



Don't let the Summer go to Waste

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Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial beginning of the summer travel season. That means its time to go camping, get cottages ready, or attend graduation parties, parades and picnics.

For sports enthusiasts summer can mean a huge AAU basketball tournament in another city or state, or in our area, the just-completed NCAA Division III baseball championship.

With gas prices the way they are, perhaps many well-laid summer travel plans will be aborted. Then what?

It's a shame to let the wonderful weather go to waste, or even go to waist (if you know what I mean). What about some impromptu ideas for summer sports enjoyment?

Sports camps

These are a great way to introduce kids to a sport like horse-back riding, kayaking or skateboarding. Perhaps they can get extra help for the traditional sport they love. Some camps are quite expensive, but camps offered at local schools are usually affordable, and the quality can be just as good as high-profile camps. Often big-name hosts of expensive camps spend a small amount of visible time at the camp, anyway. These types of camps predominantly focus on one sport, but multisport camps do exist. Speed and agility camps have become popular in the attempt to maximize athleticism for all sports.

Combo camps

There are camps where sports are combined with other interests – like technology. How cool would it be to learn to play golf in the morning and then design a Web site in the afternoon?

Fishing trips

Wisconsin is a wonderful place for fishing. There are many great fishing spots close by, and it's a great way for parents to get their kids outdoors and spend quality time together.

Hiking/biking trips

The Kettle Moraine State Forest has quite a few trails for families to hike or bike. The scenery and fresh air is awesome and it's not that far away.

Day trips

When I was young we were involved in baseball, and never went on extended trips. One-day trips dotted our calendar. These trips exposed us to some of the best swimming spots in our wonderful state.

Pick-up games

When we were young, pick-up baseball games were a regular part of our weekdays with friends and weekends with families. How many pick-up games do you see nowadays? When was the last time you played in a pick-up game? They could be for baseball, softball, soccer or kickball. Talk about a great way to play in a relaxed environment, have some fellowship and get some well-needed exercise.

All of these ideas are fantastic ways for family members to recharge batteries from strenuous lifestyles and intense competition.

With all these ways to relax, we never should have sportsmanship issues during the school year....right?