

Think Outside the House
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I scream, you scream – we all scream for...school to start again! School's been out for six weeks now. Your family has taken vacation. You've done the "pool thing." The Six Flags Elitch Gardens staff knows you by name. You're running out of ways to entertain your children, and you'd like your living room back, thank you very much. So what's next?

The Olympics! That's right, they're about to hit your neighborhood and they're guaranteed to keep the little ones busy for awhile. Here's your very own Backyard Olympic Kit. You'll need to recruit a team manager and score keeper. Each activity can be a team or individual competition.

Invitations

- Decide who to invite – friends, neighbors, kids on the next block
- Include Date, Time, Location, and RSVP info

Uniforms

- Plain, white T-shirts decorated by each team

Decorations

- Make a poster of the Olympic flag
- Hang crepe paper and balloons in the colors of the Olympic rings
- Make a platform/stage for the medal ceremonies
- Make an Olympic torch out of a paper towel roll covered in foil – use colored tissue paper for the flame
- Make medals out of cardboard and ribbon

Goodie Bags for Participants

- Fill bags with inexpensive dollar-store toys, stickers, and goods

Refreshments

- Popsicles
- Home-made ice cream
- Popcorn
- Flavored waters
- Snow cones
- Fresh fruit

Events

- Opening Ceremonies – parade of athletes to Olympic music
- Closing Ceremonies – medals awarded
- Oath of Sportsmanship
- Let the Games Begin!

- Ladder Golf – www.laddergolf.com
 This is a wonderful game to add to your backyard collection. Kids both young and old will be entertained for hours with Ladder Golf.
- Fishing Pond
 Fill a small, plastic pool with water. Drop lots of marbles into the bottom of the pool. Athletes have 1 minute to pick up as many marbles with their toes as they can. Each team member takes a turn and the team with the most marbles wins.
- Squirt Gun Fun
 Set up a folding table and align six cups with filled with water on the edge of the table – three on one side and three on the other. Athletes line up 10-15 feet from the table and try to shoot the cups off the table with Super Soakers. Time each athlete's attempt and the team with the lowest time wins.
- Potato Sack Races
 Use heavy duty trash bags or old pillow cases.
- Watermelon Roll Relay
 Set up a course with cones. Each team member must roll a greased watermelon to the end of the course, then pick the watermelon up and hand it to the next team member.
- Beach Bucket Water Relay
 Set two buckets twenty feet apart. Fill one bucket with a gallon of water. Starting line is behind the empty bucket. One at a time team members run to the bucket filled with water and scoop water up in a paper cup. Athletes must walk quickly back to the starting line with the paper cups on their heads – then empty the paper cups into the starting line buckets. The first team that empties the gallon water bucket wins.
- Inner Tube Ring Toss
 Athletes toss inner tubes onto a cone 5-10 feet away.
- Frisbee Discus Toss
 Whoever tosses the Frisbee farthest, wins.