

These are things that you can do by yourself, or get together with another friend to try out. Most would even work as a group activity. The key here is to get out and stretch your legs and your creative muscles as you explore the world around you with your Father, God.

Fun Field Trips for Creatives

1. Take a sketchbook, journal, or camera and visit an old cemetery. You'll be fascinated by the names, the beauty of the stones, and the peace you find.
2. Visit your local history museum. Every county and most towns have them. You'll be amazed at what you'll find. Take along a sketchbook or journal and spend some time just sitting and soaking in the beauty.
3. Take a quick trip to a local landmark. Chances are there are some that you've never visited, no matter how long you've lived where you are now.
4. Go to your local farmer's market. Not only will you pick up some wonderful—local—edibles, you'll be inspired by those attending and those displaying their wares.
5. Try a different cuisine. Pick one you haven't had before, if possible. Research it before you go and you'll know what to order.
6. Take a walking or driving tour. Greenville, SC is the large town nearby and there are all kinds of self-guided walking tours we can take.

Fun Field Trips for Creatives, cont

7. Spend a few hours geocaching. Here's a great article on Geocaching 101, if you're not familiar with this hobby.
8. Do a search for hidden menus at Starbucks, then try something new. There are all kinds of cool drinks you can order, if you just know how. For example, did you know there's a concoction that's reputed to resemble Butterbeer from the Harry Potter universe? Just don't irritate the barrista with something too complicated or ordering this during a rush hour.
9. Take a trip on a local river or lake. Go kayaking, canoeing, or even paddle boarding.
10. Get together a group and go on a bookstore crawl. The point is to visit all the bookstores in a geographic area. It's even more fun if you post pics to social media and see how many books you can find from authors you know and love. You can do the same thing with craft stores, galleries, yarn stores, etc.
11. Plan an old-fashioned murder mystery evening. You can find suggestions online or you can buy a box that has everything need.
12. Go leaf-peeping. Fall is definitely upon us and that means the trees are turning in most areas of the country. Take a drive and be inspired by God's creativity!
13. Go someplace familiar at a different time. Visit a part during a full moon, or at dawn.
14. Visit a local art gallery. Yes, I'm a writer. But I've found that seeing how others express their creativity inspires me.

Fun Field Trips for Creatives, cont

15. Get tickets to a play at your local community theater or even a school production. You'll be inspired by the actors, the costumes, the story, and the overall atmosphere.

16. Go old school and show some community spirit by watching a local football game. Yes, high school was tough in some ways. But most of us remember fall football. It might have been as a cheerleader, a member of the marching band (me), or just a fan. This is a great way to reconnect with your roots.

17. Take a cooking class. Again, it's the creative aspect that drives this suggestion. But you also might find a new hobby you can share with your spouse.

18. Spend the afternoon people watching at the local mall. Take a pen and paper and write down snippets of conversations or sketch those you see. You may hear something worth quoting or just have fun imagining the "rest of the story."

19. Visit a corn maze or a haunted house. Personally, I'm not a fan of haunted houses, but a lot of my friends are. A corn maze is much more my speed.

20. Offer to read at your local retirement center/nursing home. It doesn't have to be your book that you're reading.

21. Visit your local zoo.

22. Take another author's book to your local bookstore and recommend it to the manager/workers. It feels good to do something nice for someone else, and it helps the management find books they might have missed.

Fun Field Trips for Creatives, cont

23. Visit some nearby historical landmarks. Greenville is rife with old textile mills, bridges and general historic sites. I love crawling around old foundations and taking picture of the stonework and gears that are always left behind.
24. Do a search for abandoned places nearby. These are great places to visit and imagine what life used to be like.
25. Memorize a poem. Go to your local library or book store and find a book of poetry. It can be something funny, or touching, or anything in between. But the process will stimulate your mind and stretch your mental muscles.
26. Explore a local festival. This time of year you'll find everything from state fairs to barbeque cook-offs to pop up arts and crafts shows.
27. Take a bicycle ride. If you don't own a bike, rent one. Chances are there's someplace nearby where you can ride.
28. Listen to some live music. It might be an evening at the symphony, or a free band that plays in a park downtown.
29. Stroll through a local flea market or antique mall
30. Go on a hike. Find a local park and take a walk.
31. Take a class. Look for something you've never tried before or something you'd like to get better doing.

Fun Field Trips for Creatives, cont

32. Spend an afternoon coloring. Find a book or download a free page from the Internet, pull out your colored pencils and pretend you're a kid. It's not a hobby for everyone—which could be said about a lot of these suggestions, but I've found if I mention coloring it's polarizing. People either love it or hate it. I'm one of those who've discovered it doesn't relax me. But if it does help you unwind, go for it. If you haven't tried it, it's past time to give this new fad a try.

33. Shop for a new pen and stationary. Go to a place where you can try out different types of pens and find one you really like.

34. Take only a pen and notebook and find a park. Spend an hour or two writing longhand. Describe your setting, do free-writing, or brainstorm your next project.



Have fun exploring the world around you. It's no mistake that God put you in this particular place and time.

Remember that the ONE person you need to always remember is with you is God. He's the perfect creative partner. Enjoy your time with Him and let Him refill the creative part of your soul