



FREE COMMUNITY-BUILDING WORKBOOK

Florida Homeschool Community, Friendship and Social Connection Planner

A child-centered workbook for finding recurring relationships—not merely adding more activities—through libraries, co-ops, parks, 4-H, service, sports, arts, and family-created gatherings.

Inside this resource

- ☐ Child interests, comfort, and access profile
- ☐ County-first opportunity search map
- ☐ Trial-visit and recurring-fit tracker
- ☐ Friendship follow-up and family safety plan
- ☐ Simple meetup and community-building template

Created by a homeschool parent. Built for Florida families.

Updated October 2026



Define connection before choosing activities

A full calendar can still feel lonely. Ask what kinds of people, group sizes, settings, shared interests, and frequency help this child feel safe, useful, and known.

Prompt	Child/family answer	Need or boundary	What to try
Interests and favorite topics			
Preferred age mix			
One-to-one or group comfort			
Noise/sensory/access needs			
Faith/secular preference			
Competitive or collaborative			
Indoor/outdoor preference			
Best days and travel radius			



SEARCH LOCALLY

Use several community doors

Door	What to look for	County/source	Next event or contact
Public library	Recurring youth/teen clubs, maker/STEM, book groups, study space		
UF/IFAS Extension and 4-H	Clubs, projects, camps, leadership, agriculture, service		
Florida State Parks	Ranger programs, Junior Ranger, nature walks, volunteer events		
Co-op/support group	Repeated contact, parent fit, age and learning approach		
Sports/arts/music	Team or ensemble rhythm, coaching, fees, performance expectations		
Service/community	Meaningful roles, supervision, consistent peers		
Faith/cultural organization	Belonging, values, intergenerational connection		
Family-created gathering	A small repeatable meetup around a shared interest		



TRY BEFORE COMMITTING

A four-visit fit check

Visit/date	People/setting	Child's energy before/after	Connection noticed	Return?

Look for recurrence

Friendship usually needs repeated, low-pressure contact. A good fit is not only a fun first event; it is a setting the family can return to often enough for names, trust, shared work, and follow-up to develop.



CHECK THE ADULTS AND LOGISTICS

Make participation sustainable

- ☐ Confirm current organizer, location, schedule, age range, cost, registration, and capacity directly.
- ☐ Ask about supervision, drop-off rules, background screening, emergency contacts, photos, transportation, and communication channels.
- ☐ Ask how conflict, bullying, exclusion, allergies, disability access, sensory needs, and behavior concerns are handled.
- ☐ Understand parent volunteer, fundraising, supply, travel, uniform, or membership expectations.
- ☐ Use public meeting places and family safety practices for new informal contacts.
- ☐ Do not post a child's full identity, precise routine, or private needs in a public group merely to find a match.

Group/activity

Adult contact

Safety/access answer

Total commitment

Family decision



FOLLOW UP

Turn a good interaction into a relationship

Person/family	Shared interest	Safe follow-up route	Next invitation	Parent/guardian note

Keep consent visible

Let children have a voice in follow-up. Parents or guardians should manage contact and privacy in ways appropriate to age, circumstances, and family safety.



CREATE SOMETHING SMALL

A repeatable meetup plan

Shared interest or purpose

Ideal group size and ages

Public or approved location

Simple 60-90 minute rhythm

Materials and total cost

Access and sensory plan

Adult roles and supervision

Registration/contact method

Photo/privacy rule

Next two dates

Design for repeat visits

Choose a structure that one family can host consistently: a park sketch walk, library book club, board-game hour, teen project circle, nature journal meetup, service team, or shared maker table.



REFLECT

Connection, not comparison

Month	Where we returned	Who feels more known	What is missing	One adjustment

Portfolio possibility

Save a short reflection, project photo with consent, event program, badge, service verification, nature journal, or presentation when it genuinely documents learning. Social participation does not need to become schoolwork every time.



VERIFY

Official Florida discovery sources

[Florida Department of State - Public Library Homepages](#)

[Florida Department of State - Public Library Map](#)

[UF/IFAS - Find Your Local County Extension Office](#)

[Florida State Parks - Events](#)

**Reviewed
October 2, 2026**

Programs, organizers, locations, openings, ages, fees, supervision, and accessibility change. Verify directly before attending, paying, sharing personal information, or leaving a child in another person's care.

Our next three connection steps
