Parent & Family Programs, Fall Family Activities
A Guide to Auburn and Alabama

This guide, prepared by Parent & Family Programs, provides virtual activities to do with your student from wherever you may be. We've also offered activities that can be done in-person that allow for proper physical distancing and current best practices. We encourage all members of the Auburn Family to use best judgment when determining if visiting campus is appropriate and to follow current guidelines and policy if choosing to visit campus or local community.

Things to do Virtually:

We understand that many families are staying home, and therefore we wanted to provide a list of ways families can experience Auburn or Alabama from the comfort of their home.

1. Family Movie Night.

Movies are a relaxing way to feel connected to a place other than home. There are several ways to stream films across distances, and this is a helpful article from The Verge that provides some options. Our movie suggestions range from the lighthearted to the serious, so there is something for everyone. This is not an exhaustive list by any means, but the titles and a brief review are provided:

- **Sweet Home Alabama** | IMDb | Rotten Tomatoes


- **My Cousin Vinny** | IMDb | Rotten Tomatoes

  Parent & Family Programs Review: This is an all-time cinematic favorite of our administrator, Torey Palmer. Joe Pesci stars as the titular cousin in this classic version in a fish out of water. He navigates the discovery of grits, managing his relationship with his long-term fiancée Mona Lisa Vito (Marisa Tomei won an Oscar for this portrayal), and defending his first criminal trial. It’s funny, but there’s some crass language (may not be appropriate for younger tiger ears), but it is one of those movies that you have to watch if you like to laugh.

- **Forrest Gump** | IMDb | Rotten Tomatoes

  Parent & Family Programs Review: Tom Hanks stars at the titular Forrest. Forrest is the right man at the right place through several pivotal moments throughout history. Caution, there may be some scenes that might not be appropriate for younger eyes.
To Kill A Mockingbird | IMDb | Rotten Tomatoes

Parent & Family Programs Review: There likely not an Alabamian alive that hasn't seen this film. A popular favorite. Based on the classic Harper Lee novel of the same name. Set in the small fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama. A provocative film for its time and still today. It grapples with issues of justice, change, and leaving childhood into adulthood. Some content may not be appropriate for all audiences.

Big Fish | IMDb | Rotten Tomatoes

Parent & Family Programs Review: A mix of fantasy and love story, which showcases the power of a good storyteller. Auburn University features in this film (the scenes were actually shot at Huntington College in Montgomery). If you watch the stage production Samford Hall is a prominent set piece.

Just Mercy | IMDb | Rotten Tomatoes

Parent & Family Programs Review: The true story about Bryan Stevenson (played by Michael B. Jordan) and his experience in the Alabama legal system. A film that covers a career of work in the fight for justice for his clients and the legal system that he must operate within. Not all content may be appropriate for all audiences.

2. Watch the Roll Tide, War Eagle ESPN 30 for 30.

Are you and your family new to the Auburn/Alabama rivalry? This documentary episode can tell you more about the deep roots of the rivalry and some traditions that come along with it.

3. Go on a virtual campus tour.

If your family was unable to take a campus tour before and you want to know more about campus, we recommend taking a virtual tour. This self-guided adventure takes you through different parts of campus and you can find the tours here: aub.ie/virtualcampustours.
4. Get to know Auburn traditions.

At Auburn, we take pride in our traditions. We enjoy saying “War Eagle” any chance we get and rolling Toomer’s Corner after a victory. As a parent or family member, you will learn these with your student as well, and you can get a head start of knowing them by visiting this website: [aub.ie/autraditions](http://aub.ie/autraditions).

5. Explore the Jule Collins Smith digital art exhibitions.

The Jule Collins Smith Museum is a fine art museum at Auburn University. The museum is offering a way for viewers to explore their exhibitions and collections online. These items can be found here on their website: [aub.ie/smithmuseum](http://aub.ie/smithmuseum).

Things to do in Auburn:

We're highlighting activities in the community that allow for physical distancing and current public health guidance. Many of the places are outside. If you do choose to visit Auburn, be mindful that there is a statewide mandatory mask policy in effect till at least Oct. 3, 2020 for all interior spaces. A mask is required on campus, regardless of interior/exterior.

Campus and the Auburn Community

1. Take a trip to Toomer’s Corner.

There is a lot of history around Toomer’s Corner and downtown Auburn. It is tradition to visit Toomer’s Drugs when families come into town and while you’re there, try their lemonade! You won’t be disappointed. Their ice cream is great too. Grab a family selfie photo in front of this popular venue. Learn more about Toomer’s Drugs and the corner by visiting their website: [aub.ie/toomers](http://aub.ie/toomers).

2. Walk through the Donald E. Davis Arboretum.

The Donald E. Davis Arboretum is a 13.5-acre botanic garden facility located in the heart of Auburn. The Arboretum has three water features, miles of walking trails, and places to rest in a natural setting. You can learn more about the Arboretum by visiting their website: [aub.ie/arboretum](http://aub.ie/arboretum).

3. Take a self-guided tour of campus.
Auburn’s campus is a beautiful place for the family to explore, and there is a map that families can follow that will take them throughout campus. While you’re walking, read about the history included in the guide about each stop on the tour: aub.ie/selfguidetour.


Traditionally, the parent runs have taken place during Camp War Eagle; however, we want to continue the tradition any way we can. Parents and families can learn more about the run, the course, and the history behind the run by visiting this website: aub.ie/cweparentrun.

5. Get familiar with the community.

Auburn is a close, small community, but there are many opportunities to learn more about the town through the local restaurants, shops, and other businesses that make up the town. Families can learn about these businesses and opportunities by visiting the Auburn Chamber of Commerce website: aub.ie/auburnchamber or the AO Tourism Bureau website: aub.ie/aotourism.


The Jule Collins Museum of Fine Art is located less than five minutes from campus and reopened for visitors on August 11th. Learn more about the reopening and new exhibits here: aub.ie/museumreopening.

Get Active in Auburn

1. Visit the parks in town.

There are several open-air parks in the Auburn community that are perfect for an afternoon stroll or picnic. Town Creek Park is less than ten minutes from the university and contains trails to walk or bike on. Is your family traveling with a dog? Keisel Park is located less than fifteen minutes from the university and includes an off-leashed dog park for the pups to stretch their legs. For the full list of parks in Auburn and the surrounding areas, please visit this website: aub.ie/auburnparks.

2. Hit the greens.
If anyone in the family enjoys golf, there are several public courses around town the family can take advantage of. The Greens at Auburn is a nine-hole golf course that is located less than fifteen minutes from campus. Indian Pines, also located less than fifteen minutes from campus, is an eighteen-hole course. Grand National, a part of the Robert Trent Jones golf trail, is located in Opelika and features fifty-four holes of golf. More information about the courses available can be found here: [aub.ie/augolf](aub.ie/augolf).


Chewacla is the local state park and less than ten minutes from Auburn University at 124 Shell Toomer Parkway. Visitors are able to walk, hike, bike, rent cabins, and more. Enjoy the scenic hiking trails, and be sure to grab a family picture at the waterfall. More information about Chewacla can be found on their website, including park features and how to make reservations: [aub.ie/chewacla](aub.ie/chewacla).


There are several paths and walking trails for visitors to explore in Auburn and on campus. These trails range from .25 of a mile up to 2.25 miles and are spread out through the city. The location of these trails and their length can be found on their website: [aub.ie/walkingtrails](aub.ie/walkingtrails). Additionally, here is the website for the trails on campus: [aub.ie/campustrails](aub.ie/campustrails).