

Fort Smith Family Explorer Checklist

Explore Your City

- Visit Fort Smith National Historic Site and learn about Judge Isaac Parker
- Walk along the Riverfront Trail and spot three pieces of public art or murals
- Stop by Miss Laura's Visitor Center and learn one fun historical fact
- Visit the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum (RAM) and make your own mini masterpiece at home
- Take a photo with your favorite mural from The Unexpected art project

Get Outside & Explore Nature

- Play, picnic, or ride bikes at Ben Geren Park
- Hike or kayak at Lake Fort Smith State Park
- Visit the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center – spot a turtle, bird, or fish
- Collect leaves and make leaf rubbings at Carol Ann Cross Park
- Take a day trip to Devil's Den State Park or Mount Magazine for hiking and nature discovery

Meet Your Community

- Visit a local fire station, police station, or post office and say thank you
- Attend a Fort Smith Public Library storytime or family event
- Visit a local farmers market and talk to a farmer about their produce
- Buy a treat from a locally owned bakery or coffee shop
- Write or draw a thank-you card for a community helper

Learn Through Creativity & History

- Tour a museum or historic site (Fort Smith Museum of History or Old Jail Museum in Greenwood)
- See a local play, concert, or event at The Bakery District or TempleLive
- Visit downtown Van Buren and ride the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad
- Stop by Chaffee Crossing and learn about its military history
- Try one new type of food from a local restaurant or food truck

Give Back Together

- Pick up litter at a local park or trail
- Donate toys, books, or clothes to a local shelter
- Visit a Little Free Library and drop off a book
- Volunteer or make a small donation as a family
- Do one random act of kindness for someone in your neighborhood

Bonus Challenge

- Draw your own “My Fort Smith Adventure Map” – mark your favorite spots
- Take a photo at each place you visit and create a scrapbook or slideshow
- See how many checkmarks you can complete before the end of the year!

Tip for Parents:

Turn this checklist into a family challenge – each time you complete five activities, celebrate with something small and fun (like a family movie night or picnic!).

Goal:

Explore → Connect → Learn → Give Back 