Five Local Birthday Spots

Take the stress out of birthday party planning

by Katy Berry

As much as everyone loves a good game of pin the tail on the donkey, these places are undeniably cool and effortless when it comes to throwing a great birthday party.

For the Artist

Mud Mill, Lodi

At the Mud Mill, each child gets to paint their very own pottery piece, which is included in the cost of the 2-hour party along with decorations, invitations, cups, plates, and silverware. *The Mud Mill*, 115 S. School St., Lodi, (209) 365-9900, www.themudmill.com

For the Scientist

World of Wonders Science Museum, Lodi

The WOW Museum offers several themed parties including the Slime Party, the Exploding Party, the Shrink-It Party, and the Ice Cream party for groups of up to twenty kids. Parties include museum admission, invitations, a private room, paper supplies, a party teacher, and a museum t-shirt for the birthday kid.

Wow Museum, 2 N. Sacramento St., Lodi, (209) 368-0WOW, www.wowsciencemuseum.org

For the Rebel

Zaps Zone, Stockton

This laser tag arena offers several packages to suit any budget, each one including at least two rounds of adrenaline-pounding laser tag. You can add food for an additional fee, and the grounds also feature an arcade and jumpers for smaller children.

Zaps Zone, 1578 Hammertown Dr., Stockton, (209) 478-9277, www.zapszone.com

For the Sports Star

Big League Dreams, Manteca

What baseball fan wouldn't love to play a game with his or her buddies on a replica of a Major League Baseball field? Big League Dreams has six replica fields including Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, and Wrigley Field. They also offer an indoor soccer pavilion and two Stadium Club restaurants. *Big League Dreams*, 1077 *Milo Candini Dr., Manteca, (209) 824-2400, www.bigleaguedreams.com*

For the Princess

Perfect Balance Day Spa, Lodi

For the little one who loves pampering, Perfect Balance Day Spa offers Princess Party packages for girls ages 6 and older. Service options include mini-manicures, glitter body art, mini-facials, mini-pedicures, and goodies like cupcakes and tiaras. Teen packages are also available. *Perfect Balance Day Spa, 401 West Pine St., Lodi, (209) 333-8117, www.perfectbalancedayspa.com*





