



44 Things to Do on a Money-Free Weekend

1 Check out the community calendar.

Look at the Middelburginfo.co.za website and local newspapers for events and activities taking place in the area.

2 Visit your local library.

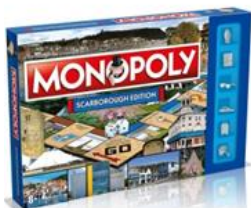
We have Gert Sikota Library located at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and other libraries in town that you can visit for books and information.

3 Get involved in community sports.

We have community sports fields (Kees taljard Stadium) where both youth and adult sports leagues and activities are regularly going on throughout the weekend.

4 Play board games.

Play board games like Monopoly, Chess and 30 seconds board games.



5 Meet your neighbors.

Make an effort to introduce yourself to your neighbors if you don't know them very well. If you meet any interesting people in your neighborhood, invite them over for a cup of coffee and a chat, just to get to know each other better.

6 Start or join a fantasy sports league.

Whether its cricket, rugby, netball, hockey, or soccer, there's always a pro sport in season somewhere. You can contact the Marathon club for all the Sporting events in the area.



7 Organize a self-guided walking tour.

Research the interesting historic and cultural sites in our town, then go on a walking tour of them. Pack a lunch in your backpack and have a picnic on the village green or in the park. Contact the Middelburg Info Centre for places.



8 Take some photos.

Take your phone or digital camera out with you and take pictures of anything you find interesting. Take lots of them, then go home later and see if you've taken anything beautiful and compelling. You can share your pictures with the camera club.



9 Organize a potluck block party.

Get permission from the city and neighbors in the street to do this before you try it – ask if you can block off a street for a block party on a certain date. Then throw yourself into organizing it. Go door to door, telling people about the block party, and inviting them to bring something. Ask if they have tables and/or chairs that can be used for it. Then, on the day of the party, set out the tables and chairs you borrowed and dig in.

10 Visit a free museum or a zoo (or find out when you might be able to get in for free).

Amora Voel Park is always a great stop for the toddlers and Gustav Animal Park. We have 16 Historical Sites you can visit in Middelburg, do contact the Info Centre for more info about the Historical sites.

11 Cook some meals in advance.

If you already have a bunch of basic food staples on hand, spend some time cooking some meals in advance to store in the freezer. It's easy to prepare casseroles, soups, pasta meals, breakfast burritos, and many other items all at once, and then store them in portion-sized containers in the freezer for quick and easy reheating on a busy weekday. Check out the cooking channels on TV

12 Practice origami.

All you need is some scrap paper and a bit of time. Start with the simple things, like cranes and frogs, and then you can try harder stuff like an origami iris. Making fun creations out of paper is a surefire way to delight and surprise kids, and a well-made origami piece constructed from interesting paper can be a beautiful decoration.

13 Play soccer (football).

Invite your friends and neighbors for a football match.

14 Reading Club-Kids

Help school kids with reading. Get reading bookings from your local library and teach children how to read.

15 Open up a 'time capsule.'

You may not have set out to make an official time capsule 10 or more years ago, but chances are you have some old photos, high school notebooks, or other mementos stuffed in a box somewhere, whether in a closet, under the bed, or in the attic. Pull them out and grant yourself the time to revel in those old memories or share them with your kids.



16 Try Geocaching.

Part outdoor adventure, part treasure hunt, Geocaching — hiking in search of hidden “caches” you can track by their GPS coordinates — is one of our family’s favorite frugal activities. If you have a GPS device or a smartphone, you don’t need to buy anything else to get started.

Just visit Geocaching.com and type in your home address (or the address where you plan to be walking or hiking), and you’ll likely find a few geocaches stashed in the area. Pick one, add the

coordinates to your GPS (or just use the app on your smartphone), and head out the door, letting your device serve as a treasure map.

17 Do a neighborhood cleanup.

No need to organize a formal activity. Just walk through the shared spaces in your neighborhood (parks, sidewalks, etc.) with a trash bag and a pair of gloves, and pick up the litter.

18 Build a giant blanket fort.

If you have kids, there are few things more fun than an afternoon spent building and playing in a gigantic fort in the living room. Use chairs, blankets, and tables to make an enormous hidden structure, then hide in there and play games and read books. If they're a bit older, build two forts (on opposite sides of the room) and have "fort wars" – toss small beanbags and pillows back and forth. No cost, but an afternoon that's a ton of fun.

19 Have a yard sale.

Hosting a yard sale or garage sale is a great way to spend a money-free weekend — and a potentially lucrative one at that. Not only does it give you an excuse to clean out unwanted clutter from your home, it's something the whole family can participate in, offering an entire weekend's worth of entertainment and activity (and a nice little wad of money at the end to boot). Yard sales are a great way to turn excess clutter into extra cash, and that's a win for everyone involved.

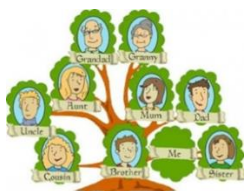


20 Learn a foreign language.

Doubt this can be free? There are a lot of ways to learn a foreign language online, from podcasts that teach language skills, to apps like Duo Lingo and Language Zen, to YouTube videos and many other free language learning opportunities. You can often find popular self-taught foreign language courses like Rosetta stone at your local library, too. Search around for resources for any language that you might want to learn – you'll find tons of materials to help you

21 Dig up your family tree.

Take a peek at Genealogy.com or Ancestry.com and see what you can find out about your ancestors. If your family has been in the area for a long time, your local library can help you track down centuries-old birth certificates and other records. And don't forget to ask your oldest living family members what they remember about their own parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.



22 Do some puzzles.

I enjoy doing both Sudoku puzzles and crossword puzzles. You can find a huge number of these puzzle online for free, and they're a great way to stretch your mind a bit at the kitchen table.



23 Volunteer your time.

There are countless volunteer projects out there that need nothing more than your time. A Saturday working for a volunteer cause is a Saturday well spent: You can meet other people in your community while making a positive contribution to society and working your body and your mind for the benefit of others.

24 Get involved in an open source programming project.

If you're a computer programmer, there are few more intellectually stimulating ways to get involved in your passion than to be involved in an open source programming project. One role that almost every project can use is a person who's willing to fix mundane, boring bugs – finding that one line of code that's causing a minor issue and fixing it. Look for a project that's compelling to you and dig in.

25 Attend a religious service.

Even if you're not a believer, attending a religious service can be a worthwhile educational experience.

26 Go swimming.

Almost every town has a community swimming pool, public pond, or some sort of area where residents can swim – lacking that, go to a state park with a public swimming area. Swimming is wonderfully invigorating and often makes me feel very peaceful – best of all, it's something you can often do for free.



27 Make Christmas gifts in advance.

You can make homemade soap, some homemade hot chocolate mix, and maybe a bottle of homemade beer as a gift. Prepare all of these items, then go ahead and box and wrap them, since they'll stay good for months.

Not only is the gift less expensive than what you'd spend at your local department store, it's also more thoughtful, and it'll save you time during the harried Christmas season.

28 Pick up a musical instrument and learn it.

Yes, you *can* find an instrument for free — and learn how to play it for free as well. Just hit Craigslist and Freecycle looking for freebies, then utilize YouTube and other resources for tutorials. Here's a [detailed guide to learning an instrument for free](#). With a bit of diligence and effort, you can start from nowhere and learn to play a song on your own instrument for no cost. Of a fun experience typically brings more enjoyment than the event itself.



29 Play with a pet – it doesn't have to be your own. Contact your local SPCA

An hour spent playing fetch or Frisbee with a dog or rubbing its belly is an hour well spent, and the same can be said for time spent curled up petting a cat.

30 Go on a wandering walk.

Step out your front door and go in whichever direction looks the most interesting. As long as you have some basic navigational skills, you won't get lost, and you can turn around or backtrack whenever you get bored or hit a dead end.



31 Help out an elderly or disabled friend or neighbor.

There's always a person or two in your life that could use a helping hand, but often are too proud to ask. One great way to bridge this gap is to just stop in and visit and pay attention – if they need something, you'll usually find out. Then just volunteer to do it and get started on the task.

32 Start a book club – or find one to join.

If you like reading and know other friends that enjoy it, too, consider starting a book club with them where you all read the same book for a week then meet to talk about it. It can transform reading from a solitary activity into a more socially oriented one, and with a library at your disposal, it can be a free activity as well.

33 Take a child to a playground – and actually *play* with the child.

Take your child, or a child of a family member or a friend, to the local park. But instead of just watching the child play, dive in and participate, too.



34 Clean out a closet.

We've all got spaces in our living areas that accumulate junk, and it's often a small psychological burden – we dread going in there and digging for something we need. Well, why not get rid of one of those burdens? Clean out a closet in your home.

35 Play Frisbee or fly a kite at the park.

Get a friend (or a pet) and dig out that old Frisbee from your closet, then head out to an open field and toss it around. It's a lot of fun, a great excuse to run around and stretch and jump, and it doesn't cost a dime.



36 Donate some unwanted things to charity.

If you've sorted through your stuff to clear out the clutter, but don't want to have a yard sale, consider giving the stuff you don't want to charity. Not only will you have a cleaner house, you'll have the good feeling of knowing your items are going to be used by someone who actually need them.

37 Discover new music that you like.

Try out free music services like Pandora or Spotify. Pandora allows you to enter a musical "seed" — your favorite band, song, or album, for instance — and generates a radio station based on that information, playing songs with similar "musical DNA."

38 Build a cardboard castle.

This is a great one if you have kids. Build cardboard castle with kids, Cut out doors and windows, and attach multiple boxes together to make rooms. This can be a great afternoon of fun for free!

39 Do some amateur stargazing.

Go outside on a clear evening and look up at the sky. Use some handy star maps or an app such as Sky View Free to know what you're looking at. Spread out some blankets on the ground, lay flat on your back, stare upwards, and realize how magnificent the universe is around you.

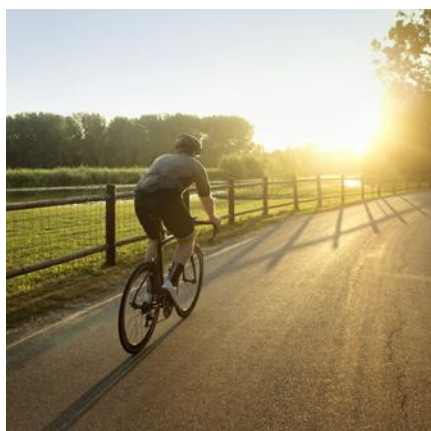


40 Go on a hike or a long walk.

Look up some local hiking or walking trails, the Information Center can help with this, and just take off. Let yourself get absorbed into nature and simply enjoy the journey. Go at your own speed – this is for your own personal enjoyment, after all.

41 Go on a bike ride.

If you've got a bicycle and a helmet in your garage or closet, you already have everything you need for some good exercise and some good fun. Head outside and bike away. Almost every town and every state park around here has an extensive array of bike trails, so you can almost always find somewhere new and interesting to ride. Plus it'll help get you into shape really quickly.



42 Gardening

You can do your own garden by planting flower, vegetables and herbs



43 Have a picnic

Our local municipality really invested in our children's play park and it is now a safe environment to enjoy a picnic and have kids play.



44 Park Run

You can enjoy a park run in every town lately and it is even counted to say where you have participated. Contact the Marathon club for more information.

