



## JULY FLY NEWS

This summer looks quite different from summers we have known previously. With pools, sports, and so much more not open or happening, the most common activity for our teenagers will probably be boredom. While certain events are not able to happen, here are my ideas for how you can encourage your teenager to keep busy this summer.

1. Pick up a new yard game! There are so many good games out there! Invest in a set for Kubb, Cornhole (or Bags as it is called out here), Bocce Ball, or Ladder Golf.
2. Encourage your teenager to go to the parks around town. I know a very popular activity among teenagers is hammocking in the trees. It is a great place to escape and read a book, listen to music, or socially distance while spending time with a friend.
3. Help your teens invest in a new hobby. It could be anything. Be willing to walk with them, though. It is important as most teens will choose just to sit on their phones. I personally love painting, using adult coloring books, or learning new songs for the guitar or piano.
4. Have your teens cook a couple meals a week. Not only is this an important life skill, but it will give them some stock in household duties and they can have fun with it too.
5. Set up day trips during the week for your family to go to state parks. I always feel that these parks are quite under-utilized. There are many just within an hour of Hutchinson that you can go visit.

I know that this summer may be challenging to keep kids busy, but know that there is grace there for you in this. You do not have to provide endless opportunities for your teenager. Utilize, encourage, and motivate your teenager during this summer, but also give them grace, too. They're in this just as much as you are.

### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

**July 10 -18** – Local Mission trip in Hutchinson, Minnesota

**August 25** – Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Fun Day

We are also back for regular Youth Night! Join us if you are entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade or you just finished high school! Youth Night is from 7:00-9:30 on Wednesdays.