

# HOTTEST SPOTS

Here is our list of the top five places to go in and around Arvada to heat up your summer.

- 1 ELITCHES!** This amusement park took the top spot for summer fun with our students. Elitches includes both an amusement and a water park. "Elitches is a fun place to go with friends. I like to ride the roller coasters, especially The Boomerang," Khadyakhon Asrorova (8) said.
- 2 WATER WORLD!** Water World has been a summer tradition since it opened. Children and teens love to ride the slides with their friends and family. "Water World was such a cool place to go this summer. I liked to go with my friends and cousins. I really like The Storm ride. I just loved going this summer," Evan Drake (7) said.
- 3 APEX!** The biggest rec center for teens in Arvada this summer was the Apex. There you could go ice skating, swimming, rock climbing, as well as workout. "I usually go about once a month to chill with my friends. I like to go because it's a fun place and there are lots of things to do," Bailey Williams (7) said.
- 4 HIKING!** Hiking is a way that lots of kids stayed active over the summer. "I went on this hike called Boulder Peak. It was seven miles long and was all uphill. It was pretty terrible, but it was worth it because when we got to the top, we got to see all of the city. We even saw Denver," Hattie Hermesen (7) said.
- 5 CAMPING!** Camping is something most families do to get away from our urban world and just spend some quality time together. "We went camping in the mountains with our trailer. I went with my family, and we made s'mores and played cornhole together. It was really fun," Isaiah Gonzales (7) said.

# FUN IN THE SUN

Drake Dragons share the most enjoyable parts of their summer. While some students stayed in the area, others went on faraway vacations.



**TATUM IRWIN (7)**  
 "I went to the Bahamas for a vacation with my family. I went scuba diving, and I got to touch a shark!"

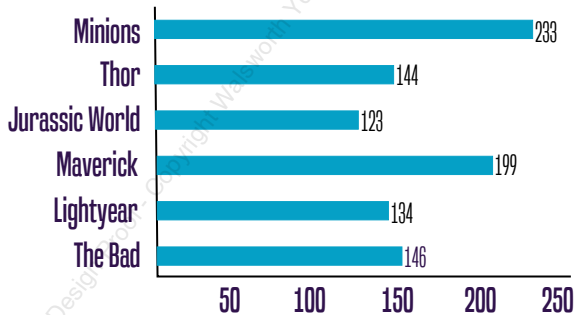


**Austin Carner (8) reps Top Gun: Maverick**

**Ella Engel (8) reps Thor: Love of Thunder**

## TOP TIER

Fans cast their votes for their favorite summer movie. Here are the top six films.







**CALEB MILLER (6)**

"I went to Puerto Rico and ate Puerto Rican food. I went with my family for a vacation on the beach."



**LOLA DOBRANSKY (6)**

"I went to the Grand Canyon with my dad and sister. My sister and I got Junior Ranger badges on the hike."



**MIA ROSSI (7)**

"I hung out with friends and had a lot of sleepovers. I also went to Canandaigua in New York; we tubed and went on a lot of boat rides."



**DARREN CHARPENTIER (8)**

"I hung out with my dad, and he took me to a Broncos game with my brother and cousin. The Broncos ended up winning."



**Tag Edwards (8) reps Minions: The Rise of Gru**

**Eva Keating (8) reps Jurassic World: Dominion**

After a dry season, summer movies roared back into theaters with multiple popular movies hitting the screens. The most noteworthy films proved that sequels were a safe bet for studios and included *Top Gun: Maverick*, *Minions: Rise of Gru*, *Jurassic World: Dominion*, and *Thor: Love and Thunder*.

*Top Gun Maverick* was the sequel to the very famous *Top Gun*, released in 1986. It followed the story of Pete Mitchell returning to the air force as an instructor for a team of young pilots and made 248 million dollars on opening weekend alone. "It was really exciting and funny! I enjoyed watching it," said sixth grader Sarah Kennedy.

*Minions: Rise of Gru* marked the return of beloved cartoon

characters, the minions. Families across the country flocked to theaters to see the movie, shelling out 108 million dollars on opening weekend.

"I really liked that it was something my whole family could enjoy," said Lilly Clapper (7).

*Jurassic World: Dominion* was the next chapter in the *Jurassic World* series. It made a total of 143 million dollars on opening weekend. "It was my favorite of all the *Jurassic Worlds*," said Norah Organ (6).

*Thor: Love and Thunder* was one of the more controversial films released. Many loved it, but many hated it, too. Still, it earned 302 million dollars on opening weekend.

"It was entertaining, but it was honestly kind of meh. I wouldn't watch it again," said Abigail Entlich (8).

Overall, the box office made a huge comeback after being almost out of business during the pandemic, making almost 9 billion dollars in the summer alone.

# SCREEN!

Story by Charlotte Jones