

# TRAILS MIX

VOLUME ONE ···· ISSUE NO.4





Welcome to Trails Mix, an extra helping of Family Trails goodness. Each quarter, our #FamilyTrails community will receive a digital edition of the Trails Mix bundle packed with ideas and inspiration designed to spark more family adventuring and learning together. We'll also feature highlights from the best of Family Trails – the stories shared by our families around the world.

From recipes to activities to expert interviews, we hope you'll find that Trails Mix encourages your family to get out and get going – wherever the trail may lead you.

Have an idea for an upcoming edition of Trails Mix?  
Email us at **community@familytrails.com**.

To connect with thousands of other families learning through adventure, join the **#FamilyTrails** conversation on Instagram by following us **@FamilyTrails**.

*We'd love to hear from you!*





# TOYOTA FAMILY TRAILS

**TOYOTA FAMILY TRAILS** is an adventure brought to life thanks to a partnership between the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) and Toyota. Since 1989, NCFL has helped more than two million families make educational progress. We believe that all parents can help their children succeed in school and in life. The family unit is the one constant across the educational spectrum, but family engagement in education doesn't happen on its own. NCFL pioneered Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time,<sup>®</sup> bridging the gap that often exists between school, home, and community.

At Family Trails, we believe your family is the best teacher your child will ever have. Together, we hope to inspire parents and kids to let their imaginations lead them on a daily exploration and adventure through the world around them and the classroom of life.

## CONTENTS

### 04

#### STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

Family stories are the heart and soul of Family Trails. Check out these amazing stories contributed by the Family Trails community to [familytrails.com](http://familytrails.com).

### 20

#### SOCIAL CHALLENGES

Each month we're issuing an inspirational challenge to the Family Trails community.

### 30

#### TRAILS RECIPE

Join us on a crumbly culinary adventure full of mmm's and memories!

### 32

#### GUEST TRAIL GUIDES

This month, families from around the country are talking tradition and sharing the stories behind their favorites.

### 50

#### ACTIVITY SHEET

Get ready to get wonky with words in this seasonal twist on Mad Libs.<sup>™</sup>



# STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

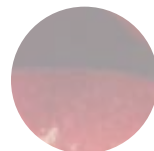
Family stories are the heart and soul of Family Trails. Check out these two amazing stories contributed by the Family Trails community and get to know the rest of our contributors by visiting [familytrails.com/blog](http://familytrails.com/blog).

Interested in submitting your own family adventure story? Visit [familytrails.com/share](http://familytrails.com/share).

featuring

THE  
ROBLES  
FAMILY

THE  
REDEKOPP  
FAMILY



APPLE  
PICKING  
*outside the*  
CITY LIMITS

as told by VY ROBLES



**My husband, my son, and myself are all Los Angeles natives.**

Although it’s a big thriving city with endless things to do, at the end of the day, it is such a big city that it can be very isolating. It’s easy to forget there is so much more beyond the county lines. As I’ve been more driven to learn about the earth and all of the natural beauty it has to offer, I committed myself to sharing this love and respect for the planet with my child in hopes that he will learn to appreciate it just as I do. Sometimes, that can start off with something as easy as apple picking.

Just about an hour and a half outside of the city is a town perfectly made for this fall tradition - Oak Glen. Multiple apple orchards line the roads, and each place has great food and fun family activities. Wifi is sparse, which means everyone can disconnect for a bit and really soak in all of the autumn goodness! Although food and activities are fun, the main purpose of the trip was to go apple picking. The moment I made him stand in front of apple trees made the drive completely worth it. It was his first time seeing apples growing on a tree. He loves eating apples, so he was very familiar with it, yelling, “APPLE!” He grabbed one and immediately bit into it (which I had to take back and clean a bit, but it was adorable nonetheless).



*“The moment I made him stand in front of apple trees made the drive completely worth it. It was his first time seeing apples growing on a tree.”*

VY ROBLES  
@lavyenrose\_



Watching him connect the concept of the apple growing on a tree was pretty special. Although I've only been a parent for about two years, I can honestly say that he is the most alive when we adventure outdoors. Exposing him to fun and nature-driven activities like this has been such a joy. We definitely want to make this an annual tradition, and I hope that each year he learns something new, whether it's how plants grow or how they find their way to the city's local markets. There so much he can learn, absorb, and appreciate that can't be fully grasped by staying in the city.

During this trip, we also picked some raspberries, which was a brand new experience to me! I have a much better understanding as to why they tend to be pricey. You have to be pretty sensitive when picking them. Even I am learning something new each trip.

Sometimes people find it stressful to take their kids out for new adventures, but my son's looks of amazement and curiosity make every minute of travel worth it. I hope to keep that going as long as I can.







# ADVENTURING *in the* CANADIAN ROCKIES

as told by DAREN REDEKOPP

**There are times I find myself standing at the kitchen window,** looking out on our boys in the back yard, pretending themselves into faraway places and long ago ages. In these moments, I often find myself feeling like a stranger. It’s as though my children inhabit a magical country set right over mine, like one of those clear overlay pages in illustrated books, filled with details and colors that bring the more grown-up grayscale page to life. As I watch them in their world, I feel that if I were to go and open the door and try to step in, I might spoil some of that magic. As though the moment my foot crossed the threshold a wind would blow, the color would vanish, and rather than gaining entry to their childhood world, I would have flipped it aside by being too adult.

As my wife, four boys, and I packed into our van for two weeks of exploring the Canadian Rockies, I was looking not for escape, but access, to the innocent awe of my sons.

We decided at the very beginning that this drive was not going to be one of those get-from-A-to-B-as-fast-as-you-can kind of affairs. No, we were going to take things in. If one of us saw something that seemed worthy of exploration, they’d yell, “Stop!” and we would pull over. Thus entering the Rockies, we saw the country grow larger. We watched the world become wilder and more alien to human sensibility. It felt almost like we were travelling back in time, toward an age before the earth played host to our species. We gazed out of the windows, marveling at sights so stunning and numerous that it seemed like the Creator had taken a stroll one day, carelessly strewing glory about the land. There was Crowfoot Glacier, where we studied the claws of ice gripping the cliffs perched over top of an emerald lake. There was Rampart Creek, where we leapt across the river, rock by wet rock, catching our boys as they jumped out after us. There was Saskatchewan Crossing, where we picnicked

PROVINCE OF



ALBERTA, CANADA





in a mountainous basin that focused the sunlight down like a lens. There were subalpine forests, carpeted with moss. There were mountain-peak meadows, twinkling with flowers. There were dizzying heights from which we threw out our voices, then waited and listened as our echoes flew back to us. In each of these places, I felt myself gaining access to the innocent awe of my four young boys. Truth be told, I'd been to the Rockies more than once as a kid. But now, as a grown-up, they seemed bigger and wilder than they did back then. And as I looked over at the boys, I realized that I was no longer standing on the outside, but with them on the inside of this magical world. And the words just slipped out. "This is where I want to be. This is exactly where I want to be."

*"We decided at the very beginning that this drive was not going to be one of those get-from-A-to-B-as-fast-as-you-can kind of affairs. No, we were going to take things in."*

DAREN REDEKOPP  
*@tales\_of\_boyhood*



# EXPLORE FURTHER

## EXTENDED LEARNING *with* THE ROBLES FAMILY

### 1. The time is always right for picking fruit at your local market or produce stand.

Shop together as a family to select several different types of fruit. Encourage your children to explore them using their five senses, then talk about how they are the same and different.

### 2. Find or create a unique and healthy recipe to prepare and serve using the fruit you selected.

Try fruit slices on a sandwich or incorporate fruit into a vegetable salad. Share your photos or recipes with #FamilyTrails.

### 3. Explore Wonder #1083 “Are All Fruits Juicy?” with your family at [Wonderopolis.org](https://wonderopolis.org).

## EXTENDED LEARNING *with* THE REDEKOPP FAMILY

**1. You don’t have to leave home to explore new places.** Select a distant place of interest to your family and explore the culture there. Find a recipe or local restaurant that serves food from that country. Try to learn a few words in the language. Talk about what you might pack on a trip to this destination.

**2. Use your imagination and household items such as sheets and cardboard boxes to transform your family room into a faraway place.** What is the name of your place? What is the weather like? Talk with your children about what they see in the magical place they have created.

**3. Explore Wonder #10 “Can You Travel the World Without Leaving Home?” with your family at [Wonderopolis.org](https://wonderopolis.org).**



# MORE TRAILS & STORIES>

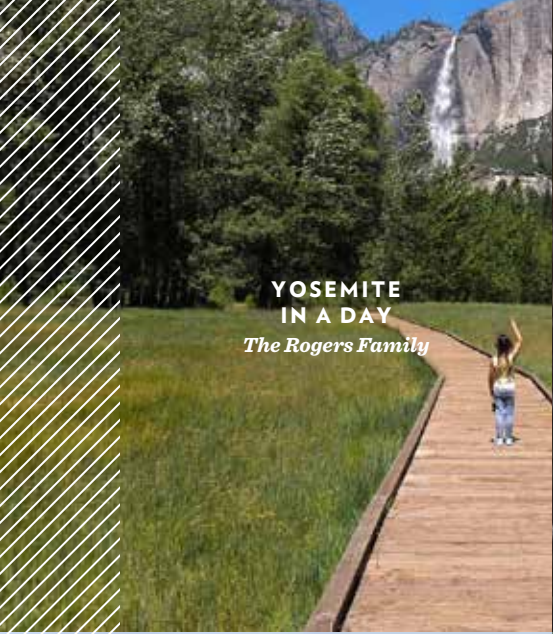




# MORE TRAILS & STORIES>



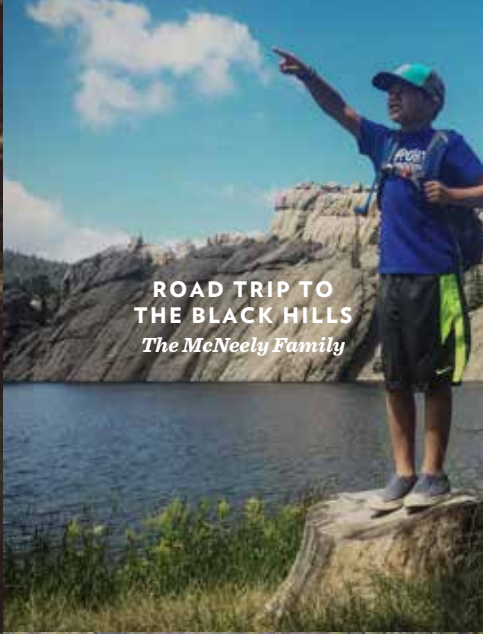
> A CHANGE IN SCENERY  
*The Pahl Family*



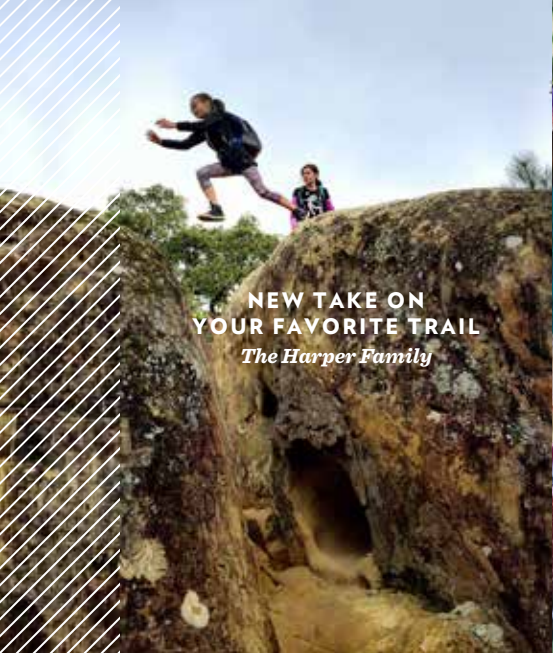
YOSEMITE  
IN A DAY  
*The Rogers Family*



THE VIRTUES OF  
LOOKING DOWN  
*The McIntire Family*



ROAD TRIP TO  
THE BLACK HILLS  
*The McNeely Family*



NEW TAKE ON  
YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL  
*The Harper Family*



CASPERS  
WILDERNESS PARK  
*The Tran Family*



RECONNECTING  
IN NATURE  
*The Tebbe Family*



ORANGE-PICKING  
IN AUSTRALIA  
*The Josh Family*



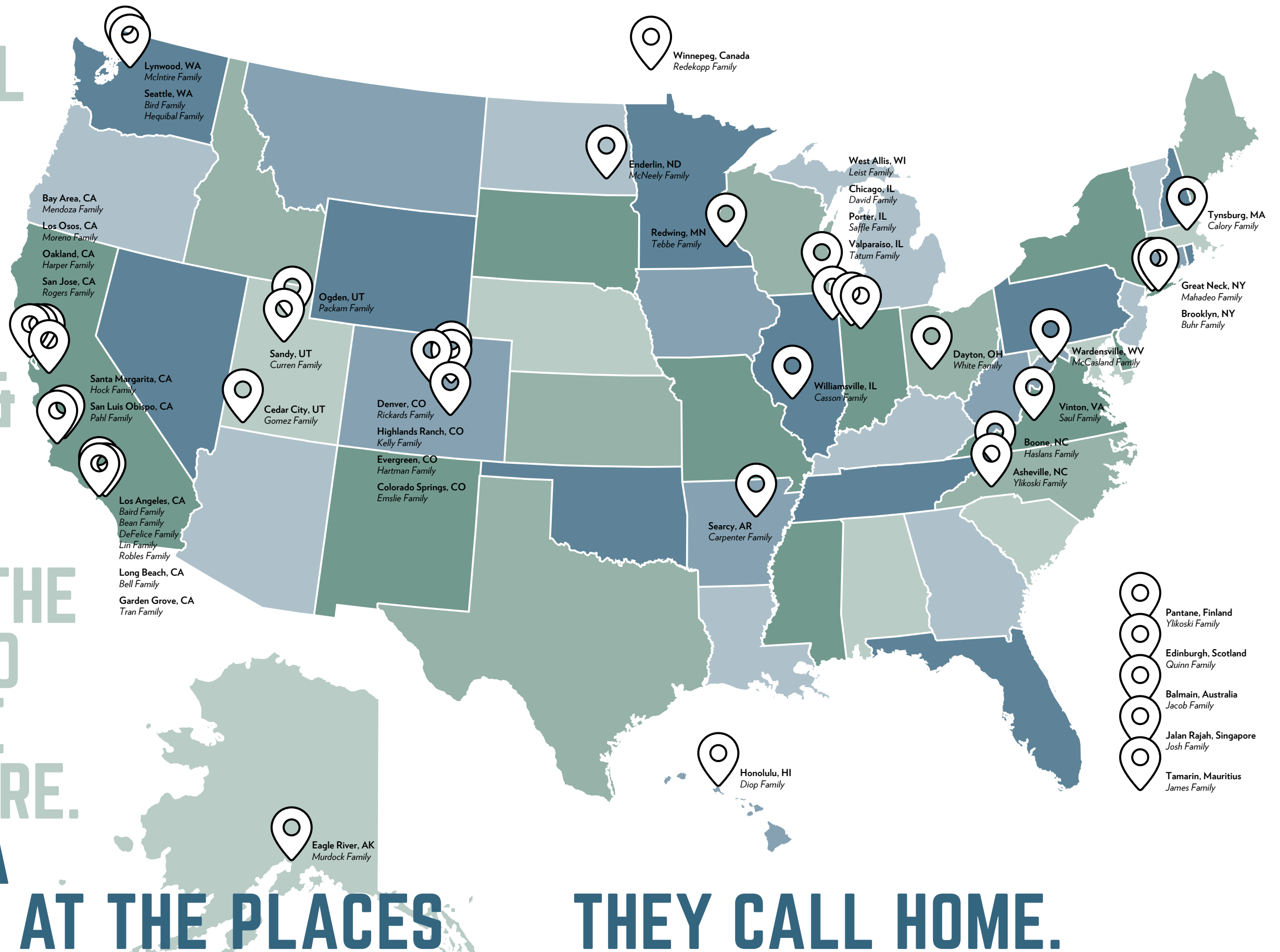
DEVILS LAKE  
STATE PARK  
*The Casson Family*



A LESSON IN  
STORYTELLING  
*The Rickards Family*



OUR TRAIL  
GUIDES  
HAVE  
SHARED  
THEIR  
STORIES &  
INSPIRED  
FAMILIES  
AROUND THE  
WORLD TO  
EMBRACE  
ADVENTURE.  
HERE'S A  
GLIMPSE AT THE PLACES



THEY CALL HOME.



TOYOTA  
FAMILY  
TRAILS

# Social Challenges

SEPT.

OCT.

NOV.

DEC.

JAN.

FEB.

**Each month we're issuing a new inspiration challenge to the Family Trails community.**

The monthly challenge may come in the form of a visual prompt, question, or activity, and will always be designed to spark family exploration, adventure, and learning.

We'll collect the best of the best to share via social, on **FamilyTrails.com**, and in Trails Mix. To participate, look for the monthly challenge prompt on Instagram. Maybe you'll see your family adventures in an upcoming issue of Trails Mix!

*Check out some of the highlights from our last few months* ➤



# CHALLENGE NO.1

SEPTEMBER



As the seasons turn, it's fun to get out into nature and observe those changes close up. We challenged you to take your family outside and collect whatever interests you! Check out the results with #FT\_Collect.



PHOTO AT LEFT: @erikasjoy  
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: @run\_wild\_the\_island, @mcventure\_pnw, @emmmhontz



CHALLENGE  
NO.2

OCTOBER

Bucket List



Goals are great – especially when it comes to family adventures. Whether you dream of visiting every national park or setting aside one day a week for local exploring, we challenged you to gather your family to chat about your Family Adventure Bucket List with #FT\_BucketList.

PHOTO AT LEFT: @wendime  
CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: @amandablue4, @vm\_photography, @austgen.adventures



# CHALLENGE NO.3

NOVEMBER

Together



As we're moving into the holiday season, we're challenging our #FamilyTrails community to foster the spirit of gratitude in their families as they spend quality time with their loved ones. Our theme for November was "Togetherness" using the hashtag #FT\_Togetherness.

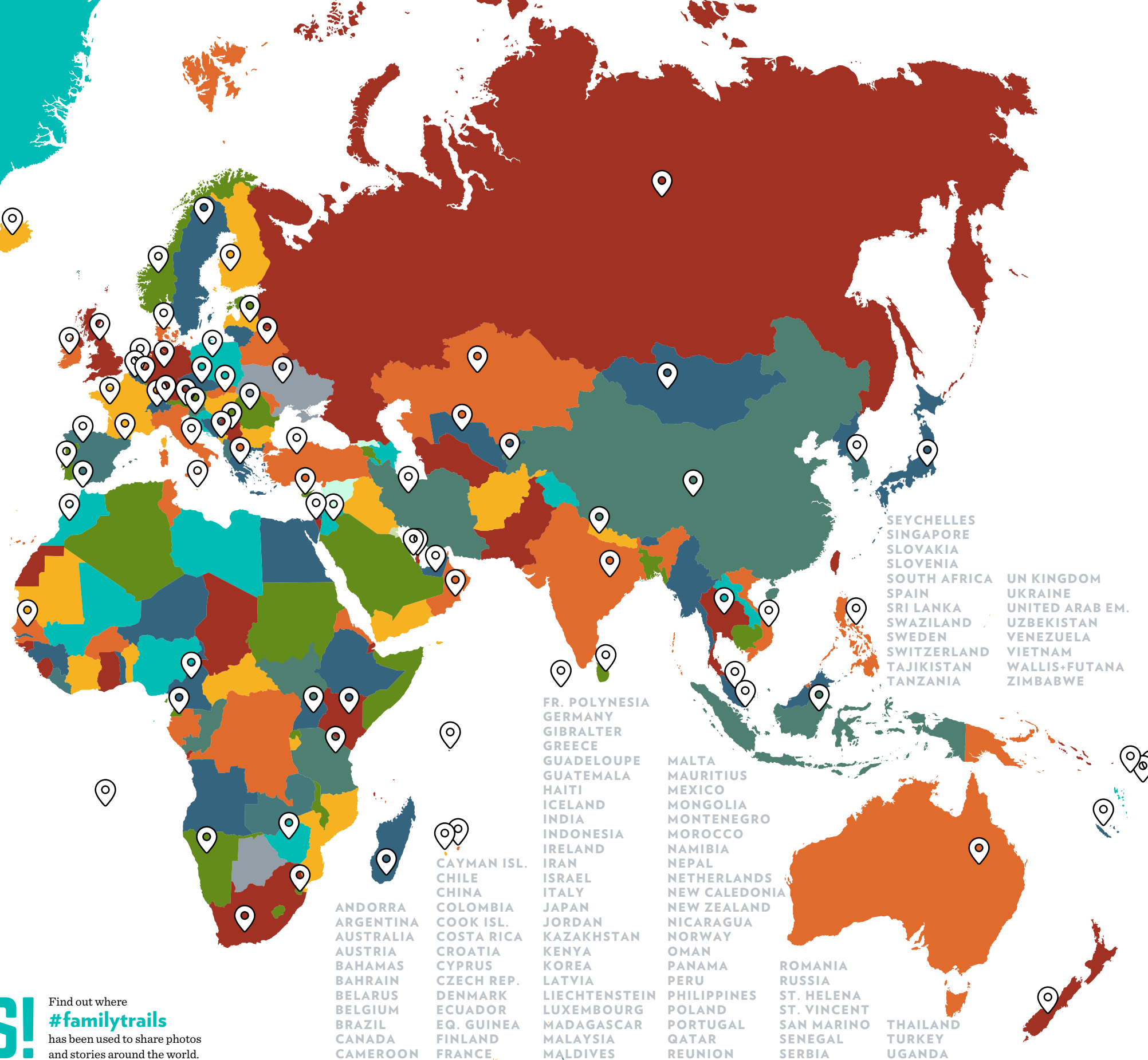


PHOTO AT LEFT: @sweetadventures\_pnw  
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: @lindsayhood79, @helloariane, @brookefield



# WE LOVE BEING PART OF YOUR FAMILY ADVENTURES!

Find out where  
**#familytrails**  
has been used to share photos  
and stories around the world.





TRAILS MIX RECIPE #4

# CRUMBLE

for more  
QUALITY TIME

“Baking with kids is not easy and requires lots of patience, but it creates great memories and teaches kids important life skills.”



by @REALFOODSIMPLELIFE

## PUMPKIN SPICE CRUMB CAKE

(Dairy, Vegan & Refined Sugar-free)

There are so many ways to get your kids involved in the kitchen. When we make this cake, I usually let my two oldest boys (three & four years old) take turns measuring and mixing all the ingredients. We do have to help make sure their measurements are even, but they are getting pretty good at it. My little almost one-year-old likes to watch from his high chair and play with some of the utensils we haven't used yet. Their favourite part of this recipe though is sprinkling on the crumb topping just before popping it into the oven. One thing to keep in mind when involving kids in baking is the inevitable mess. I've learned to just embrace it. Another tip if you have a cramped kitchen like us is to mix all of the ingredients on the table in the dining room. It makes it much easier and gives everyone so much more space.



DOWNLOAD RECIPE

### INGREDIENTS

#### Cake Base

*1/4 cup olive or melted coconut oil*  
*1/4 cup maple syrup*  
*1/4 cup coconut sugar*  
*1 cup pumpkin puree*  
*4 tablespoons chia seed soaked in 8 tablespoons of water*  
*1 cup almond or plain flour*  
*1/4 cup coconut or plain flour*  
*1/2 teaspoon baking soda*  
*1-1/2 teaspoon allspice*  
*1 teaspoon cinnamon*  
*1/4 teaspoon nutmeg*  
*1/2 teaspoon salt*

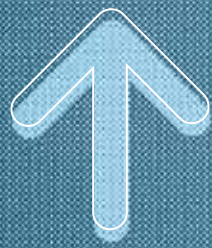
#### Crumb Topping

*1/2 cup coconut or plain flour*  
*1/2 cup rolled oats*  
*2 tablespoons coconut sugar*  
*1 teaspoon cinnamon*  
*2 tablespoons maple syrup*  
*2 tablespoons olive or melted coconut oil*

### BAKING DIRECTIONS

- 1.** Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (160 degrees C) and wipe deep pie dish with oil.
- 2.** Make the crumb topping first by mixing all the ingredients together until completely combined and set aside.
- 3.** In another bowl, mix the wet ingredients together (melted coconut oil, maple syrup, coconut sugar, pumpkin puree, & chia seeds) until thoroughly mixed.
- 4.** Mix the dry ingredients together first in separate bowl (flour, baking soda, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, & salt) and slowly add to the wet ingredients. Mix well until all dry pockets disappear.
- 5.** Pour into greased pan and sprinkle the crumb topping over the top.
- 6.** Bake for 45 minutes.





# GUEST TRAIL GUIDES AHEAD

## Attention Hikers:

You are about to embark on a journey  
that will impact your family activities  
for generations to come.

Proceed with extreme excitement.



At Family Trails, we believe all families  
can learn and grow together through  
exploration and adventure. In this spirit,  
in each edition of Trails Mix you'll find  
feature pieces spotlighting a diverse  
range of adventurers from around the  
country, blazing their own trail.

featuring

DIANE  
CASTANEDA

DAVID  
MCINTIRE

A  
CAMPING  
TRADITION  
*is*  
BORN

as told by DIANE CASTANEDA



**As a family, traditions are a wonderful thing and in our household we have a few.** Some are as simple as “take-out Sundays” or making tamales every Christmas Eve. Others include some sort of travel: visiting a new city or country every year, going back to Playa Mazunte, Mexico (the beach town where my husband and I met) every year, and hiking every other Sunday. I love traditions. I can just imagine passing them on to my daughter and my grandkids, creating special moments along the way. This year we decided to start a new one: camping more!

Starting to build traditions don’t have to be too complicated. You can start small. Last year, we started to hike every other Sunday. It doesn’t matter if it’s in the simple hiking trails along our house, or in our local regional park, the whole point is to do something fun, healthy, and outdoors. We decided on a day that was easy for our family, and an activity that we would all enjoy. We especially love it as an “end-of-the-week” treat to start fresh and inspire us.

Our new tradition developed through an old tradition. Each year, we make sure to travel and visit a new place. This year we took a last-minute trip to the beautiful state of Utah. We packed the car, grabbed our camping gear, and drove north from Southern California to the canyons. It was our first camping trip as a family. On the drive up, we explained to our daughter what camping was, how we were going to see millions of stars, and maybe some wild animals. When we got





to Zion National Park, we made sure to include her in every aspect of the camping experience. She helped set up the tent, unpacked her bags, and assisted in lunch making. We got her a headlight, binoculars, and her own sleeping bag so she could get the full experience. We gave her special tasks like holding the light while we cooked at night, making the PB&J for our hiking trips, and made her “official wildlife watcher.” (She did spot a mule deer near our campsite, so I would say she took her job pretty seriously!)

Traditions create wonderful memories not just in one family, but in the families to come in the future. I still remember every camping experience I had with my family as a kid. I remember the large camping tent that we had to assembled that did not take us 10 minutes to set up. (Those tents meant business, and it was quite an experience to put them together!) I remember snacking on sandwiches, rice, and s’mores for three days straight. I remember sleeping next to my dad on the hammock, falling asleep looking at the stars while listening to crickets, geckos, and even waves. Doing it all over again with my husband and daughter was a highlight for me. We already planted the seed, now it’s time to water it. Hopefully I will continue to see it grow in our family and in my daughter’s future family.

After coming back from our first camping trip as a family, we knew this would not be out last camping trip. We are already planning our next one. We hope to do this at least once a year or more. We hope to continue camping at places far away and places nearby. We plan to visit new National Parks every year, in the hopes of fostering a love and appreciation for these special places, for family time, for the outdoors, and for new traditions.

► *Diane is a mom to a 4-year-old nature-loving girl. She is the Communications Coordinator for WILDCOAST, a marine conservation organization that conserves coastal ecosystems, and is a board member of the San Diego Children and Nature Network. She loves spending time outdoors and her favorite activities are hiking, kayaking, and snorkeling.*





A family of five (a man, a woman, and three children) and a dog are standing on a stone bridge over a river. The background features a dramatic mountain landscape with steep, rocky slopes, sparse vegetation, and mist or smoke rising from the mountain peaks. The sky is overcast.

# STARTING *from* SCRATCH

as told by DAVID MCINTIRE



**The ritual of passing down tradition is likely as old as time.** It seems humans have an innate urge to transfer our culture, ideas, customs, and beliefs from one generation to the next. Many traditions are based on the region you live in and can be difficult to reproduce elsewhere. So what happens when you move away from all that you know and are isolated from the traditions you grew up with? This is the precise question our family has been trying to answer ever since moving to the Pacific Northwest from San Diego a few years back.

As a child, summer weekends were spent surfing, fishing, and lounging about while camping at the beach. Each Friday my Dad would come home early and we would pile into our 20-year-old, weather worn Winnebago. What our Winnie lacked in polish and class, it more than made up for in character and charm. She would sputter her way down the freeway dressed in a faded orange and brown coat. Her interior came adorned with the same iconic color palette that drew your eye in the first place. Her shag carpet and woven curtains begged you to stay awhile. As you stepped in the door you could not escape a dusty musk all throughout. This was the sort of smell you would expect from an antique shop or an old

storage locker which had been sealed for years. Nonetheless, she was our happy place and her utility far outweighed her cosmetic flaws.

The luxury did not end with our accommodations. Each night the menu was nearly the same, headlined by chips and hot dogs. The kids were always dirty, copper skin crusted with salt and sand. The days easily slipped by without consequence. When I think back, nothing really stands out as extraordinary. It was the sum of the parts that created such fondness. It was a beautifully simplistic formula, one I wish I could somehow duplicate for my kids.

Fast forward about 20 years, one marriage, three kids, and a move to Seattle. A geographical wedge has cut us off from much of what we knew in San Diego. Now we are left to our own devices trying to establish what we hope will be fond memories.

Since moving to Seattle, much of the last few years have been spent in a 30-mile radius. We quickly found some favorite parks and coffee shops, but diversity was severely lacking in our outings. Don't get me wrong, Seattle is a wonderful place to raise your family and one of the many family-friendly features are the





incredible parks. Each of them doing its best to replicate a small patch of the surrounding forests. Upon moving here from the chaparral laced fields of Southern California, this was an exciting perk. However, after a while I began to wonder if our family was going to remember these moments for years to come or whether the memories would fade off in the distance leaving us devoid of rich traditions.

Since the sun and sand were long gone, we had to work with what was in our backyard. Fortunately for us, we are surrounded with an emerald green blanket of trees and beneath it lies an infinite number of natural wonders. However, the challenge to unlocking these wonders were two fold. We have three young children. Up to this point, the length of their attention spans and legs did not inspire confidence. Secondly, neither Jessica or I had ever hiked a day in our lives. The prospect of which, while really intriguing, was also incredibly intimidating.

Since the kids were getting older, our excuses were beginning to fade. It was time to get over our fear of the unknown. The catalyst finally came when I began to get honest with myself about a reality that I had been avoiding for years.

Two out of three of our kids had been born with a genetic disease called Cystic Fibrosis. This destructive disease manifests itself in various ways,







but is mostly related to a deteriorating lung function. Sure, the treatment routine we do each day and consistent doctors appointments should have served as reminders. But, considering Jack and Avery’s relative health, it was hard for me to acknowledge that my kids were sick.

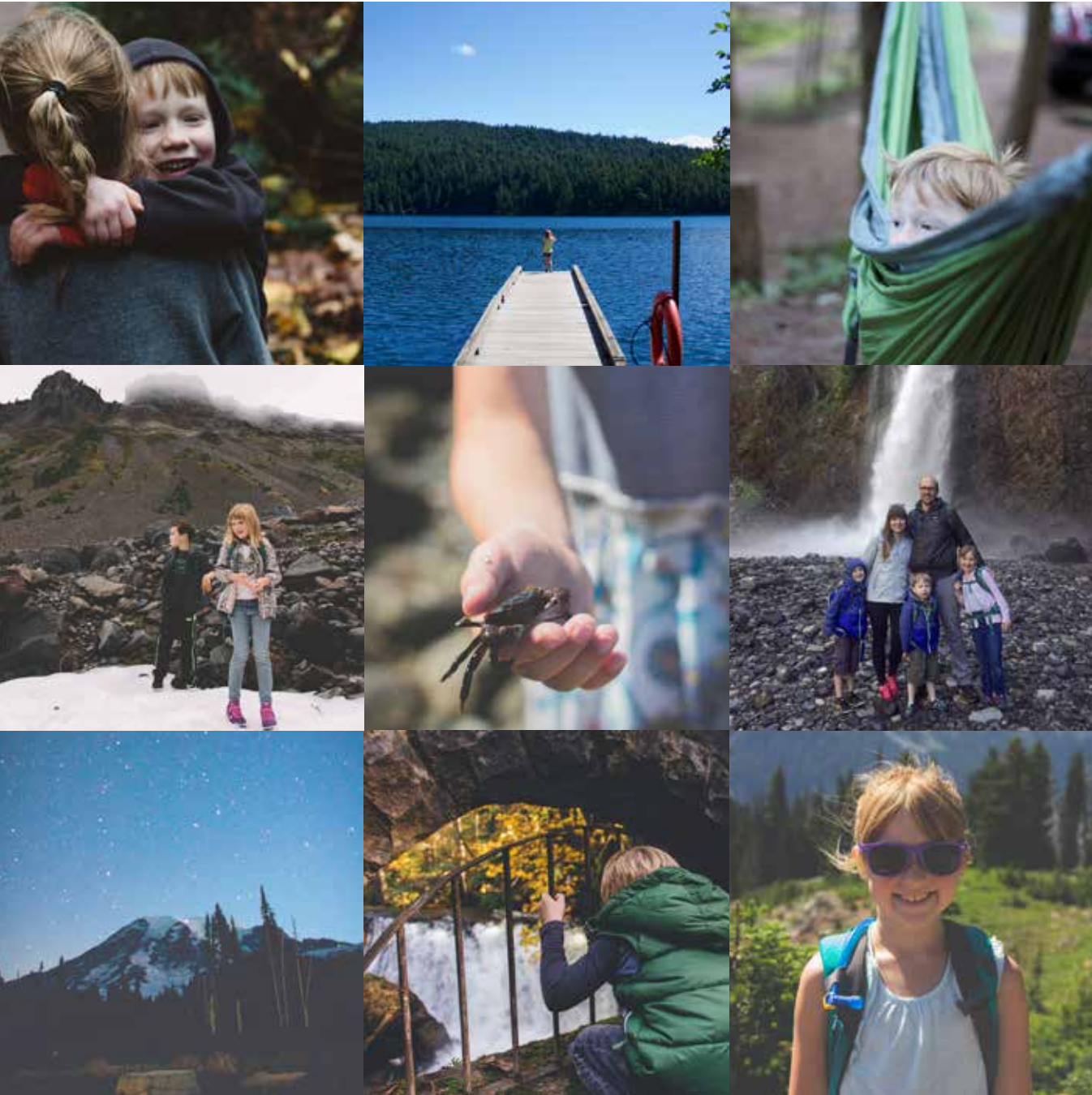
One night after Jack was coughing uncontrollably, I took him out on our deck to give him some fresh air. Jack’s face wore an expression of complete agony and helplessness. This look was not foreign; in fact, this entire scenario was quite common. I am unsure why this one particular time was any different from any of the others. I remember thinking that this could be the cough that puts him in the hospital. This could be the one that saps his strength and doesn’t go away. An aura of guilt hung over head as I thought about all my kids have yet to see and all they may never see.

I could no longer stand back and let these precious days pass us by. I didn’t want our family to be defined by complacency. I wanted us defined by boldness, curiosity, and the pursuit of adventure. In that moment I decided to make some changes.

*“We did not know what we were getting ourselves into when we booked our Alaska vacation.”*

DAVID MCINTIRE  
@mcventure\_pnw





As spring approached, we broke the chains of fear and tiptoed our way out into the forest. We came across cascading waterfalls, alpine lakes, and granite peaks. With each adventure our confidence grew, along with it our ambition for future trips.

On many of our trips something wonderful happened. Inevitably, we found ourselves wandering off the trail to explore a river bed. Hopping from rock to rock, climbing boulders, and challenging Mom to balance on felled trees became our new pastime. I learned that traditions need not be grandiose. At the time it seemed so simple and insignificant, but in retrospect those are now the times that I long for the most.

Similarly, we found that exploring tide pools was the ultimate expression of our new tradition. Our favorite of the summer was when we made it out to Salt Creek at the top of the Olympic peninsula.

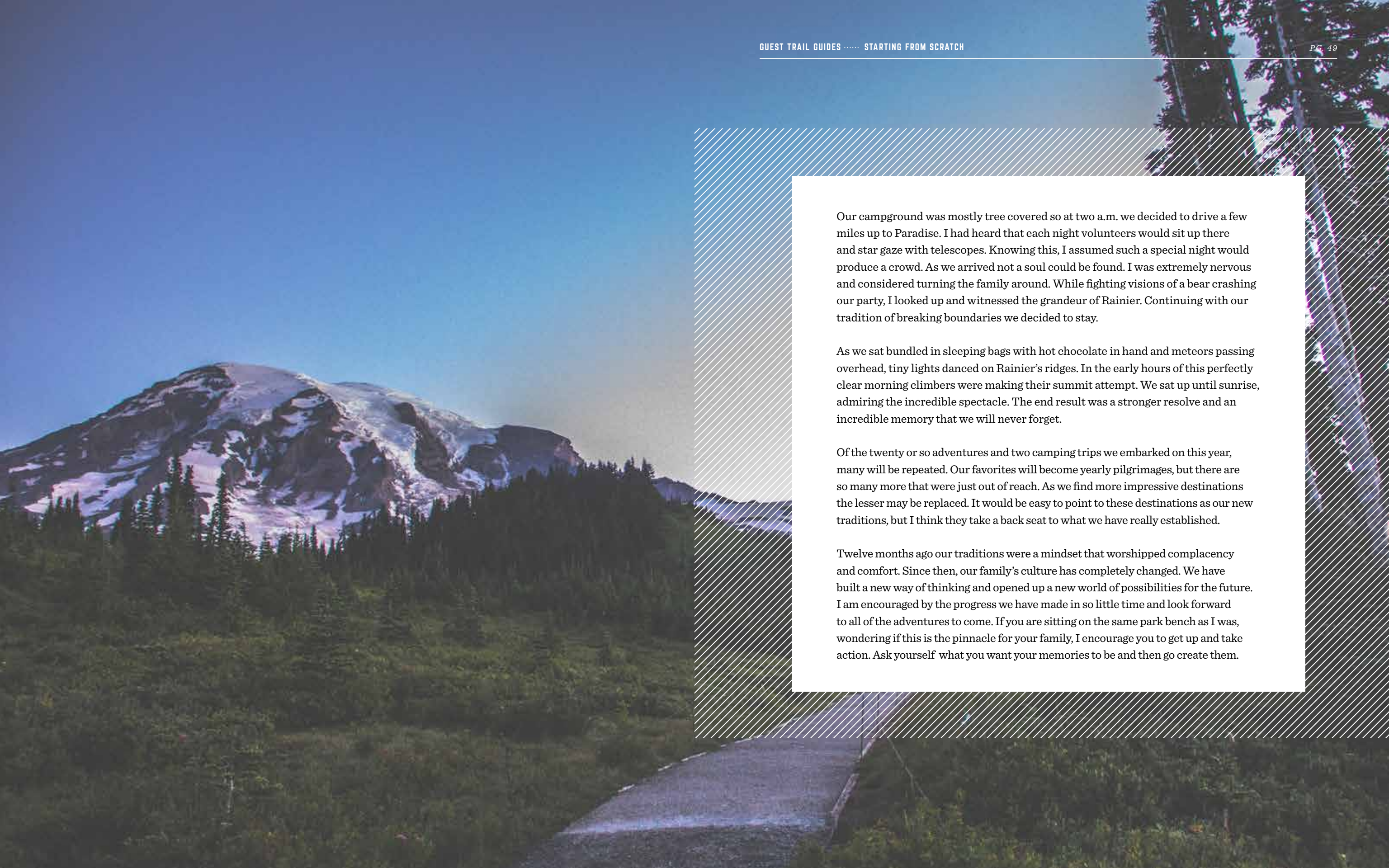
We arrived on an ominously foggy morning which set the tone for our adventure. As we walked down to the beach, we were disoriented by the lack of visibility. As we acclimated, we realized there was an alien world at our feet. The kids were instantly mesmerized as their little minds had yet to fathom such things could exist. We spent the next four hours with our heads down barley looking up. The kids came away with a new curiosity that will fuel many future trips.

Later in the summer, we decided to push our boundaries a little further on a trip to Mt. Rainier. Earlier in the season we had christened our tent and embarked on our first camping trip, but this one was a little more ambitious. We happened to be camping on the night of the Perseids, which is the largest meteor shower of the year.

*“Making the best of where we are now and enjoying what we have is important to me.”*

DAVID MCINTIRE  
@mcventure\_pnw





Our campground was mostly tree covered so at two a.m. we decided to drive a few miles up to Paradise. I had heard that each night volunteers would sit up there and star gaze with telescopes. Knowing this, I assumed such a special night would produce a crowd. As we arrived not a soul could be found. I was extremely nervous and considered turning the family around. While fighting visions of a bear crashing our party, I looked up and witnessed the grandeur of Rainier. Continuing with our tradition of breaking boundaries we decided to stay.

As we sat bundled in sleeping bags with hot chocolate in hand and meteors passing overhead, tiny lights danced on Rainier’s ridges. In the early hours of this perfectly clear morning climbers were making their summit attempt. We sat up until sunrise, admiring the incredible spectacle. The end result was a stronger resolve and an incredible memory that we will never forget.

Of the twenty or so adventures and two camping trips we embarked on this year, many will be repeated. Our favorites will become yearly pilgrimages, but there are so many more that were just out of reach. As we find more impressive destinations the lesser may be replaced. It would be easy to point to these destinations as our new traditions, but I think they take a back seat to what we have really established.

Twelve months ago our traditions were a mindset that worshipped complacency and comfort. Since then, our family’s culture has completely changed. We have built a new way of thinking and opened up a new world of possibilities for the future. I am encouraged by the progress we have made in so little time and look forward to all of the adventures to come. If you are sitting on the same park bench as I was, wondering if this is the pinnacle for your family, I encourage you to get up and take action. Ask yourself what you want your memories to be and then go create them.



GET  
WACKY  
ON YOUR NEXT  
ADVENTURE.

DOWNLOAD TRAIL LIBS NOW >

# TRAIL LIBS

## A WONKY + WACKY WORD ADVENTURE

We've put together some seasonal Mad Libs-style stories and songs designed to spark family fun no matter where your winter travels and adventures take you. All you have to do is get your family to pick your words...then fill in the blanks and share. We can't guarantee they'll always make sense in the end, but we can promise more than a few giggles.

### OUR FAMILY TRADITION

Every year, we put on our \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> and load into the car on a quest to find the perfect Christmas tree. On the way, we like to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> Christmas carols. My favorites \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> and Rudolph the Red-nosed \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>. Usually, the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> white snow. I like the way it sounds \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> to cut it down. After that, we take the tree back home and cover it in \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup>. Our reward for a long day of work is a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> cup of \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> cocoa. I drink mine with extra \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15</sup>.

#### WORD PROMPTS:

1. Plural Noun
2. Plural Noun
3. Plural Noun
4. Verb
5. Noun

6. Noun
7. Adjective
8. Adjective
9. Adjective
10. Noun

11. Noun
12. Noun
13. Adjective
14. Adjective
15. Food

**Family Question:** What's your favorite family holiday tradition?





CREATED BY  
ncfi™  
National Center for  
Families Learning

#FAMILYTRAILS

