

PUTTING THE “FAMILY” BACK IN FAMILY HISTORY WORK

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Importance of Family Connections

- Emotional and psychological benefits
- Strengthening family bonds across generations

Connecting with our family history has numerous benefits. It strengthens our emotional and psychological well-being, helps us understand our roots, and fosters a sense of belonging and identity. By bridging the gap between past, present, and future generations, we create a legacy of relationships that can be treasured for years to come.

Engaging Family With Talents & Interests

Identifying Talents & Interests

- Methods to discover family members' talents and interests
- Creating a family talent and interest inventory

Connecting Talents to Family History

- Examples of how specific talents can be used (e.g., music, art, writing)
 - Once you've identified these talents, think about how they can be linked to your family history. For example, if someone loves music, they could explore the musical traditions of your ancestors. If someone enjoys cooking, they could recreate family recipes passed down through generations.

Overview of FamilySearch Together App

One of the standout features is the Together App. This app allows family members to collaborate on building their family tree, share stories, and connect in meaningful ways."

How to access Together by FamilySearch:

- On the website -
1. Sign into your FamilySearch account.
 2. On your home page, scroll down and locate "FamilySearch Labs".
 3. Click on "View Experiments".
 4. On the "Together by FamilySearch" card, click "**Try It**".



Also available as an app!

"In a world of mass connectivity and social media, the core needs of genuine connection and identity are lost within the superficial landscape of current platforms -- particularly for families. Capture the powerful, impactful experiences of your life and share them privately with your own family members. Create private family groups, share family stories and photos, connect to your ancestors, explore your family stories, and learn from the past to help strengthen the future. Together by FamilySearch is specifically designed to strengthen your family past, present and future. Strengthen family ties with Together by FamilySearch."

- Product description in Apple Store

Note: Initial family tree creation and data input on FamilySearch needs to be done in order to see options for family stories, etc.

Demonstration Notes:

Using FamilySearch and the Memories App

Log into the account

Interactive Features

- Recording and sharing stories
- Uploading photos and videos
- Collaborative projects and activities

Activities to Strengthen Family Bonds

Storytelling Sessions

- Organizing family storytelling events – in person or virtually. Record and preserve them.
- Physical and digital storytelling techniques - scrapbooking and oral storytelling, are also valuable in preserving our family history.

Family Talent Showcases

- Planning and executing a family talent show

Creative Projects

- Creating family recipe books, art galleries, and music playlists
- Incorporating family history themes into these projects

Thirty Fun Ideas List

Building a Generational Wealth of Relationships

Shared experiences are key to building strong family bonds. By engaging in these activities, you're creating memories and traditions that will be cherished. Multi-generational interactions enrich our lives and help us appreciate our family's journey.

Preserving family history, tradition, and legacy can be a fun and meaningful activity that involves multiple generations. Here are some creative ideas:

1. Family Storytelling Nights

- **Description:** Organize regular family gatherings where everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, shares stories about their lives or about ancestors.
- **Interactive Element:** Use props or costumes related to the stories being told to make it more engaging and record these sessions for future generations.

2. Create a Family Cookbook

- **Description:** Compile favorite family recipes, including notes about their origins and any special stories associated with them.
- **Interactive Element:** Host cooking sessions where older generations teach younger ones how to prepare these dishes. Capture these moments on video.

3. Digital Family Tree Projects

- **Description:** Use online tools and apps like FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, or the Together App to build a comprehensive family tree.
- **Interactive Element:** Assign different family members to research different branches of the family and hold virtual meetings to share findings and add to the tree.

4. Memory Quilts

- **Description:** Create a quilt using fabric pieces that have special significance, like old clothing, blankets, or even handkerchiefs from different family members.
- **Interactive Element:** Have quilting bees where family members gather to sew the quilt together, sharing stories about each piece of fabric as they work.

5. Family Scrapbook

- **Description:** Make a scrapbook filled with photos, letters, and mementos, with captions explaining each item's significance.
- **Interactive Element:** Host scrapbooking parties where each person brings items to add and work together on the layout and design.

6. Ancestry Art Projects

- **Description:** Create family trees as art pieces, using different mediums like painting, drawing, or even digital art.
- **Interactive Element:** Collaborate on these projects by having each generation add their touch, making it a true multi-generational masterpiece.

7. Time Capsule

- **Description:** Put together a time capsule with items representing the current family and significant

heirlooms or letters describing life today and family traditions.

- **Interactive Element:** Have a family gathering to decide what goes into the capsule and choose a date for it to be opened by future generations.

8. Oral History Recordings

- **Description:** Record interviews with older family members, asking them to recount their life stories and memories of ancestors.
- **Interactive Element:** Involve younger family members in conducting the interviews, helping them learn about their heritage firsthand.

9. Family Heritage Travel

- **Description:** Plan trips to significant family locations, like ancestral homes, hometowns, or countries of origin.
- **Interactive Element:** Create travel diaries or vlogs documenting the journey, with each family member contributing their perspectives and discoveries.

10. Themed Family Reunions

- **Description:** Organize family reunions around themes that celebrate family history, such as "Decades Day" where everyone dresses from a specific era.
- **Interactive Element:** Include activities like a family history trivia game, talent shows where family

members share inherited skills, or a display of family heirlooms.

11. Legacy Letters

- **Description:** Write letters to future generations, sharing wisdom, experiences, and hopes for the family's future.
- **Interactive Element:** Collect letters from all family members and store them in a special box or binder to be read at future family gatherings.

12. Genealogy Workshops

- **Description:** Host workshops where family members can learn how to research genealogy, use family history software, or create family trees.
- **Interactive Element:** Pair up younger and older family members to work on projects together, fostering collaboration and mentorship.

13. Family Film Projects

- **Description:** Create a documentary or short film about your family's history, including interviews, old photos, and home videos.
- **Interactive Element:** Assign roles to different family members, such as director, interviewer, editor, and researcher, to make it a collaborative effort.

14. Ancestral Recipe Challenge

- **Description:** Have a friendly family competition where each member prepares a dish from an ancestral recipe.
- **Interactive Element:** Include taste-testing and voting, and award prizes for categories like “Most Authentic” or “Best Presentation.”

15. Family History Podcast

- **Description:** Start a family podcast where you discuss family stories, interview relatives, and explore genealogy topics.
- **Interactive Element:** Rotate hosting duties among different family members and include guest appearances from various relatives.

16. Ancestry-Themed Escape Room

- **Description:** Create an escape room at home with puzzles and clues related to your family history.
- **Interactive Element:** Work together to solve mysteries and learn more about your ancestors in the process.

17. Heritage Garden

- **Description:** Plant a garden with plants and flowers that have significance to your family’s heritage or that were favorites of ancestors.
- **Interactive Element:** Involve family members in planting, maintaining, and

harvesting the garden, and share the history of each plant.

18. Family History Book Club

- **Description:** Read books about your family’s country of origin or historical period relevant to your ancestors and discuss them together.
- **Interactive Element:** Choose books that different age groups can enjoy and host regular discussions, possibly paired with relevant foods or activities.

19. Ancestral Costume Party

- **Description:** Host a costume party where everyone dresses as an ancestor or in the traditional clothing of your family’s heritage.
- **Interactive Element:** Have a photo booth, storytelling sessions, and a fashion show to showcase the costumes and share their historical significance.

20. Family Genealogy Blog or Website

- **Description:** Create a blog or website dedicated to your family’s history, where members can post stories, photos, and research.
- **Interactive Element:** Assign roles for different family members, such as writer, photographer, or editor, to contribute regularly.

21. Historical Reenactments

- **Description:** Reenact significant events from your family's history, such as an ancestor's migration or a pivotal moment in their life.
- **Interactive Element:** Write scripts, create costumes, and perform these reenactments at family gatherings or reunions.

22. Photo Restoration and Digitization Projects

- **Description:** Scan, restore, and digitally archive old family photos.
- **Interactive Element:** Involve younger family members in the technology aspects and older members in identifying people and events in the photos.

23. Genealogy Scrap Swap

- **Description:** Have a family scrap swap where each member brings copies of old photos, documents, or family stories to share.
- **Interactive Element:** Create a communal scrapbook or digital archive from the shared items, with everyone contributing.

24. Ancestral Artifacts Display

- **Description:** Set up a display or mini museum at home with family artifacts, heirlooms, and memorabilia.
- **Interactive Element:** Create informational tags or a guided tour

with stories about each item and rotate the display regularly.

25. Multi-Generational Music Playlist

- **Description:** Compile a playlist of songs that were significant to different generations of your family.
- **Interactive Element:** Have a family dance party or sing-along where each generation teaches the others about their music choices.

26. DIY Family History Board Game

- **Description:** Create a board game based on your family's history, with trivia questions, challenges, and landmarks from your genealogy research.
- **Interactive Element:** Play the game together at family gatherings, with opportunities to share more stories as you play.

27. Heritage Handicrafts

- **Description:** Learn and practice traditional crafts or skills from your family's cultural heritage, such as knitting, woodworking, or pottery.
- **Interactive Element:** Hold workshops where family members teach each other these skills, creating keepsakes in the process.

28. Genealogy Road Trip

- **Description:** Plan a road trip to visit significant places from your family's

history, such as ancestral homes, cemeteries, or historical landmarks.

- **Interactive Element:** Document the journey with a travel journal, photos, and videos, and share your findings with the family.

29. Create a Family Legacy Journal

- **Description:** Start a journal where each family member can write down their memories, stories, and reflections about family history.
- **Interactive Element:** Pass the journal around at gatherings or mail it to

distant relatives, so everyone can contribute.

30. Family History Scavenger Hunt

- **Description:** Organize a scavenger hunt with clues related to family history, like finding old photographs, documents, or significant locations.
- **Interactive Element:** Divide into teams with a mix of generations and work together to solve the clues and learn more about your family's past.

By involving multiple generations in these activities, you not only preserve your family's history and traditions but also create new memories and strengthen the bonds between family members.