Summer Fun!

Summer is a time for relaxation and fun new adventures, but it can seem daunting to find things to do on a budget. Remember, you don't have to spend a lot of money to have fun this summer. Here are some ideas for inexpensive summer fun:

- **Have a picnic:** Get a group of friends together and take advantage of the sun. Have everyone bring some kind of finger food. You can go on a hike, bike ride beforehand, or, if you're feeling adventurous, you can even extend the picnic into a camping trip.

- **Go to a Game:** Look into the minor-league and semi-professional sports teams in your area—these offer inexpensive tickets to live sporting events, with lots of summer specials.

- **Meet new People:** Summer is an excellent time to hone an old hobby or pick up something new. Groups such as the YMCA, community colleges, and other organizations offer many fun summer activities and classes for you to have fun learning something new, from swimming to gardening to collecting, and meeting fun new people along the way.

Snag that Summer Job!

Summer is just around the corner. Everyone has different summer plans, but nearly everyone will have some kind of change in pace. Some students will travel or relax with their families, but most students will at some point this summer be doing some kind of job. A summer job can allow you to save money for the next school year and focus on work without all of the other obligations of the school year.

Here are some steps to snagging that perfect summer job.

1. **Know What you Want:** There are many options for summer jobs and they all have pros and cons. Internships can offer valuable experience, but usually do not pay very much, some summer jobs may offer fun, but less money and career experience, and other jobs may allow you to make a lot of money, but be less enjoyable or meaningful work. You should also decide how important location is for you. Before you start looking for a job, decide what your priorities are.

2. **Start Early:** There are a lot of college and older high-school students who will be looking for work. Make sure, that you once you decide what kind of job you want, that you start looking immediately. Networking can be very important at this stage. If you are going to be at home, ask your parents and other adults you know about job openings. If you are staying in Spokane, the Student Employment Office's community job board is also a valuable resource (you can find it online here). The Career Center also help you find a job or internships or help with resumes. You can find them here.

3. **Develop a Strong Resume:** Spend some time thinking about what skills, experience and traits you have that would make you a valuable employee. Ask a few professional adults if they'll be willing to be your references. Presentation is everything, so make sure that all of your application materials are neat, organized, and present your best self.

4. **Be persistent:** Employers who hire a lot of summer workers are busy, so unless the application or job posting asks you not to contact the employer after submitting your application, follow-up to show your interest in the job.

5. **Plan Your Money:** Once you get that summer job, make a savings plan so that your hard-earned summer cash will last longer than the warm days!

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