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**OUTDOOR ADVENTURES • FAMILY FUN
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5 Natural Wonder
The Holden Arboretum |
 Kirtland, Ohio

Usually only adults and children 12 and older take a guided expedition to the remote 820-acre Stebbins Gulch in **The Holden Arboretum Kirtland, Ohio**. But children as young as 8 will have a rare opportunity to be part of a special family hike on May 26. Children hiking through this pristine natural area explore exposed rock formations and the East Branch of the Chagrin River, and climb several waterfalls. But even without a hike, every day is a fun, educational experience at Holden's Buckeye Woods Adventure Woods, according to manager information services Marian Williams. The 35-acre, natural outdoor area is geared for kids ages 3 to 12 and is easily accessible from the Visitors Center. Kids tackle a log obstacle course

or mini zipline, build shelters from sticks and other natural materials, feed birds and act in an outdoor theater.

One of the newest kid-friendly features at Holden is a giant platform bird nest in the Display Garden area. Kids climb about seven feet to the top of the tree where the "nest" is located. Once inside the nest, they can peer over the sides for a bird's eye view of the gardens and a pond.

To help families make the most of their outdoor adventures, Holden offers nature identification books from its well-stocked library. Also available are free, themed Discovery Packs. (Think stream exploration, bird and tree identification and more). If kids can't leave electronics completely behind, the Listen and Learn cell phone prompt program lets kids hear the difference between the sounds made by bullfrogs and green frogs. Ribbit! Ribbit!

—JILL SELL



East Tawas

7 Bays, Beaches and Birds
East Tawas getaway | East Tawas, Mich.

A stress-free, noncommercial getaway awaits those who choose East Tawas, on Michigan's famed sunrise coast, as their summertime vacation destination. Surrounded by Lake Huron, Tawas Bay and the Au Sable River, East Tawas offers families a plethora of warm-weather activities including birding, boating and beaching.

In the spring, bird lovers flock to the Tawas Point Birding Festival (May 16–19), when several species of migratory birds return home. Visit the Tawas Point State Park lighthouse for unparalleled views of the best birding in the Midwest. Pack a picnic, take a hike and view wildlife all in one place.

Rent canoes, kayaks or wave runners for unbeatable family fun or bring your bikes and pedal the picturesque 10.2-mile paved bike path that hugs the Lake Huron shoreline. Your kids won't miss their electronic gadgets when challenged to build killer sand castles on the miles of pristine beaches.

Harbor Park, the city's activity hub, hosts many local parades and festivals. From there, take a stroll through the charming downtown area that harks back to yesteryear with a Ben Franklin five-and-dime store, affordable movie theater and plenty of family-friendly restaurants.

The Lumberman's Monument is an attraction worth the short drive for the incredible history of Michigan's lumbering era. Exhibits and hands-on displays recall the grueling, often dangerous, life in the logging camps. Pretend you're a lumberjack and operate the cross-cut saw, climb a log jam or hop on the floating cook shack near the edge of the Au Sable river.

Camp, rent a log cabin or stay in a full-service resort. Creating the perfect getaway is so simple, visiting East Tawas might just become a family tradition.

—KIM MURRAY



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