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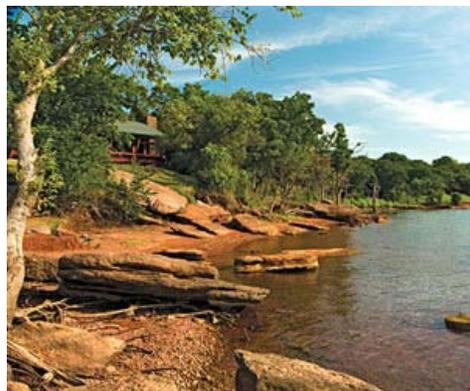


## 10 Best Towns for Families: 2010

In our yearly roundup of perfect places to raise kids, we salute these communities for their affordable homes, green spaces, blue-ribbon schools, and giving spirit.

By Seema Nayyar

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Courtesy of Edmond, Marketing and Public Relations Department

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### Edmond, Oklahoma

**Population:** 82,530  
**Median Income:** \$69,759  
**Median Home Price:** \$177,000  
**Households with Children:** 38%  
**Student/Teacher Ratio:** 18:1  
**Great Schools Rating:** 9

When Kristy Payne moved here from Southern California 16 years ago, it was mainly to be close to her older sister. "But once I arrived, it was love at first sight," she says. With abundant parks, miles of walking and jogging trails, and a lake teeming with bass and bluegill, this Oklahoma City suburb has plenty of scenic charm. That's no accident: Edmond offers free programs on preserving the environment, and sponsors an annual Arbor Day fair with seedling giveaways as well as arts and crafts for the kids. "Even Aaron, our 4-year-old, knows what it means to be green," says Kristy, 37, a real estate agent.

But what she and husband Randy, 41, a police officer and SWAT team member, appreciate most is Edmond's volunteer spirit. Their son Austin, 16, and daughter, Madison, 14, both pitch in at a nonprofit group that provides clothes and furniture to the needy. Kristy helps throw birthday parties for children living in shelters, and Randy takes part in the Shop with a Cop program, helping to solicit donations and then escorting underprivileged kids to Walmart so they can buy Christmas presents for themselves and their families. "There's a real need to give back among all the people here," says Kristy, who's also a foster mom to a 6-month-old girl. "Small-town life doesn't get any better than this."

**Good Deeds:** The three local high schools have raised nearly a million dollars for charity so far this year. Students at Edmond Memorial brought in \$528,000 to help kids with cancer by selling brownies and bracelets.

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 tthomas148, do a little math. According to the CIA factbook, the entire US is 79.96% white, so it'.....  
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