

Camping on a Budget

With the state of the current economy, people all around the country are tightening their financial belts. It's time to think of creative ways to save a few bucks in all aspects of our lives. Now that spring has arrived and summer is quickly approaching thoughts shift to vacations and spending time in the great outdoors.

A great way to take a vacation without spending a huge amount of money on hotels and restaurants is to go camping! Whether you own a luxury motor home or prefer to rough-it in a tent, camping can be a great experience for the whole family.

The biggest way to save money camping is to join an RV Association that offers a discount camping program. There are many associations that you can join for minimal dollars and instantly get 50% off at their member campgrounds. In just a couple nights you can already earn back the money you paid in for your membership. In addition to the discount on the site, there are other ways to have a great experience camping and save a few dollars at the same time.

Cooking your own food is a great way to save money while camping. A propane camp stove is a common way to prepare food while camping. But, don't forget the fun of using the fire to cook hot dogs, warm up cans of chili and roast your marshmallows for

s'mores. One wonderful thing about camping is the relaxed atmosphere and the time to spend with family or friends at meals telling stories or discussing the day's activities. Around the campfire is a great place for family stories to be passed down from one generation to the next.

You can plan your daily activities on a budget as well! Most public parks have hiking trails and many parks have lakes for fishing, boating and swimming. There are often playgrounds with swings, basketball courts and other amenities. From home you can bring along bikes, balls and gloves, board games, Frisbees, or any other favorite games. Take advantage of no television to play games together as a family. And don't forget about the nature around your site! You can check out books from the library on local flora and fauna and develop your own nature walks, or take advantage of the absence of city lights to learn some constellations in the night sky. There are learning opportunities all around for "kids" of all ages.

For more exciting entertainment, there are amusement parks. Many offer discounts on admission tickets for those who are camping in their park or staying in the lodging on site. Along with discounts, at some parks you will get the additional perk of extended park hours.

There has never been a better time to make the RVing lifestyle your travel method of choice! This is also a great time to evaluate your current RV. Whether you are looking to upgrade your current RV or change RV styles due to a change in family dynamics, this is a great time to buy a new RV. Dealerships have amazing price reductions to get last year's new units on the road.

This is also a good time to review your RV insurance. Does it meet your current needs? Is the RV insured for what it's currently worth? Or, is it over-insured and you're paying too much? Be sure you review your insurance policy with your agent and shop it around to make sure you are getting the best price for what you need.

If you have any questions or need assistance with obtaining your Recreational Vehicle Insurance Policy, please contact Thum Insurance Agency. Office hours are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Thum Insurance Agency, L.L.C. has provided personalized RV insurance packages for RVers since 1990.

Coverages may vary by state and company. Coverages are controlled by the policies issued and are not modified, extended or revised by the descriptions contained herein.