

# SUMMER SPLENDOR

“How immensely blessed are those souls who . . . strive for the emergence of a society shaped by the divine teachings.” —The Universal House of Justice

The weather is warmer, the days are longer, and summer break is in full swing. Summer is a great time to head outside and get to know your neighbors better!

Bahá'ís and friends around the world are finding fun and

creative ways to strengthen connections in their neighborhoods and communities. Whether you invite friends to a picnic or a prayer gathering, these activities can help you appreciate beauty in nature and in wonderful neighbors.

## BALLOON BOP

Choose a Bahá'í quote to memorize together. Give each person a paper plate to decorate, then tape a jumbo craft stick to back of each plate.

Blow up a balloon. Using decorated plates as paddles, pass balloon to each other. When someone hits balloon, they say the next word of quote (with help from group if needed). Start over every time the group forgets a word or a player misses balloon. Play until you can easily recite the quote.



## CATERPILLARS ROCK



For each caterpillar, clean six smooth stones and paint with bright colors. When dry, choose one stone for its head and draw a face on it. Glue two sticks to back of head for antennae.

Decorate rocks with non-toxic permanent markers or paint pens. Write a virtue on each. Work together to balance stones into a caterpillar. Glue in place with strong glue.

## BLOSSOMING FRIENDSHIPS



Divide into teams of four or five. Give each group large sheet of paper and markers. Each group draws a large flower with a center and 1–3 petals for each person.

In flower's center, group members write five things they have in common. Focus on interests and experiences (“We all like to swim”), not general commonalities (“We all ate lunch”). Each person writes something unique about themselves on their petals and decorates them. Teams share finished flower with larger group.

## BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITIES

Cut simple nature shapes, such as butterflies or daisies, from cardstock or cardboard. In center, write a virtue or quote that reminds you of your community. Punch holes around outside of quote.

Gather items such as leaves, wildflowers, and dandelions, and insert into each hole to decorate. Use tape on back to secure items if needed.



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