

CLUB NEWS – Summertime, and the Learning Is Easy!

From Escapees RV Club

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In an *Escapees* magazine article, "Grandparenting and RVing," John Shuman, SKP #21348, wrote, "I decided that I did not want to be remembered by my grandchildren as an old man who showed up at birthday parties, graduations, communions, and other family functions just to spend a few hours with them, then retreat back to my rocking chair."

Educational Travels



According to CBS News, there is a new trend towards "learning" vacations, but the fact of the matter is RVers enjoy this *perk* the moment they put their wheels in motion! RVers automatically educate themselves and their families as they travel. Children and grandchildren who RV have the added benefit of touching, smelling, and seeing their lessons in 3-D format. They will undoubtedly learn more than those who are limited to back-and-white photos in classic textbooks. Chances are, education along the RV trail will be so interesting and fun that they won't even recognize they are students and the world around them a classroom!

What child peering up at the Lincoln Memorial would guess that they are getting a first-class lesson in civil liberties? They will enjoy using the atlas to navigate Grandpa so much they'll never suspect they're learning geography at the same time! It's just a fun vacation to them as they inspect Dorothy's ruby slippers at the Smithsonian, hike through volcanic ash on Mount St. Helens, and cover their ears as cannons boom at a Civil War re-enactment.

Before the summer rolls into fall and kids have to be back in school, consider taking a grandchild, nephew, or niece along for the ride. It could be the trip of a lifetime for everyone. There's no need to spend a fortune going to expensive tourist attractions to entertain them. Hunting sea shells, taking a nature walk, building a scrapbook, shooting photographs, or creating a travel blog together are all virtually free.

There many ideal locations for educational vacations, Washington D.C. probably tops the list, but if you prefer a slower pace with less traffic, simply go online and Google the state you are interested in. You are sure to find interesting locations that will stimulate the mind, exercise the body, and lift the soul.

Or, if you are really ambitious you can follow Escapees members Bill and Jeanette Fisher's example. On July 4, 2009, they wrote: "*We are on tour with our eleven-year-old grandson, Elias, from KC. He's getting his history, culture, and*

geography tour of the East Coast. We've been to the St Louis Arch, Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Smoky Mountains, Natural Bridge, Blue Ridge Parkway, spent a week at Chesapeake Bay, Portsmouth, Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Virginia Beach. We spent a week in D.C. touring the monuments, Capitol, White House, Smithsonian, Arlington, zoo, aquarium, Holocaust Museum, and more. We just got to the Jersey shore yesterday (dead tired!). We still have NYC, Philly, Hershey, Gettysburg, Seneca Falls, New York, Niagara Falls to do... and get back in time for school to start August 15. He's learning about the Revolution, Civil War, slavery, women's suffrage, Indian relations, government, science, and natural history. He can recite the Gettysburg Address, and has read the Declaration of Independence and Preamble to the Constitution."

Now that's a summer **education vacation!**

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