



*Family Reunion
Planning Guide*



Family Reunion Planning Guide



"Our family reunion at Ideal Beach Resort was fabulous this year. The beach was beautiful, peaceful and fun. The large grass area provided ample play room for all ages. There were so many free activities that we incorporated into our reunion. Thank you for a wonderful experience."

- Carol Jeppson Parks

At Ideal Beach Resort, our focus is family, tradition and memories. That's why every year we host over 100 Family Reunions. Families love our kid-friendly condos, vast lawn for games, refreshing pools, relaxing beach time and marvelous mini golf course.

This Planning Guide will help you create the perfect Family Reunion to allow your family to reconnect, build stronger relationships and return home with life-long memories.

Step 1: Set a Date

Some families find it helpful to set aside the same week every year for their Family Reunion. That way everyone already has it blocked out on their calendar.



Photo Credit: Lauriann Wakefield, Little Starling Photography

If you're not sure of the date, start by setting a tentative date that makes sense to you based on your understanding of other people's commitments. Get some family members on the phone or start a discussion on social media for feedback on what date will be best for most people.

Remember that Ideal Beach Resort begins booking Summer vacation rentals for our repeat guests in January. Try and lock in the dates as soon as possible so you can ensure that we have accommodations available.



Step 2: Book Your Lodging

Ideal Beach Resort allows families who book their reunion with our Family Reunion Coordinator to have access to priority booking in January. This will give you a better chance at getting the dates and condos that work best for your family. At the end of this Planning Guide, you will find a link to a form asking how we can help with your reunion. If you are interested in priority booking, complete

the form and our Family Reunion Coordinator will reach out to help you start planning and booking your family reunion.

Before booking your lodging with us, make sure you know the following information:

- 2 or 3 potential dates for your Reunion
- Number of people you are hoping to accommodate
- Number of units you would like to book

Take time to look at the unit pictures and prices on our website. This will allow you to request the specific units you would like to book. [Click here to go to our website.](#)

Step 3: Plan Your Food

Wondering how on earth you will have time to cook for everyone? Good news – you don't have to! Consider these options when planning your menu:

Assign each family a day to prepare meals

If you have a number of families coming to your reunion, have each family take a day to prepare the meals for the whole group. This cuts down on the workload and allows families to share and showcase their favorite family dishes.



Make it Potluck Plan simple main dishes like hamburgers, pizza or barbecue chicken and then ask everyone to bring side dishes to go with the main dish.

Have theme dinners Select a different theme for every evening of your Reunion. Then ask families to bring a dish that fits with that theme. Some examples are:

- **Mexican Night** – chips and salsa, tacos, 7 layer dip, fajitas, cheese quesadillas
- **Italian Night** – spaghetti, pasta salad, lasagna, pizza, garlic bread, Caesar salad
- **Fair Food Night** – corn dogs, nachos, grilled corn on the cob, funnel cakes
- **BBQ Night** – hamburgers, hot dogs, macaroni salad, corn on the cob

Hire a Caterer If you want to spend more time enjoying your family and less time in the kitchen, consider hiring a caterer for your family dinners. The following restaurants will provide either onsite catering or prepared food you can pick up:

- **Cooper's Restaurant** – 208-945-2222
- **Bear Trapper Steakhouse** – 435-946-8484
- **Café Sabor** – 435-946-3297
- **Bear Lake Pizza** – 435-946-3000



Explore local restaurants Treat your family (and yourself) to a night out at one of several local restaurants. No one will complain when the menu calls for the 28 inch Old Ephraim Pizza at Bear Lake Pizza or a famous LaBeau's raspberry shake. Here are some local favorites to consider:



- **LaBeau's**
- **Cody's Gastro Garage**
- **Hometown Drive In**
- **Bear Lake Pizza**
- **Merlin's Drive In**
- **Zipz**
- **Firehouse Pizzeria**
- **Quick-N-Tasty**
- **Café Sabor**
- **Ruca's**
- **Crepes & Coffee**



Step 4: Plan Activities

At Ideal Beach Resort, there are so many amazing free activities available to your family, including pancake breakfasts, hot dog cookouts, bingo nights, and outdoor movies.

When putting together your itinerary, make sure you plan some bonding activities just for your family to help create those life-long memories.



Traditional lawn games It doesn't take much to organize a family volleyball tournament or kickball game. On our acres of lush green lawn, kids will have a ball with a water balloon fight or a game of frisbee.

Open mike Do you have talented family members who sing or play instruments? Invite the musicians in the family to perform. Or ask everyone to tell their favorite joke. This idea is hilarious with little kids who suddenly have a captive audience for their knock knock favorites.

A story circle The point of a family gathering is to get people together, sharing stories. Plan to have an hour set aside for everyone, young and old, to share a story about their lives. Pass a baton around the circle to keep things organized. What a great way to learn more about Grandma's childhood.



A craft corner If kids will be attending your event, set up a craft table on the lawn to keep them entertained. Kids will love going home with a souvenir from their trip.

Photo sharing Ask everyone to bring old photos to share and have a table set up where people can view old photos and albums brought by others. Another great reunion activity is to ask everyone to bring a baby picture. It's fun to guess which picture belongs to each family member.

Step 5: Upgrade Your Experience



Do you want to take your Family Reunion to the next level? Consider adding some extra special experiences into your itinerary.

Water Sports Ideal Beach Resort offers rentals of boats, tubes, wake boards, jet skis, paddleboards, kayaks and water trampolines. A day on the lake is an incredible family activity.

Family Photo Shoot Why not capture all those memories with a professional photo shoot by the lake. Lauriann

Wakefield of Little Starling Photography will come to the Resort, help pose and arrange your family and provide you with 10 different edited shots that you can print or share any way you like.

Family T-shirts Matching family reunion t-shirts can get your guests into the spirit of the event! Family pride has never been greater than when you're all wearing your matching family shirts! They say, "Yeah, we're related and proud of it!"

Private Movie Screening Does your family love blockbuster movies? Do you have great home videos to share? Ideal Beach

Resort can arrange for a private movie screening complete with popcorn and movie snacks.

Bike Rentals The Resort is full of bikeable sidewalks for a leisurely family bike ride. We rent a variety of bikes, tandems, children's bikes, baby seats and trailers to get your whole family in on the fun. Also, just outside the Resort, hop on the 4.5 mile Bear Lake Scenic Trail for a lovely way to spend an afternoon.

Take in a Show Since their first production in 1977, Pickleville Playhouse has been known for their unforgettable brand of family fun and entertainment. Every summer they stage a melodrama and a traditional musical. Gather your family for a night at the theater.



Photo Credit: Lauriann Wakefield, Little Starling Photography



Step 6: Let Us Plan Everything For You



Are the details overwhelming you? Has your family assigned you to put together the plan? Take the stress out of your family reunion by letting our Family Reunion Coordinator take care of everything. We can customize an itinerary for your family and take care of all the booking details. Here is a list of services our Family Reunion Coordinator can provide:

- Book condos for your entire party
- Create a multi-day itinerary customized for your family's preferences
- Book water sports packages, including boat rentals, jet skis, paddleboards, etc.
- Book bike rentals
- Arrange for a photographer to come to the Resort for a family photo shoot
- Arrange for a private movie screening for your family
- Design and customize family t-shirts and arrange for their delivery to the Resort
- Provide crafts supplies for your family's craft table
- Hire a caterer for family meals
- Provide ideas for family games and activities
- Arrange for experiences off the Resort such as horseback riding or four-wheeling
- Book tickets to Pickleville Playhouse

[Click here to fill out a form to let us know how we can help](#)

Step 7: Enjoy!

At Ideal Beach Resort, we know how to host the best family reunions ever! Many of our families have been coming here for 40 years because they know we offer something for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you and your family soon!

