for fun activities to enjoy with your family this summer? Well, look no further. From museums to theatre to musical events, here are some great ways to entertain your family this summer.

George Observatory

Saturday Evenings

Just a short drive from Sugar Land to the Brazos Bend State Park, The George Observatory offers stargazers the opportunity to see our galaxy up-close with its ten ton, 36-inch Gueymard telescope, one of the largest telescopes in the country available for public viewing. The George Observatory is located in Brazos Bend State Park. Visit hmns.org to learn more about the observatory, or call 281-242-3055.

The Cockrell Butterfly Center

Throughout the year

Part of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, this living exhibit showcases hundreds of live butterflies in their own naturalistic setting. While in the center, visitors can see up to 50 different species of these beautiful creatures flying through the air, sipping fruit juice from flowers, and possibly landing on their shoulders. Visit hmns.org.



Gatson keeps cool at Sugar Land's Aquatic Park on Austin Pkwy



Becca at The Cockrell Butterfly Center



Noah's Ark Pool

Noah's Ark Pool

May 24–August 29

The little ones in your family will love this wonderful wading pool, complete with an ark waterslide and water-spraying animals. Located at Westpark and the Sam Houston Tollway, Noah's Ark is one of the many family fun recreational venues offered at The Quillian Recreation Center. Part of the First Methodist Houston, the center is open to the general public and provides facilities which include two lighted softball fields, an open air pavilion, soccer fields, a 400-meter fitness trail, playgrounds, and a 25-meter pool. For all the Center's attractions, visit fmhouston.com/quillian/quillian.aspx.



Goldilocks performed at Children's Theatre Festival

Children's Theatre Festival

Through July 18

The University of Houston's Children's Theatre Festival (CTF) celebrates its 30th season this summer, presenting *The Emperor's New Clothes*. The CTF is known for its live, wholesome theatre for families. Each summer it presents two shows consisting of classic fairytales and world premier musicals. All performances begin at 10:30 a.m., though there are occasional 1 p.m. matinees. For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 713-743-2929. Visit theatre.uh.edu.

The Great Texas Mosquito Festival

July 24-26

About 55 miles southeast of Houston, the Great Texas Mosquito Festival is scheduled to take place in Clute. Started to promote tourism to the area, the festival now attracts some 18,000 visitors. This three day event is filled with fun for



Great Mosquito Festival offers lots of fun activities for the kids

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Hot Fun in the Sugar Land Sun

the whole family and includes outrageous events such as doubles horseshoe pitching, doubles washer pitching, a mosquito calling contest, a haystack dive, and a dodge ball sting tournament, just to name a few. For more information, call 800-371-2971 or email buzz@mosquitofestival.com.

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The 80 member chorus Houston Tidelanders brings to the stage the art of barbershop harmonies for the whole family

Houston Tidelanders Barbershop Show

August 9

The Tidelanders Chorus is the Houston Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and consists of an all-male 80-plus-voice chorus that sings a cappella four-part harmony. Chorus members are also members of the SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America). The chorus is one of Houston's oldest musical organizations, and was chartered in 1946.

The show will take place at the Wortham Cullen Theater. For more information, visit houstontidelanders.org.

Schlitterbahn Waterpark - Galveston

Through Sept. 21

With a brand new location in Galveston, Schlitterbahn is just a little over an hour away. Known for its totally tubular atmosphere and laid back crowd, Schlitterbahn is a wonderful place for both kids and adults. Make it a weekend in Galveston and enjoy the sights and sounds of the beach capped off with a night of dining on the seawall or Galveston's historic district. "Schlitterbahn Galveston has all the things you need for a great family weekend," says Kathy Harris, "plenty of activities and fun for the kids, and great nightlife for adults." Schlitterbahn Galveston has water rides, attractions, great food, and many more fun activities to keep your family cool. They have another location in New Braunfels. Schlitterbahn.com.

Schlitterbahn New Braunfels was once again voted "Best Water Park" in the country





The Houston theatre district opens up with free performances, free food and backstage theatre tours



Shakespeare festival at Miller Outdoor Theatre

Houston Theater District Open House

August 24

The 15th Annual Open House will take place from 12-5 p.m. Visit eight local Houston performing arts venues, including Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Alley Theatre, Wortham Theater Center, and Jones Hall. Be sure to grab an event program and check out the events throughout the day, including free performances, free food from downtown restaurants, and free backstage tours of the theatres. Also take advantage of the special deals on season subscriptions, only available on this special day. For more information call 713-658-8938, or visit houstontheaterdistrict.org and downtownhouston.org.

Houston Shakespeare Festival

August 1-10

Now in its 34th season, The Houston Shakespeare Festival offers free performances of two Shakespeare plays, usually one comedy and one drama. All performances are held at the Miller Outdoor Theater and begin at 8:30 p.m. This summer's plays are

Julius Caesar, showing August 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and Cymbeline, showing August 2, 6, 8, and 10. Visit milleroutdoortheatre.com for instructions on how to pick up your free tickets, or call 713-743-3003.

Dragon Blaster Schlitterbahn Galveston Island



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Miller Outdoor Theatre

July-September

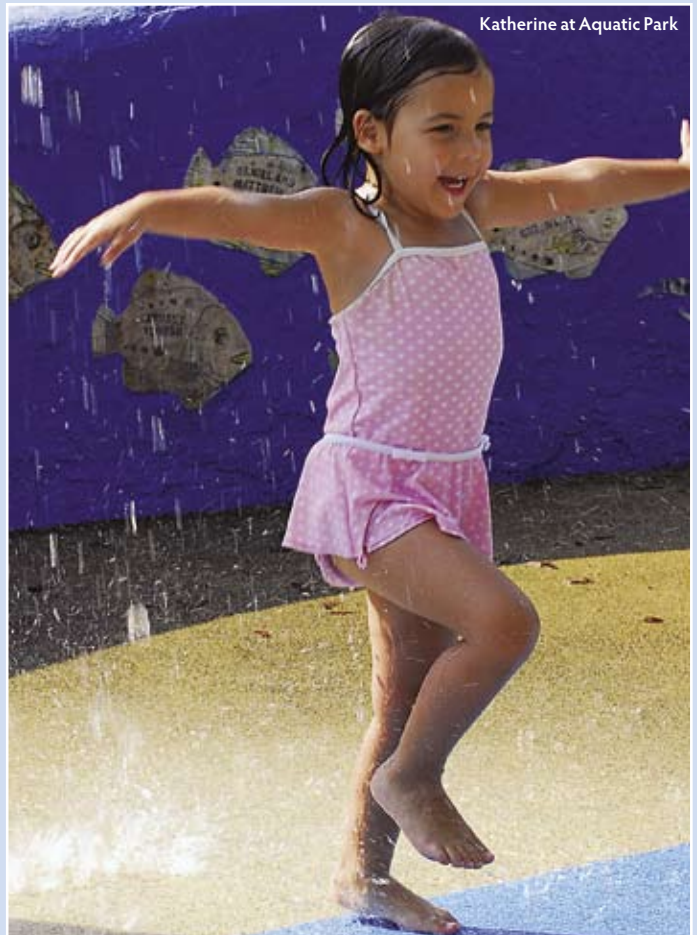
Located in north Houston, this open air theater is sure to please theater and outdoor lovers alike. Host of many well known and best loved performances, the summer schedule is filled with family favorites such as Beauty and the Beast, Freedom Train, Peter Rabbit, and Hansel and Gretel. For the Theater's complete summer schedule, visit milleroutdoortheatre.com.

Splashtown

All summer

Enjoy dozens of water adventures and acres of splashy rides, slides, chutes, and floats. About an hour drive from Sugar Land, Splashtown offers a fun day trip with the kids to beat the heat. Splashtownpark.com

Katherine at Aquatic Park



Lil Felicity loves the water at Aquatic Park



Kemah boardwalk offers rides, dining, shopping, a Houston aquarium sting ray exhibit and a splash pad water fountain the kids can run through to cool off. You can also take on The Beast - a fun, fast speedboat ride guaranteed to get you a little wet.



Kemah Boardwalk

Year 'round

Down at the Kemah Boardwalk, there's more than you can enjoy in a day. From carnival rides, to great shopping, your kids will have fun while you shop till you drop! There are also several great restaurants to choose from, and a view of the bay that's spectacular. For some water action, head to the center of the boardwalk and enjoy the water fountains that you can actually walk through! Kemahboardwalk.com

JULIA TEMLYN PRINDLE is a writer, editor, and proofreader. She enjoys the freedom of working from home, and is the owner of Temlyn Writing Services.

Kemah Boardwalk will host The Texan Season Kickoff party on August 31. This free event gives families the opportunity to meet the players, cheerleaders, mascot - "Toro" and includes live music, autographs, interactive games and prize giveaways.



Don't forget to tell them
you read about it in
Sugar Land Magazine!