



## What Have You Got Planned This Summer?

As your group approaches the summer months it will be helpful to have a plan for connecting. You've worked hard to get to know each other! You've gotten to a point where you are beginning to form some great relationships that really will help you grow spiritually...as long as you stay connected! The summer is always a challenging time for small groups, but you can capitalize on the summer "AS LONG AS YOU PLAN AHEAD!" Here are some helpful tips:

### Tim's Top 10 Group Ideas for a Great Summer

**1. Make your plans now,** before you get into the heat of the summer.

Pull out a calendar and realize going into the planning session that you may not all be able to be at every meeting. *And it's ok to meet with just part of the group as long as you can include everyone over the course of the summer months.*

**2. Consider scaling back on meetings.**

If you're meeting every week, give some thought to twice a month. If you're meeting twice a month, think about meeting once for study and once for fellowship (maybe even at the park or a baseball game).

**3. Partner w/ several groups for an activity.**

This can be a great time to get to know a few more people at Southwinds! It is also a great opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to your group! (Picnic, Ports baseball game or whatever the group enjoys for fun)

**4. Plan a block party and ask your group to help you plan it and put it on!**

**5. Plan a movie night and take the whole family.**

All the families! Or have the movie night at home! Pop popcorn and serve cokes and movie candy! You might even have your own theater: one screen for the kids and another for the adults.

**6. Have a game night!**

Playing Pictionary, Scattergories or Cranium can be a great way to get to know your group. Or try playing Bunko or Mexican Dominoes. Whatever pulls you together and can include the kids is a great way to connect your group.

**7. Reach out as a group!** You may know of a family or a person that just needs some help with their yard or their home. Finding a way to play a part in meeting a need is a great way to stay connected!

**8. Serve together at Southwinds!**

On Sundays: team up as Ushers or Greeters or Children's Ministry! During the week: stuff bulletins on Friday mornings or provide office help. You can find out about these and other opportunities by sending an e-mail to [volunteer@southwinds.org](mailto:volunteer@southwinds.org)

**9. Sit together at the weekend service!**

This is a no-brainer. Even if you normally don't attend the same service, consider linking arms for the summer! Then, go out for lunch or coffee and desert after the service!

**10. Have a monthly party and invite your friends to join your group for dinner and a fun activity.**