

Family Budget Challenge

By Lucille

The following is my well-thought out plan for a fun weekend for me and my family while staying within the \$500 budget. It proved to be a bit of a challenge because \$500 may seem like a lot of money, but in this world, can be spent fast!

I chose to go on a camping trip with my family because it's both a fun and affordable way to get away for a weekend, and who doesn't want to have a nature-filled adventure with their family!

I have spent 10% on the campsite in a beautiful park for one night and two days. I did this because the campsite is the main thing you need when you are camping. I also chose camping because you don't have to worry that where you are staying will dip too much into the money that would have been used for fun stuff. Since we go camping a lot, we already have the gear (tents, sleeping bags, ect).

The next thing I spent my money on is gas. Instead of spending a bunch of money on getting there, like a plane, I have decided to drive (this is another reason I have chosen camping). When you drive, your car will need gas. This is why I have also spent 10% on gas to get there and back.

I used another 12% on food. For Sunday's breakfast, I got bananas, waffles and bacon. This added up to about \$18. For Saturday evening dinner I got tacos, which included the shell, the sauce, the lettuce, the ground beef, tomatoes, and cheese. This added up to \$33. Lastly, I got hotdogs and corn on the cob for both lunches. This added up to about \$10. To drink (and save money), we will bring 2 big jugs of water with us from home. All Olympians will be treated to ice cream on the drive home.

Anyways, enough about this stuff - let's get to the fun part of this weekend! For my fun weekend, I have decided to hold a Family Olympics!

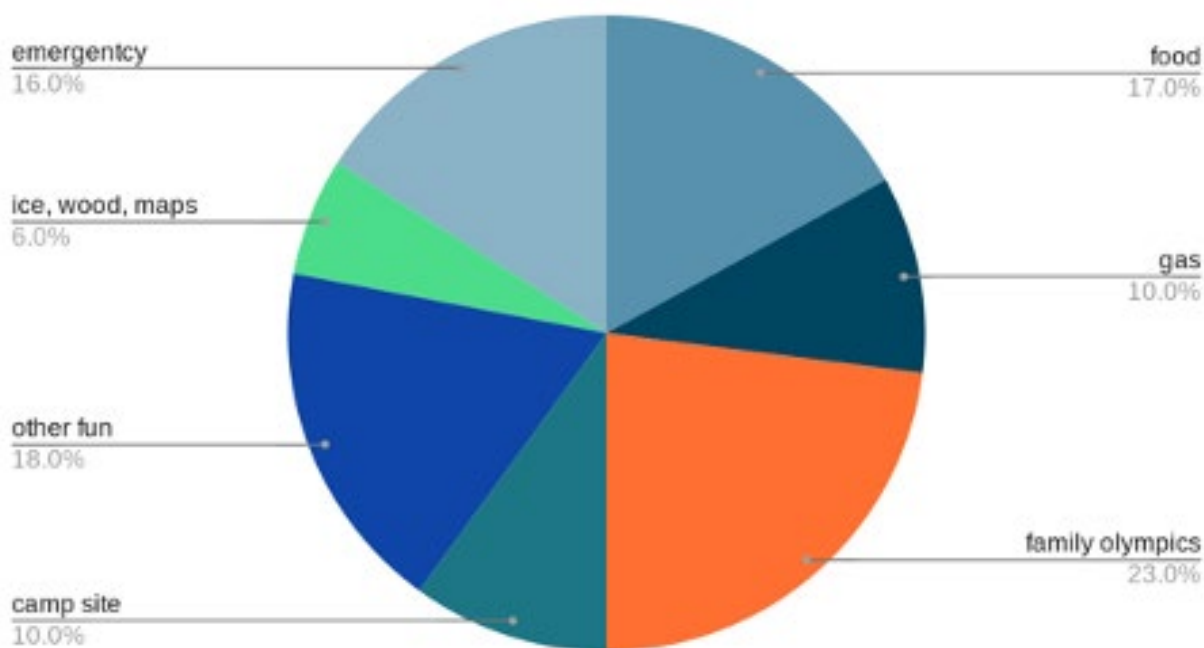
This will include many different activities such as trail running, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, biking, frisbee throwing, cliff jumping, swimming, and diving. And since every Olympics needs a prize, I bought the winner a secret card game (shhh...it's UNO)! I have spent about 23%, after deciding not to rent the following: bikes, running shoes and frisbees. These will be brought from home to save money.

I will rent fishing rods and bird watching kits though. This spent 18% of my money. Fishing rods are very expensive - a whole \$75!

Now that you know the fun part of our trip and the necessities, I will tell you about the extra stuff. We need some money for an emergency, ice, wood, and a map. I used about 22% on this. Most of the money I saved for an emergency... just in case.

That is my super awesome plan for a fun weekend that I just know my family would love!

Budget Spent*



Budget*	\$500.00	# Needed	Per Unit Cost
gas	\$50.00	1	\$50.00
wood for \$8/bag	\$16.00	2	\$8.00
cheese	\$5.00	1	\$5.00
taco shells	\$10.00	2	\$5.00
Ice for \$5/bag	\$10.00	2	\$5.00

ice cream	\$23.85	4	\$5.95
ground beef	\$8.00	1	\$8.00
tomatoes	\$3.50	1	\$3.50
lettuce	\$3.50	1	\$3.50
waffles	\$6.35	1	\$6.35
bacon	\$8.30	2	\$4.15
bananas	\$2.40	8	\$0.30
corn on the cob pack	\$2.60	2	\$1.30
hot dogs	\$5.00	1	\$5.00
hot dog buns	\$2.97	1	\$2.97
camp site	\$52.55	1	\$52.55
kayaks	\$48.00	2	\$24.00
paddle boards	\$60.00	2	\$30.00
emergency fund	\$80.00	1	\$80.00
prize – UNO game	\$7.00	1	\$7.00
map	\$6.00	1	\$6.00
fishing package	\$75.00	1	\$75.00
bird watching kit	\$13.98	2	\$6.98

****taxes included where relevant***