

Family Friendly Events and Activities

1. Tent camping, RV facilities, houseboats, resorts & retreats await families eager to explore Nevada County. The abundance of lakes, rivers, tall pines and shady oaks offer a spectacular setting for campers seeking outdoor adventure.
2. Junior riders are welcome to experience the thrill of racing as part of the largest and oldest bike race on the West Coast, the **Annual Nevada City Bicycle Classic held each Father's Day** in historic downtown Nevada City.
3. Visit a local regional park for playground fun, sport courts, romps over stretches of lush lawns and wind-up the day with a family picnic at Pioneer Park in Nevada City or Western Gateway Park in Penn Valley. (add a Truckee Park)
4. Build a birdhouse or paint a pot at The Union's annual Home & Garden Show held in April and October each year.
5. The Nevada County Fair presents five days of excitement and fun planned for Fair-goers of all ages. Enjoy live entertainment, delicious food, carnival rides, animals, and exhibits – in a community-friendly environment and at affordable family prices!
6. Let the kids find the perfect pumpkin at Bierwagen's pumpkin patch. They'll enjoy the turkeys, goats, scarecrows and hay stacks found at the farm. After you've worked up an appetite, be sure to cross the street to the Happy Apple Kitchen and feast on family friendly burgers, sandwiches, soups, shakes and apple pie.
7. Learning to ski and snowboard is made especially easy at Soda Springs Ski Area. Group lessons are designed for those aged 7 years and older. For littler folks, check out our new Planet Kids Moving Carpet (geared for ages 8 and under). Skisodasprings.com
8. Children have always fallen in love with trains. Visit the Nevada City Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum, the fascinating rail yard and always busy restoration shop. Downtown Truckee offers much smaller one-train museum. It is fun and right along-side the tracks to you can watch the trains come and go.
9. Try your luck at gold panning! If you know where to look, it's not hard to find gold in Nevada County Rivers. Some of the most accessible gold panning locations are on the South Yuba River at Bridgeport, Edwards Crossing and Washington; and on the Middle Yuba River at Oregon Creek.
10. Wiggle your toes in one of Nevada County's pristine swimming holes. Cool mountain water in the many sparkling lakes and rivers running through lush canyons, forests and meadows, calling to swimmers and whitewater enthusiasts.
11. Have fun while you learn more about the history of California. Nevada County is abundant with historical landmarks, museums and is home to four State Historic Parks; Empire Mine, South Yuba River, Malakoff Diggings and Donner Memorial State Park. The well-preserved towns of Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee are historic in themselves and a joy to explore.

