



Relocation Guide:
San Antonio, Texas

Prepared By: Bexar County Medical Society Alliance

www.bcms-alliance.org

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Uniting and Empowering Physician Families

The AMA Alliance is the largest organization representing the family of medicine in the United States. The Alliance network of physicians and physicians' partners represents all stages of the medical lifestyle, from the training years to retirement. We are the "Volunteer Voice for Physician Families" and offer support networking, and volunteer opportunities for physician spouses and their families.

To learn more about the AMA Alliance, watch this video:

<http://www.amaalliance.org/site/news/2725/>

You can join for the AMA Alliance here:

<http://www.amaalliance.org/site/join>

You will also find more information about the Alliance in the last section of this document.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this guide was gathered from numerous sources. The major source was feedback from the local Bexar County Medical Society Alliance. All information provided in this document is for informational purposes and should not be considered a formal recommendation or endorsement of the AMA Alliance or Bexar County Medical Society Alliance.

Hilda Castillo, Nichole Eckmann, and Sandra Vela completed the most recent edits to this guide. If you have any additional questions or feedback, please reach out to Nichole Eckmann at nicholemeckmann@gmail.com



Welcome to San Antonio from the AMA Alliance's local group, **Bexar County Medical Society Alliance!** Our goal is to create a supportive and fun community of physician families who live in or around San Antonio. This group is open to all, from medical school all the way to retirement and beyond. It doesn't matter what hospital you are affiliated with or if you're in private practice, we welcome you!

By joining, not only will you find some new friends and colleagues in San Antonio, but you will also have access to a national network of physician families as well as specific resources tailored to your needs. If you know any other physician spouses in the area who would like to join our group, please invite them to join!

One of BCMSA's tasks is to generate and update this Relocation Toolkit for those newly moving to the area. It contains information you will need for relocating as well as details on social and professional life here in San Antonio. Whether you are visiting and learning about the area's fine medical institutions or you are already planning relocation to the "Alamo City", we are confident that you will soon be happy to call San Antonio your home – and enjoy many of its unique culture and charm.

If you are interested in receiving more information on the Bexar County Medical Society Alliance or have any questions, please feel free to email Hilda Castillo (Hilda@tcaustin.com), Nichole Eckmann (nicholemeckmann@gmail.com) (nicholemeckmann@gmail.com) or Sandra Vela (Sandraevela@gmail.com) You can also learn more about us and/or join at <https://www.bcms-alliance.org>

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Fun Facts about San Antonio (City population = 1.44 million, Metropolitan population = 2.4 million)

- San Antonio is the 8th largest city in the United States and is located in South Central Texas, 140 miles northwest of the Gulf of Mexico, and 150 miles northeast of Laredo, which is on the Mexican border.
- Conde Nast Traveler as the #2 U.S. travel destination and the #9 worldwide destination have ranked San Antonio. It has been called “every Texan’s favorite city,” and Will Rogers dubbed San Antonio as “one of four unique cities in America.”
- The site of modern day San Antonio was originally a Coahuiltecan Indian Village. In 1691, Spanish explorers and missionaries came upon a river on St. Anthony’s Day, naming it the San Antonio River.
- San Antonio’s roots were largely military, and the city continues to have a large military presence today. Fort Sam Houston acts as the headquarters for the U.S. Army Medical Command as well as the home of the Fifth Army. Air Force Bases include Lackland, Randolph and Brooks. There are about 85,000 military personnel in San Antonio.
- San Antonio’s major business sectors include hospitality and medical/biotechnology. As for products the city produces large amounts of beer, petroleum and cattle.
- With 12 accredited universities and colleges, San Antonio is also known as a college town and center for higher education.
- The San Antonio Paseo del Rio, or River Walk, is one of the country’s most famous and picturesque walks. The paths and stairways, made of cobblestone, were built in the 1930’s as a federal project during the Depression years. The River Walk features some of the city’s best shops, cafes and entertainment.
- San Antonio has been “keeping it cool” since 1928 with the first air-conditioned office building in the country, the Milam Building
- Charles Lindbergh, famous for making the world’s first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927, received training at Brooks and Kelly fields in San Antonio.
- Theodore Roosevelt recruited his famous “Rough Riders” in the Menger Hotel, still located in downtown San Antonio.
- At 750 feet, San Antonio’s Tower of the Americas is taller than the famous Seattle Space Needle, making it the perfect place to get a panoramic view of the city.
- The San Antonio Spurs are the only ABA team (absorbed into the NBA in 1976) to win an NBA Championship.
- The annual Fiesta San Antonio (once the Battle of Flowers parade) is one of the largest parades in the nation, second only to Mardi Grass.

Source: <http://www.movoto.com/guide/san-anton-tx/san-antonio-facts/>

Housing & Transportation

- Housing – Where to Look
 - SanAntonio.com has a great, interactive neighborhood map that includes good neighborhood descriptions: <http://www.sanantonio.com/neighborhoods>
 - Alamocity.citymomsblog.com has a “Love where you Live Guide” to neighborhoods in an Antonio: <https://alamocity.citymomsblog.com/2015/03/04/love-where-you-live-a-guide-to-neighborhoods-in-san-antonio/>
Although dated 2015, this article on San Antonio’s Top 10 neighborhoods still rings true: <http://www.sanantoniomag.com/August-2015/10-Top-Neighborhoods-in-San-Antonio>
 - Your employer or training program may provide a list/webpage with information on where to live. You can also use our Facebook page to connect with other locals and ask about housing.



MLS MAP	Area Description	Median Home Sales Price	Estimated Mortgage Pmt	Minimum	Average Rental Home	Maximum	Class "A" Apartments	School District(s)
1	Far Northwest/Alamo Ranch	\$175,000	\$1,145	\$1,145	\$1,395	\$1,645	\$735 - \$1,305	Northside ISD
2	SeaWorld/Westover Hills	\$121,150	\$850	\$965	\$1,215	\$1,465	\$605 - \$2,450	Northside ISD
3	Bandera/Culebra Corridor	\$123,000	\$865	\$955	\$1,205	\$1,455	\$650 - \$1,210	Northside ISD
10	Helotes / La Cantera	\$316,000	\$2,215	\$2,300	\$2,550	\$2,800	\$695 - \$3,000	Northside ISD
4	Medical Center/Leon Valley	\$142,000	\$995	\$1,045	\$1,295	\$1,545	\$695 - \$1,705	Northside ISD
5	IH-10/ DeZavala	\$202,000	\$1,415	\$2,075	\$2,325	\$2,575	\$650 - \$1,600	Northside ISD
6	Nort Central (West)	\$254,000	\$1,790	\$2,340	\$2,590	\$2,840	\$695 - \$1,380	Northside ISD, North East ISD
1801	Stone Oak	\$269,000	\$1,895	\$2,295	\$2,545	\$2,795	\$765 - \$1,645	North East ISD
1803	Timberwood Park	\$267,250	\$1,760	\$2,025	\$2,275	\$2,525	N/A	North East ISD, Comal ISD
1804	Bulverde	\$249,000	\$1,585	\$1,490	\$1,740	\$1,990	N/A	Comal ISD
1802	Encino Park	\$198,000	\$1,395	\$1,360	\$1,610	\$1,860	\$680 - \$2,865	North East ISD, Judson ISD
14	North Central (East)	\$156,750	\$1,105	\$1,170	\$1,420	\$1,670	\$780 - \$1,260	North East ISD
15	Northeast	\$115,000	\$810	\$880	\$1,130	\$1,380	\$640 - \$1,765	North East ISD
13	Alamo Heights/Northwood	\$257,000	\$1,765	\$2,125	\$2,375	\$2,625	\$795 - \$5,410	Alamo Heights, North East, SAISD
16	Windcrest / Universal City	\$123,500	\$845	\$950	\$1,200	\$1,450	\$680 - \$1,765	North East ISD, Judson ISD
17	Kirby / Converse	\$105,450	\$745	\$860	\$1,110	\$1,360	\$625 - \$1,250	Judson ISD
27	Schertz / Cibolo	\$172,000	\$1,145	\$1,210	\$1,460	\$1,710	\$790 - \$1,200	Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD
26	Garden Ridge/Comal Co.	\$275,000	\$1,780	\$1,640	\$1,890	\$2,140	\$765 - \$1,645	Comal ISD

- Housing - Realtors

- Included below are the names and contact information for local realtors who are members of the Bexar County Medical Society Alliance with whom members had positive experiences:

- Hilda Castillo, T.C. Austin Realty Advisors, (210) 378-6036

Having 10 years experience in residential and commercial Real estate with a concentration in buyer/tenant representation of retail and medical office properties and being married to physician for over 30 years, raised three children (now all grown), I feel that I can understand the challenges a new resident and their families face when having to relocate and settle in a new city. I understand that their time is valuable and can be limited at times. I try to make myself available to my clients and work around their schedules. I aim to help make their transition as happy and as stress free as possible. I have lived in San Antonio for over 27 years, I am a member of Real Estate related organizations such as the San Antonio Board of Realtors (S.A.B.O.R), the National Association of Realtors (N.A.R.) and Commercial Real Estate Women (C.R.E.W.) where I served on the Programs Committee and a member of Medical Real Estate Organization (M.R.E.). Other organizations I am also involved in include the Bexar County Medical Society Alliance, where I have served on the Board as Committee Member of Programs, VP- Membership, Social Events and Corresponding Secretary. Please feel free to call me anytime, as I am happy to assist you with any of your Real estate needs.

- Nichole Eckmann, HCH Realty, (956) 358-2187

I am an experienced Real Estate Professional with over 10 years of experience in operational management and mortgage loan banking. This allows my clients to leverage my knowledge towards understanding the special challenges around appraisal, approval, underwriting and funding. Let me bring my enthusiasm, vision, and personalized customer service to the doorstep of your new dream-home! Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions about starting the homebuying process, are ready to go house hunting, or perhaps are unsure if your current real-estate journey is progressing to your expectations. I will always be open with you about how I feel we can achieve your optimal result. My hope is that you can experience my commitment to responsive communication and outstanding project coordination. nicholemeckmann@gmail.com

- Sandra E. Vela, Central Metro Realty, (956) 243-7401

I am dedicated to helping and counseling families to ease the process to achieve the goal of homeownership, as well as maximizing their financing power. I can make the process of house hunting much easier and more efficient. I can help you get financing, help you

determine your budget and prioritize a list of essential features that you need in your next home. I will save you valuable time by finding the properties that best suit your requirements and show you the most promising one. I have more than 12 years of experience in Real Estate and Mortgage Financing. sandraevela@gmail.com

- Housing – Renting vs. Buying
 - This is a unique decision for everyone. The general rule of thumb is to stick with renting if you plan to be in this location for less than 5 years. However, each market and neighborhood is different, and the real estate market fluctuates each year within each market!
 - Zillow offers a nice, brief article on Renting vs. Buying at <http://www.zillow.com/home-buying-guide/rent-vs-buy>
 - Zillow also provides a Rent vs. Buy calculator linked to the above article <http://www.zillow.com/rent-vs-buy-calculator>

- Public transit
 - Driving in San Antonio is not as difficult as in many major cities, however you may find traffic slower during the rush hour in some parts of the city due to the rapid growth.
 - Via metropolitan transit is the public transit system in San Antonio. Visit their website <http://www.viainfo.net>
 - City buses are plentiful and provide good access to most medical training centers - <http://www.viainfo.net/busservice/schedules.aspx>
 - VIVA is a new service line from Via Metropolitan Transit that takes you to the most visited sites and attractions in the heart of San Antonio. #11 VIVA Culture; #40 VIVA Missions; #301 VIVA Centro
 - Taxi Services.
 - River Taxi- These taxi boats you can take to get to various hotspots along the beautiful River walk. This service has over 39 stops. <http://www.riosanantonio.com/rio-taxi>
 - Yellow Cab – <http://www.yellowcabroundrock.com>
 - Ride Share in San Antonio
 - UBER- <http://www.Uber.com>
 - LYFT- <http://www.Lyft.com>
 - San Antonio Amtrak Station- 1-(800) 872- 7245
350 Hoefgen Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
<http://www.Amtrak.com>

- Local Airports

- San Antonio International airport is located at the intersection of Hwy 281 and Interstate 410. 8 miles from downtown San Antonio, TX. Tel: (210) 207-3433 <http://www.sanantonio.gov/sat>
- Stinson Municipal Airport is the second oldest general Aviation Airport still in operation in the United States. It is best used for general Aviation, such as light aircraft operators, individual and private Aviation companies. It is located 6 miles south of downtown 8535 Mission Rd. San Antonio, TX 78214 Tel: (210) 207-1800 <http://www.SanAntonio.gov/SSF>
- Austin- Bergstrom International Airport. 81 miles from downtown San Antonio. (1 hour and 21 minutes) Address: 3600 Presidential Blvd. Austin, TX 78719 Tel: (512) 530-2242 <http://www.austintexas.gov/airport>

Finding Services

Government Services

- The State of Texas does not have an official relocation website, but the main state website does provide good information on a variety of moving related topics – <http://www.Texas.gov/relocatingtoSanAntonio.org>
- Driver's License: Texas Department of Motor Vehicles <http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense>
Deadline: If you are a new resident of Texas, you have **60** days to obtain a new Drivers License
 - Driver's Handbook: <http://www.dmv.org/tx-texas/driver-handbook>
 - License and Identification Requirements: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/applyforlicense.htm>
 - Find an office and Contact Info: <http://www.dmv.org/tx-texas/dmv-office-finder.php>
- Motor Vehicle Registration: Texas Department of Motor Vehicles - <http://www.txdmv.gov>
_Deadline: If you are a new resident of Texas, you have **60** days to register your vehicle.
 - Fee Rates: <http://www.dmx.org/tx-texas/car-registration.php>
 - Vehicle Emissions & Safety Inspections: <http://www.dmv.org/tx-texas/safetyandemissions>
 - Locations for receiving inspections: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/rsd/vi/viaactivestattionlocator>
 - New Resident Titling & Registration Requirements: <http://www.txdmv.gov/findyourlocaloffice>
 - Find an office and Contact Info: <http://www.dmv.org>

- Voter Registration: <http://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote>
 - Registration can be completed online and/or in conjunction with motor vehicle and driver's license registration
- Marriage License: <http://gov.propertyinfo.com/tx-bexar/marriage.aspx>
 - Marriage licenses are handled by the Circuit Court of San Antonio:
 - Bexar County Clerks Office
 - 100 Dolorosa Street Suite 104
 - San Antonio, TX 78205
 - <https://gov.propertyinfo.com/tx-bexar/marriage.aspx>
- State and Local Laws
 - State Legislature: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>
 - Texas Laws & Legal information
 - <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/content/texas-laws-and-legal-information.html>
 - <http://www.all.texas.gov>
 - City/Town Council Representative: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/council>
 - Representatives/Senators: <http://www.govtrackus/congress/members/tx>
- Police & Fire Department
 - Non-emergency phone number: 311 or (210) 207-7272.
 - Police Station: Find a location - <https://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd>
 - Fire Department: Find a location - <https://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd>
- Taxes
 - San Antonio Tax Commission, Individual & Business: <http://texas.gov>
 - Property Taxes: <http://www.homebexar.org/tax/propertytaxrate>
 - Sales & Use Taxes: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/finance/bfi/tax-rate-summary>

Utilities & Other Services

- Utilities
 - City services (including water and sanitation) – <http://www.Saws.org>
 - Gas & electric - (210) 353-2222 <http://www.cpsenergy.com/eg.html>
 - Phone & Internet – The Internet providers also tend to be the phone service providers. They include Verizon, Comcast, Time Warner, Clear. AT&T, Frontier, Spectrum.
 - Cable TV - Providers overlap some with phone and Internet providers and include Comcast, Direct TV, Dish Network, Time Warner/Spectrum, and AT&T.
 - Cellular phone service – All major carriers including Sprint, Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile
- Newspapers & Local Publications
 - City publications:
 - San Antonio Express News - <http://www.expressnews.com>
 - San Antonio Current - <http://www.SAcurrent.com>
 - San Antonio Observer - <http://www.SAobserver.com>
 - San Antonio Magazine - <http://www.SanAntoniomag.com>
- Medical
 - Emergency Rooms: Talk to your medical significant other!
 - Urgent Care: There are many urgent care options in San Antonio, and the choice depends on where you live. A few are listed below:
 - Concentra, Prompt Urgent Care, Med First, Baptist Urgent Care, Impact Urgent Care, and Texas Med Clinic.
 - CVS, Walgreen's, Target, etc. also have in house clinics staffed mostly by NPs who can help with straightforward illness
 - Hospital Networks: Methodist Healthcare, Baptist Health System, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa System.
 - Insurance Companies: Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Cigna, Aetna, IHC Group, Humana, United Health One, and others are also present.
 - Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255.
 - Poison Control: American Association of Poison Control Centers – 1 (800) 222-1222

Professional Services

- Free services:
 - Google <http://www.google.com> - search for service providers and reviews
 - Better Business Bureau - <http://www.bbb.org> - search for service providers and complaint history
- Paid Services:
 - Angie's List – <http://www.angieslist.com> paid subscription for rated and reviewed service providers
 - Bexar County Medical Society - provides formal recommendations for preferred vendors. You must be a member to access details of their recommendations although the following website outlines what they have to offer - <http://www.bcms.org>

Activities & Things to Do

What to do in all of your “spare time”?

- Professional Development
 - Colleges and Universities in San Antonio area – University of Texas at San Antonio, University of the Incarnate Word, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas A&M University of San Antonio, Trinity University, St. Mary’s University, Our Lady of the Lake University.
 - The Community Colleges of San Antonio – Northwest Vista College, Palo Alto College, St Phillips College, Career Point College, Northeast Lakeview College, The Art Institute College, and Kaplan College have extensive community college level coursework for degree and non-degree students. They provide Continuing Education courses also in a variety of non-credit classes to engage you at every stage of life.
 - Classes for professional development: If you have a specialty or are interested in a specialty, look up local professional associations and organizations; many of these have professional development suggestions that you can research further.
 - There are also many online options to look at for skill development:
 - Paid: www.Lynda.com
 - Free or cheap: www.Coursera.com - free University courses
- San Antonio Public Libraries -
 - The City of San Antonio Website provides interesting information about the city libraries <http://www.mysapl.org>
 - Many of the City libraries have story time, learning zones, reading nooks for kid’s ages 0-5. Please Check with the library for times and services.
- Fitness Locations
 - 6 Best Gyms in San Antonio - <http://www.SanAntonio.comarticle20top-ratedgymsinsanantonio>.
 - Body Armor CrossFit – www.bodyarmorsa.com (210) 826-7070
 - LifeTime – www.lifetimefitness.com (210) 545-5000
 - Golds Gym – www.goldsgym.com (210) 641-1717
 - LA Fitness – www.lafitness.com (210) 202-3139
 - Anytime Fitness – www.anytimefitness.com (210) 561-2300
 - Y.M.C.A. www.ymcasatx.org (210) 520-9700
- Spectator Sports
 - San Antonio Spurs – www.SanAntoniospursmba.com
 - San Antonio Missions – Minor league baseball www.samissions.com
 - San Antonio Rampage – American Hockey League www.sarampage.com

- Retama Park Horse Race – www.retamapark.com
 - Rodeo – www.banderacowboycapital.com
 - U.T.S.A. Roadrunner College Football – www.ncaa.com/schools/utsa
 - The SA-FC Division 2 soccer Team – www.sanantoniofc.com
 - San Antonio Stars – WNBA – Women Professional Basketball Team – www.Stars.wmba.com
- Restaurants & Specialty Shops
 - The internet is the best place to look or ask your local contacts!
 - Yelp is thorough, and you can search by type of food and neighborhood, as desired - <http://www.yelp.com/c/sanantonio/restaurants>
 - Trip Advisor also has restaurant reviews at http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants--sanantonio_texas.html
 - San Antonio magazine has a great write up on their 50 best restaurants in and around the city - <http://www.sanantoniomagazine.com/bestofthecity2016>
- Quick Guide to Shopping
 - The Shops at La Cantera (210) 582-6255 <http://www.theshopsatlacantera.com>
 - River Center Mall (210) 225-0000 <http://www.shoprivercen.com>
 - North Star Mall (210) 340-66627 <http://www.mallscenters.com/malls/texas/north-star-mall>
 - Rolling Oaks Shopping Center (210) 651-5601 <http://www.rollingoaksmall.com>
 - The Quarry (210) 824-3331 <http://www.artesaatquarryvillage.com>
 - The Rim (210) 641-1777 <http://www.therimsa.com>
 - The Pearl Brewery (210) 212-7260 <http://www.atpearl.com>
 - Ingram Mall (210) 523-1228 <http://www.simon.com/mall/ingram-park-mall>
 - Market Square (210) 207-8600 <http://www.getcreativesanantonio.com>
- Parks and Recreation
 - There are many local Parks in San Antonio, a list can be found at <https://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/home>
 - Following is the link to the San Antonio Parks & Recreation department. Their webpage has a list of parks, recreation centers, trails, etc. <https://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/home>
 - There does not appear to be an official listing of playgrounds that the city or county publishes, but you can use Google to search specific neighborhoods for parks and also ask your local physician family group for suggestions.

- Museums and Special Attractions
 - 10 Free Things to do in San Antonio.
<http://www.10best.com/destinations/texas/sanantonio/attractions/freethingstodo.com>
 - San Antonio is rich in history and has a variety of museums, which are detailed well on these two websites:
 - <https://www.sanantonio.gov>
 - <https://www.getcreative.sanantonio.com>
 - Sea World San Antonio 1-(800) 700-7786
<http://www.seaworldparks.com/seaworld-sanantonio/?m=1>
 - Six Flags Fiesta Texas (210) 697-5050 <http://www.sixflags.com/fiestatexas.com>
- Theaters and Entertainment
 - San Antonio is proud to have many performing arts theaters. To see a list of Theaters, Venues for Shows, Musicals, Plays, Family Shows, Stand-Up, Concerts, Dance, and Cirque. Please visit <http://www.getcreative.sanantonio.com>
- Annual Events
 - The San Antonio Event Guide <http://p.sacurrent.com/SanAntonio/EventSearch> has a nice listing of annual events held in San Antonio, TX.
 - Probably the most publicized event is the annual San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo held in mid February. For more information visit <http://www.sarodeo.com>
 - For other annual events in San Antonio, please check <http://www.SanAntonio.gov> or subscribe to city or neighborhood Facebook pages to see what is happening locally.
 - Most residency programs also have a section on their website with information about life in the city.

Family, Children, & Pets

So you uprooted your happy family to San Antonio for a determinate (or indeterminate) amount of time...

- Childcare Information – like most cities, resources can be found locally and online.
 - Some areas of the city and neighborhoods have Facebook pages or email listservs where families post information on childcare options they like. Those that we currently know about are listed below or ask your neighbors as soon as you get here!
 - Mom’s Facebook groups websites: www.sanantoniomomblogs.com, www.momsbestfriends.com
 - Babysitters and Childcare San Antonio. www.core.com and www.greataupair.com
 - Childcare Directors of San Antonio
 - Parents in San Antonio Texas looking for quality childcare
 - Mommies – The Exchange
 - Email listservs – gocitykids san antonio
 - As may be expected, Bexar County Medical Society and Bexar County Medical Society Alliance members have found the most success with quality childcare through personal referrals from each other, local Facebook or email listservs.
 - Wondersitter is also an option in the San Antonio area. It is a babysitting service but is highly vetted and well rated. Availability can be limited though, based on personal experience.
 - Also, most employers also offer some kind of “Backup Care” babysitting or daycare program to all employees. Check the human resources and/or benefits website of your or your significant other’s employer for this option, and sign up. It is usually highly discounted and available for last minute use.
- Activities for Children
 - Plenty! Here are a few websites that offer highlights for things to do with kids in San Antonio:
 - <http://www.SanAntonio.Kidsoutandabout.combaltimoreschild.com>
 - <http://www.Ourkidsmagazine.com>
 - <http://www.SanAntoniomomblogs.com>
 - Certifikid, Groupon, and Living Social also have daily or weekly newsletters with deals on all things local, including activities for kids.
 - Bexar County Medical Society Alliance has a Playgroup sub-group that also has great local knowledge and offers at least 1 activity a month for families and children. A few favorites include:

- Sea World – www.seaworldperks.com
- Morgan’s Wonderland – www.morganswonderland.com
- Witte Museum – www.wittemuseum.org
- City of San Antonio - www.visitsanantonio.com
- Magik Theatre – www.magiktheatre.org
- The Doseum – www.kiddipark.com
- Kiddie Park – www.kiddipark.com
- San Antonio Aquarium – www.sanantonioaquarium.net
- San Antonio Zoo – www.sazoo.org
- Neighborhood Playground Tours
- Education – Preschool, Primary, Secondary
 - Preschools
 - Browse the San Antonio, TX area Pre-School listings to find a pre-school that best suits your child - <http://www.local.mysanantonio.com>
 - Schools digger also has rankings of all levels of schools in the region - <http://www.schooldigger.com>
 - You can find relevant information on local Facebook, email listservs that are geared toward families, and from your BCMS/BCMSA network.
 - Some preschools that members have enjoyed sending their children to include:
 - Country Home Learning Center, Learning Tree Academy, Castle Hills Learning Center, St. Luke’s Episcopal, St. George Episcopal School, Monte Vista Montessori School, Discovery School, Howard Early Childhood Center, St. Andrews United Methodist.
 - The public schools in San Antonio, in general, are very good, however, some are not desirable. Browse through school digger site to learn more about the schools. www.schooldigger.com
 - San Antonio County Public Schools - <http://www.bexar.org>
 - San Antonio Independent School Districts – www.wegopublic.com
 - Alamo Heights I.S.D – www.ahisd.net
 - East Central I.S.D – www.ecisd.net
 - Edgewood I.S.D – www.eisd.net
 - Floresville I.S.D – www.fisd.us
 - Ft. Sam Houston I.S.D – www.fshisd.net
 - Harlandale I.S.D – www.harlanale.net
 - Judson I.S.D – www.judsonisd.org
 - Lackland I.S.D – www.lacklandisd.net
 - North East I.S.D – www.neisd.net
 - Northside I.S.D – www.nisd.net

- Randolph Field I.S.D- www.saisd.net
 - San Antonio I.S.D – www.saisd.net
 - South San Antonio I.S.D- www.southsanisd.net
 - Southside I.S.D – www.swisd.net
- Private schools in the San Antonio area are also plentiful. The San Antonio private school website offers a comprehensive listing of private schools starting with preschool on up - <http://www.saprivateschools.com>
- Pediatricians – BCMSA members have used and recommend the following local doctors:
 - Dr. Molly Salinas, South Texas Center for Pediatric Care.
 - Dr. Subha Valavalkar, Children Hospital of S.A Primary Care.
 - Dr. Sushil Valavalkar, Pedriatrix Medical Group Methodist Children’s Hospital.
 - Dr. Maria Beato, South Texas Center for Pediatrics Care.
 - Dr. Barbara Belcher, Child Care Associates.
 - Dr. Annette Gunsberg, Stone Oak Pediatrics.
 - Pet Information
 - BringFido.com offers a resource listing on their local website including accommodations, attractions, dog friendly restaurants, services, etc. - <http://www.bringfido.com>
 - Local pet/dog parks
 - <http://www.bringfido.com>
 - <http://www.sanantonio.gov/parks>
 - Veterinarians
 - www.localvets.com
 - Affordable Pet Care Basse – 1362 Basse Rd, San Antonio, TX 78212.
 - City Veterinary Hospital – 818 Austin St, San Antonio, TX 78208.
 - Becker Animal Hospital – 6515 IH 10, San Antonio, TX 78201.
 - Alamo Heights Pet Clinic – 6488 N. New Braufels Ave. San Antonio, TX 78209.
 - Texas Veterinary Hospitals – 3493 Fredericksburg Rd. San Antonio TX 78201.
 - Finding dog walkers and pet sitters
 - Care.com is a good resource that can also help with pet sitters
 - Google, Yelp
 - Word of mouth and local Facebook and email listservs
 - BCMS/BCMSA members have had good luck with the following providers as well:
 - Rover.com – www.rover.com/san-antonio
 - DogVacay.com – www.dogvacay.com/Sanantonio
 - Green Dog Kennels – www.greendogkennels.wordpress.com
 - Camp Bow Wow – www.campbowwow.com/sanantonio
 - Lucy’s Doggy Daycare – www.lucysdoggydaycare.com

Networking – Social and Professional

How to find friends and employment!

Your significant other just got accepted to medical school, residency, fellowship or a real job. These events lead to many life changes in this incredible journey. We expand our friend network with each new city we move to on this journey. The Alliance is one avenue to make friends, and these friends will last a lifetime! However, the Alliance is not in every city, here are some suggestions on places where you can meet others:

- Social
 - No AMA Alliance chapter in your city? Consider starting an Alliance in your city. It's easy!
Website updates related to this are in progress, please contact the Alliance in the interim if you are ready now to take this step.
 - Facebook – search Facebook for any combination of city, neighborhood, family, or special interest sites. It is amazing what you can find. Most San Antonio neighborhoods have a Facebook page that residents (or soon to be residents) can join.
 - Volunteer Match is a national organization that can match what you are passionate about for volunteer opportunities: <https://www.volunteermatch.org>
 - Meetup is a national website that allows you to do something, share something, or learn something: <http://www.meetup.com>

- Professional
 - LinkedIn.com – A national professional networking site that is very searchable locally
 - LeanIn.org - An organization focused on helping women reach their professional/personal goals by joining a “leaning” circle. <http://www.leanin.org>
 - Here are a few local resources for job hunting as well:
 - Geebo – <http://www.sanantonio-tx.geebo.com/jobs-online/list>
 - Indeed - <http://www.indeed.com/l-sanantonio,-MD-jobs.html>
 - Altered.org – <http://www.altered.org/alerts>

- Local Groups/Clubs - There are numerous groups and clubs in cities for all kinds of special interests. Here are a few to look for that are found in most cities.
 - For parents/guardians:
 - MOPS - Moms of Preschoolers is a great group for moms with young children. <https://www.mops.org>
 - Baby wearing International - Great for parents of young children for learning how to wear your baby/toddler and meet other parents. <http://babywearinginternational.org>

- Local gyms or YMCA often have childcare and classes that are a great place to meet other moms and parents.
- Local libraries have lots of programs for kids of all ages.
- For everyone
 - Taking a class is a great way to meet people and develop a new skill. Whether through a local college or university, a gym, museum, library or non-profit, there are classes for all interest and skill levels.
 - If you are religious, your local place of worship is an easy place to meet people and connect with your community.
 - Other resident spouses and partners are probably in the same boat as you and would love a chance to meet up so consider hosting or organizing a get-together for either the couples or just the spouses/partners.

Alliance Connections

More AMA Alliance materials to come, but here are direct references to the website...

- About the Alliance - <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/about-2/>
- Member Benefits - <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/join/what-can-the-ama-alliance-do-for-you/>
- Calendar - <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/calendar-2/>
- Local Alliances - <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/about-2/county-alliances/>
- Membership - <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/join/>
- Resources - <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/resources/>