

The Family Adventure

Your family calendar on the wall, explained in plain English.

What this is

The Family Adventure is a big, touch-friendly calendar for the whole family. Hang a tablet on the wall, and everyone can see:

- **The calendar**, with each person in their own color
- **Chores**, with a star every time someone finishes one
- **Meals** for the week (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- **Lists**, like groceries and to-dos
- **Photos**, as a slideshow when nobody is using it
- **Weather** and a big clock

When someone adds something on their phone, it shows up on the wall tablet and on everyone else's phone a moment later.

Tip

You don't need to read this whole guide. Pick one of the two ways on the next page, follow only that part, then skip to "Hang it on the wall".

START HERE

Pick your way

There are two ways to run The Family Adventure. Both use the same calendar screen. The difference is where the family's information is kept.

	Way 1: The online link	Way 2: The home computer
How hard?	Easiest. Nothing to install.	A little harder. You start a program on a home computer.
Where it lives	On Claude's website	On a computer in your house
Works with	Google Calendar	Google, Outlook and iCloud calendars
Weather	You type it in	Live, updates every 15 minutes
Devices	Any phone, tablet or computer with internet	Any phone, tablet or computer on your home Wi-Fi
Family needs	A free Claude account each	Nothing. Just your Wi-Fi
Must stay on	Nothing	The home computer (don't let it sleep)

Not sure? If you use Outlook or an iPhone calendar, or you want the weather to update by itself, choose **Way 2**. Otherwise start with **Way 1**. You can switch later, but the two ways don't share their information, so you would type your family in again.

WAY 1

The online link

Step A: Open it and add your family

- 1 On the computer or tablet you'll use, sign in to **claude.ai** and open your calendar link: <https://claude.ai/artifact/8VtVFCbw15Dwo14t7F4Mb5>
- 2 The first screen asks "**Who's in your family?**" Type a name (like *Mom*) and tap **Add**. Do this for each person.
- 3 Tap **Settings** (top right) to change anyone's color, set the weather and town, and choose what time the screen goes dark at night.

Step B: Let your family use it

- 1 Each family member makes a free account at **claude.ai** (kids under 18 can't have their own account, so they can just use the wall tablet).
- 2 On the calendar page, open the **Share** menu.
- 3 Type each person's email address and set them as an **Editor**. Editors can add and change things. People invited as Viewer can only look.
- 4 They open the same link on their phone, signed in to claude.ai. Done.

Heads up

Don't turn on "anyone with the link". Leave sharing to the people you invite by email, or family members won't be able to save changes.

Step C: Connect Google Calendar (optional)

Each person who has a Google Calendar does this **on their own phone or computer**:

- 1 In claude.ai, open **Settings**, then **Connectors**, and connect **Google Calendar**. Sign in with Google when asked.
- 2 Open the family calendar link and tap **Settings**.
- 3 Under "**Google Calendar on this device**", pick your own name in "**Whose device is this?**"
- 4 Tap **Show my calendars** if you want a calendar other than your main one.

- 5 Tap **Sync my Google Calendar now**. When it asks permission to use Google Calendar, say yes.
 - 6 Tick **"Keep syncing every 15 minutes"** so it stays up to date while the page is open.
- Your Google events now show on everyone's screen as outlined bars in your color. When you add an event, you can tick **"Also put it on my Google Calendar"**.

Tip

Only Google works with Way 1. For Outlook or iCloud calendars, use Way 2.

WAY 2

The home computer

One computer in your house becomes the "brain". It must be on and connected to the same Wi-Fi as the tablet and phones. An old laptop that stays plugged in is perfect. A Raspberry Pi also works.

Step A: Unzip the folder

- 1 Copy the **family-adventure** zip file to the home computer.
- 2 Right-click it and choose **Extract All** (Windows) or double-click it (Mac). Put the folder somewhere easy, like Documents.

Step B: Start The Family Adventure

Windows 10 or 11	Mac
Double-click Start Family Adventure (Windows).bat . Nothing to install.	The first time, <i>right-click</i> Start Family Adventure (Mac).command and choose Open . Macs are cautious with downloaded files.
If a blue box says "Windows protected your PC" , click More info , then Run anyway . This shows up for small programs that aren't from a big company.	The very first time, the Mac may ask to install Apple's free command line developer tools . Click Install , wait for it to finish, then double-click the starter again.
If Windows asks about network access, tick Private networks and click Allow access .	It then spends about a minute getting ready (only the first time). Click Allow if asked about incoming connections.

A black window opens and says **"The Family Adventure is running!"** Find the line that says **On your Wi-Fi**. It shows an address like **http://192.168.1.25:8080**. Write it down.

Raspberry Pi or Linux: open a terminal in the folder and type `./start.sh`. A Pi builds the program the first time, which takes a few minutes. If it asks, install the tools with `sudo apt install g++ curl`.

Heads up

Leave that black window open. Closing it turns the calendar off for everyone. If the computer restarts, double-click the starter again.

Step C: Open it on the tablet and phones

- 1 On the tablet or phone, connect to your home Wi-Fi.
- 2 Open the web browser (Safari or Chrome) and type the address you wrote down, exactly, including the **:8080** at the end.
- 3 The first time, it asks **"Who's in your family?"** Add everyone. Every other device sees the same family right away.

Step D: Turn on live weather

Tap **Settings**. Under **Live weather**, type your town (for example *Barbourville, Kentucky*), pick °F or °C, and tap **Save**. The weather shows up within a minute and updates every 15 minutes on its own. It's free and needs no sign-up.

Step E: Add Google, Outlook and iCloud calendars

Each calendar has a private **calendar link**. You copy it once, paste it into The Family Adventure, and the home computer checks it every 15 minutes. The next page shows where to find the link in each one.

- 1 Copy the link (see next page).
- 2 On the calendar screen, tap **Settings**.
- 3 Under **Linked calendars**, paste the link, choose whose calendar it is and what kind it is.
- 4 Tap **Link this calendar**. After a few seconds it shows how many events it found.

Finding your calendar links

Heads up

These links are private. Anyone who has one can read that calendar, so don't post them online or text them around.

Google Calendar

- 1 On a computer, go to **calendar.google.com**.
- 2 Click the **gear** at the top right, then **Settings**.
- 3 On the left, under **Settings for my calendars**, click your calendar's name.
- 4 Scroll down to **Integrate calendar**.
- 5 Copy the **Secret address in iCal format**. (Not the "public address".)

Outlook (Outlook.com or Microsoft 365)

- 1 On a computer, go to **outlook.com** and open the **Calendar**.
- 2 Click the **gear** (Settings), then **Calendar**, then **Shared calendars**.
- 3 Under **Publish a calendar**, choose your calendar and **Can view all details**, then click **Publish**.
- 4 Copy the **ICS** link. (Not the HTML one.)

Some work and school Outlook accounts have publishing turned off. If you don't see Publish a calendar, ask whoever runs your work email.

iCloud (iPhone, iPad or Mac calendar)

- 1 On your iPhone, open the **Calendar** app and tap **Calendars** at the bottom.
- 2 Tap the little **(i)** next to the calendar you want.
- 3 Turn on **Public Calendar**, then tap **Share Link** and choose **Copy**.
- 4 Send the copied link to yourself (for example in a note) so you can paste it on the calendar screen.

The link starts with **webcal://**. That's fine, paste it as it is.

Good to know

Linked calendars can be **read** but not changed from the wall. To change one of those events, change it in Google, Outlook or iCloud, and the wall picks it up within 15 minutes. Google sometimes takes a few hours to send brand-new events through these links, which is normal.

BOTH WAYS

Hang it on the wall

Any tablet works: an iPad, an Android tablet, or a cheap Amazon Fire tablet with the Silk browser.

Keep the screen on

iPad	Android tablet
Settings, then Display & Brightness , then Auto-Lock : choose Never .	Settings, then Display , then Screen timeout : choose the longest time. Many tablets also have Stay awake while charging .
Open the calendar in Safari, tap the Share button, then Add to Home Screen . Now it opens like an app, full screen.	Open the calendar in Chrome, tap the three dots , then Add to Home screen .
Optional: Guided Access (Settings, Accessibility) locks the iPad to the calendar so kids can't wander off to games.	Optional: App pinning (Settings, Security) does the same thing.

- Keep the tablet **plugged in** all the time. A wall mount with a cable channel looks tidy.
- Tap **Full screen** at the top of the calendar to hide the browser bars.
- The calendar goes dark at night and wakes up in the morning on its own. Pick the times in **Settings, Night mode**.

Using it every day

To do this	Do this
See another month	Swipe left or right on the calendar, or tap the arrows
See one day	Tap the day. Its events show on the right (or below on a phone)

To do this	Do this
Add an event	Tap the day, then + Event . Pick who it's for and if it repeats
Delete an event	Tap the x next to it
Hide one person	Tap their name bubble at the top. Tap again to bring them back
Finish a chore	Open Chores and tap it. They earn a star
Start a fresh chore day	Tap New day: uncheck all
Plan meals	Open Meals , type in a box, then tap somewhere else to save
Add to the grocery list	Open Lists , type in "Add item", tap Add
Show photos	Open Photos , add pictures, then tap Photo frame . Tap the picture to come back
Make the screen dark now	Tap Sleep . Tap the screen to wake it

Photos are kept on the device you add them to, so add them on the wall tablet itself.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Fixes for common problems

What you see	What to do
A blue "Windows protected your PC" box	Click More info , then Run anyway .
The tablet says it can't open the page (Way 2)	Check the home computer is on, awake, and the black window is still open. Check the tablet is on the same Wi-Fi . Type the address again, including :8080 .
"Lost touch with the home server"	The home computer went to sleep or lost Wi-Fi. Wake it up. The tablet reconnects by itself within a few seconds.
The address changed	Routers sometimes give the computer a new address after a restart. Look at the black window for the new "On your Wi-Fi" line. To stop this, ask your internet provider or router app to "reserve" the computer's address.
"Port 8080 is busy"	The calendar is already running in another window. Use that one, or restart the computer and start it once.

What you see	What to do
Mac says the starter "can't be opened"	Right-click the file, choose Open , then Open again.
Weather says it can't find my town	Type just the town name, or "Town, State". Then tap Save.
A linked calendar shows a warning	Copy the link again. Google needs the secret iCal address. Outlook needs the ICS link. iCloud needs Public Calendar turned on.
Family can see but not change anything (Way 1)	Share it with them again as Editor , and make sure "anyone with the link" sharing is off.
Google sync says to reconnect (Way 1)	In claude.ai, go to Settings, then Connectors, and reconnect Google Calendar.
Things look out of date	Pull down or tap the browser's reload button.

Keeping your information safe (Way 2)

- Everything your family types is saved in a file called **family-data.json** in the server folder. Copy it to a USB stick or cloud drive now and then as a backup.
- The home calendar has no password. That's fine on your own home Wi-Fi. **Never** set your router to open it to the internet ("port forwarding").
- To move it to a new computer: copy the whole folder over (including family-data.json) and double-click the starter.