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Head: Affordable and Fun Activities for ARC Students During Summertime and Beyond

Teaser: With summer here, ARC students looking to relax without overspending have several affordable activities to consider.


Photo Caption :  News_10things_ToDo_InSummer_ME

Photo Caption 1 The American River Trail is a great spot where people can bike or hike and enjoy nature, March 7, 2026 (Photo by Marjorie Escobar)

Photo Caption 2 A peaceful place for exercise during summer break at the American River trail, March 7, 2026 (Photo by Marjorie Escobar)

Photo Caption 3 J Street in Old Sacramento with local shops to enjoy from, visitor centers, Historic Buildings and a lively atmosphere. March 7, 2026 (Photo by Marjorie Escobar)

Photo Caption 4 Old Sacramento Tower Bridge, people can enjoy great river views day or night, March 7, 2026 (Photo by Marjorie Escobar)

Photo Caption 5 The California State Capitol in Sacramento offers free admission and insight into the state's history, March 7, 2026 (Photo by Marjorie Escobar)

Photo Caption 6 Inside the Capitol Museum visitors can learn about California's government and past leaders, March 7, 2026 (Photo by Marjorie Escobar)

Photo Caption 7. The Capitol Museum displays historical artifacts and restored rooms from California's past, March 7, 2026 (Photo by Marjorie Escobar)

Tags: American River College, ARCurrent, Summer break, Student life, Budget Activities, Local Activities, Articles by Marjorie Escobar, Marjorie Escobar

Hashtags: #ARC, #SummerBreak, #StudentBudget, #FunActivities, #TheCurrent.

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As summer break approaches at American River College, many students are preparing for a week away from classes. While some may choose to travel, others are looking for affordable ways to relax and recharge without overspending.

For community college students balancing school expenses, transportation and other things, budget-friendly plans can make summer break more accessible. Fortunately, Sacramento and the surrounding areas offer a variety of low-cost and free activities for students staying local.

Students can consider the following options during summer and beyond:

1. Explore Old Sacramento. The historic waterfront district offers river views, shops and walking areas that people can enjoy for free. Check out a list of upcoming events [here](#).
2. Walk or bike along the American River parkway. The trail surrounded by nature provides space for exercise, relaxation and quality time outdoors with great views.
3. Visit the California State Capitol Museum. The museum offers free admission and allows visitors to explore California's history and government. Visit its [website](#) for hours and other information.
4. Spend the day at Folsom Lake. The lake offers outdoor recreation, scenic views and walking trails close to the Sacramento area. Visit the parks website [here](#).
5. Host a movie night. Watching movies or shows with friends at home can be a relaxing and budget friendly way to spend the time during the break. Rotten Tomatoes has great options to watch some of the [Best TV Shows](#).
6. Visit vintage stores. Sacramento has several vintage shops where students can browse unique and affordable items. Some options are Racks Vintage Boutique, Old Gold and The Antique Company.
7. Try local coffee shops. Exploring small coffee shops around Sacramento can provide a change of scenery while supporting local businesses. Some of these are Terra Forte Coffee, Creme Coffee, Blueprint Coffee Project, and Con Azucar cafe.
8. Start a new book or Netflix series. Summer break can be a good opportunity for students to relax and enjoy entertainment they may not have time for during the semester.
9. Visit art galleries in Midtown Sacramento. The Midtown area features several galleries that showcase local artist and community creativity. These are great options to visit at [The Artists' Collaborative](#), [Self Designs Art Gallery](#), and [EFG Private Collections](#).
10. Attend a community volunteer event. Participating in volunteer activities allows students to give back while staying engaged during their time off.

Summertime provides an opportunity for students to relax and take a break from coursework before returning to the remainder of the upcoming semester. Affordable activities around Sacramento make it possible for ARC students to enjoy their time off while staying within budget.

