

Raleigh Summer Fun: How to Make the Best of Taking Summer Classes

Stuart Lee
Contributing Writer

Sad because you are stuck spending your summer in Raleigh taking summer classes while your friends relax at the pool? Here are five things you can do in your free time to make the best of your summer.

1. Enjoy the Outdoors

Grab your friend, neighbor or pet and go for a walk at one of Raleigh's many trails. If you are in an apartment by Gorman Street, visit Lake Johnson right off Avent Ferry Road. The park offers a three mile walking trail, picnic tables and a pond with canoe and kayak

rentals. Not sure where a park is in your area? Visit raleighnc.gov for a listing of all the parks in Raleigh.

2. Expand Your Knowledge

Whether you are interested in the arts, history, science, world cultures or wildlife, Raleigh has a museum to suit your taste. Most of the museums offer different exhibits that are always changing, lasting only a few months at a time so, you are able to see different exhibits every time you go.

3. Take a Tour*

For the twenty-one

and up crowd, take a tour of Big Boss Brewing Company. The tour takes place on the second Saturday of every month at two in the afternoon. See how some of your favorite year-round and seasonal, Raleigh-made beers are brewed.

4. Go Green

Take a trip to the NC State Solar House, which serves as a research center for renewable energy. The solar house is a working model of solar and energy-efficient technologies that can be implemented into a home

to make it more environmentally friendly.

5. Enjoy the Festivities

Raleigh is the host to many different festivals throughout the year. Some of the festivals include local food, wine, and beer sampling, auto shows, renaissance fairs, and many more. Most of the festivals are free to get in so, you can spend the day people watching, or you can bring a few dollars and shop around for food and trinkets. For event dates go to visitraleigh.com, and

click on "things to do."

Still looking for more to do? Check out visitraleigh.com for a complete listing of fun activities, restaurant guides, deals coupons, and much more.

How to Have a Bad First Date

Lindsay Astor
Contributing Writer

"Baby, what's your sign?" Even though girls are no longer wooed with this ridiculous pick-up line, there still remain red flags that are just as glaring. For every girl who receives the romantic chocolate and flowers, there are just as many who find themselves on a much more awkward and embarrassing date. So when you are tired of watching chick-flicks of idealistic romance, here's how to crash and burn on a date and have your friends laughing through its retelling.

In order to set up your night for disaster, you should start getting ready at least two hours

before he is supposed to pick you up. Put on an outfit that generally consists of tight jeans and a low-cut shirt. Stand in front of the mirror for at least ten minutes, take off the outfit and select a new one from your closet. You repeat this process until you have tried on every outfit choice from your closet and end up putting your first choice back on. Apply your make-up with a heavy hand. Make sure to generously coat sparkling lipgloss and to spritz enough perfume so that your roommate can taste it.

At this rate, you would probably think that you are going to be late, but a quick glance at

your laptop tells you that you have about twenty minutes of freak-out time until he comes to pick you up. Proceed to wait around anxiously for him to arrive. You may pace around your room, check your e-mail repetitively, or compulsively check your cell phone for missed calls. Do not feel unworthy when he finally arrives in the front circle fifteen minutes later than intended. Feel free to assume that the stimulating conversation and gentlemanly manners will make up for lost time; do not display your feeling of dissatisfaction on your face when this assumption proves false.

Strut your stuff to the car. Do not become too

overwhelmed by the rap music you hear blasting from his ten-inch subwoofers. Casually slip in the passenger seat and exclaim, "This is my favorite song!"

The next part is crucial: run out of things to talk about halfway to the restaurant. Despite the jokes he had you laughing at online, you realize that his cyberspace persona is much more enlightening and entertaining than he is in real life. Amuse yourself for the rest of the drive by counting the number of red cars on the road or reading bumper stickers. As you sit in awkward silence, mentally re-evaluate your outfit choice as he attempts to impress

you by speeding through yellow traffic lights and jerking into a parking spot. Agree with him when he says he's never gotten a ticket.

If you want a truly memorable experience, limit conversation to the weather and your sick little sister. Nothing is more exciting to a college guy than humidity and Tylenol. After the apathetic, gum-smacking waitress has listed every mouthwatering specialty, order a salad. You know you don't actually want the low-fat, low-calorie bowl of green leaves instead of the loaded baked potato, but you still want to appear