

Having Fun Together—Make a List

The late travel writer Anthony Bourdain gave an interview once where he described his childhood travels as taking place in the form of ethnic restaurants in New York City circa the 1970s. Your list could include amusement parks, arcades, restaurants, or donut shops.

LIST LOVERS

Lists inspire and motivate. They represent an organizing principle for years of fun to come. A laid-out plan sitting at the ready for execution takes away decision stress. You no longer have to decide *what* to do but rather *how* to do it. Nothing beats the feeling of accomplishment when you cross something off that list.

Lists can drive your family adventures. The kids can color in states they have visited and check off parks they've seen or peaks they've climbed. Your list will be different from my list, but here are a few of our lists:

- Sixty US national parks
- Forty-eight peaks over four thousand feet in the White Mountains
- Fifty states in the United States
- Thirty local museums
- Forty local trails
- Fifteen friends/relatives out of town
- Ten city parks
- Eleven local ballparks—one major, three AAA, and seven Cape Cod League

We haven't completed any of the lists but still have ready-made options that take off the stress of "what should we do."