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From: Colleen Hicks [mailto:colleenhicks@laportechamber.org]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 3:11 PM

To: Livingston, Scott

Subject: La Porte - #25 on the Safewise 50 Safest Cities

Dear Chamber Members and Friends,

We just wanted to share this exciting news!

La Porte has been named #25 on the Safewise list of the 50 Safest Cities in Texas. To see the entire article visit www.safewise.com/blog/safewise-50-safest-cities-texas/ and scroll down to #25.

We're so lucky to have not only a wonderful Police Department but also great citizens who care about the community. So glad to live in the La Porte-Bayshore area!

Colleen

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# The SafeWise 50 Safest Cities in Texas

[Alexia Chianis](#) | Oct 28, 2013

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No community is immune to crime, so home security is important no matter where you live. But SafeWise understands that when it's time to relocate, finding your family a city with a low crime rate is at the top of your priority list.

We're here to help. We've paired data from the most recent FBI Crime in the U.S. Report with our own thorough research to create a comprehensive list of the top 50 safest cities in Texas, with 20,000 residents or more, as of 2011.

If you're considering a move to the Lone Star state, you'll find the important FBI statistics and insightful community overviews provided in this report incredibly helpful.

*(Scroll to the bottom to embed the "50 Safest Cities" badge on your website.)*

## 1. Colleyville

Colleyville, Texas ranks at the top of our list. It is an affluent city located near Fort Worth that enjoys a well-earned reputation as laidback and friendly. In fact, according to the most recent FBI Crime Report, there were no murders, rapes, or arsons reported to law enforcement.

Colleyville's low crime rate, coupled with the fact that it's located just 10 miles from the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport are just two of the many reasons it is a superb city to settle down in. Eleven award winning parks and greenbelts make it perfect for those who enjoy recreation and families with children. Two of Colleyville's most admired outdoor spaces are the Splashpad at McPherson Park, an eco-friendly water park and Kimzey Park, a 20-acre

neighborhood space that boasts a one-acre fishing pond, multiuse trail, and a number of other family friendly features.



## 2. Little Elm

Little Elm is recognized as one of the fastest growing municipalities in Texas over the last decade and it's a wonderful place to relocate. Despite the fact that the town has grown considerably, it retains its small town appeal, including a beautiful lake where boating and fishing are popular pastimes, an outstanding school district, and nominal crime.

According to the FBI Crime Report, there were no murders, rapes, or arsons reported to law enforcement in 2011. In addition to the fact that the crime rate in Little Elm is low, it's also situated just 27 miles north of beautiful Downtown Dallas, in a region that's optimal for growth and offers a favorable business climate. And when it's time to travel, the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport is conveniently located just 25 miles west.



### **3. Friendswood**

Located between the bustling metropolis of Houston and the waterfront city of Galveston, you'll find the primarily affluent suburban city of Friendsville. Noted for its outstanding schools and good paying jobs, Friendswood is a place worth considering moving to. And the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report notes that in 2011, there were 331 incidents of property crime and 12 incidents of violent crime. For a city with well over 36,000 residents, those are comforting figures.

The city boasts a decidedly progressive vibe, and many of its residents are highly educated and work in the aerospace sector and the information technology field. When it's time for a family outing, head to the park to catch live music or a movie, or make the short drive to the beach or to enjoy any number of museums, amusement parks, zoos or even a major league sport. With temperatures that rarely fall below 36°F, a family that moves to Friendswood can enjoy outdoor activities nearly all year long.

# FRIENDSWOOD, TX



## 4. Flower Mound

Flower Mound not only boasts public school with exemplary ratings, an extensive network of hiking and biking trails and an abundance of eco-friendly events, it's also incredibly safe. According to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report, the 66,000 resident town had the lowest overall crime rate in Texas (in the town's population category), the lowest property crime rate and the lowest violent crime rate. In fact, only three robberies were reported in 2011.

It's no wonder that this suburb of the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex is attracting families and business at a stellar rate. More good reasons to move to Flower Mound include its highly developed SmartGrowth program which seeks to preserve open land and ecological resources, and its amazing Community Activity Center which serves as a hub of the community. Sporting a massive fitness facility, game room with a huge variety of table top games, and a water park complete with lazy rivers, activity pools, waterslides and more it's a completely state of the art building. Offering a safe environment, good school and boundless recreation, it won't take your family long to feel at home in Flower Mound.



## 5. Sachse

Sachse is a northeastern suburb of Dallas with an average household income of almost \$90,000. The FBI Crime Report states there were 216 property crimes and two robberies reported to law enforcement in 2011. You won't have to be overly concerned about your family's safety in Sachse. In addition to being a safe place to move to, Sachse offers lots of activities for kids and adults.

From baby ballet to keyboard instruction, every member of the family will enjoy the array of programs offered by the city's parks and recreation department, and golfers will be glad to hear that Sachse is home to the Woodbridge Golf Course (which is also home to the Northern Texas Chapter of the PGA.) The city's active Economic Development Corporation helps attract and retain businesses and provides local business with grants to fund a variety of property improvements. Sachse's focus on promoting and supporting small business may be one reason the number of its private sector business establishments has doubled in the last decade.



## 6. Corinth

A suburb of Dallas and part of the vibrant Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Corinth offers residents easy access to desirable businesses, light industry, well respected medical facilities, abundant shopping, airports and even a branch campus of North Central Texas College. It's also a city that understands the important of developing business.

If you're an entrepreneur looking to relocate, you'll be glad to know that the Corinth Economic Development Corporation is an active organization that strives to attract new business to the city. Often referred to as a city with a hometown vibe, it's no wonder that this perfectly located city with lots of charm has attracted thousands of transplants over the last decade. In fact, in the last 10 years, the city has grown by a remarkable 76 percent. Yet even with unparalleled growth, the crime rate in Corinth remains low. The FBI Crime Report reveals authorities were alerted to two robberies and 61 burglaries in 2011.



## 7. Keller

“Money” magazine ranked Keller seventh on its list of the Best Cities to Live in The U.S., and there’s good reason for that honor. Located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, Keller is a thriving, affluent city that offers lots for families and seniors to do. And thanks to visionary planning, growth has included 426 total acres of parkland, miles and miles of picturesque hike and bike trails, plus a number of sport fields that support a huge recreation program.

Move to Keller and you can also enjoy a recreation department that offers oil painting, ballroom dancing, martial arts, horseback riding, fly fishing, cooking classes and a huge assortment of activities for seniors. You and your family will never run out of things to do in Keller. When compared to other cities of similar population size, Keller ranks third lowest in the number of Part 1 Crimes, which include murder, rape, robbery, assault and theft. The FBI Crime Report states that there were two robberies, and no arsons reported to law enforcement in 2011.

# KELLER, TX



## 8. Leander

Located just north of the booming city of Austin, you'll find Leander, Texas. A recreation packed city with one of the state's lowest crime rates, the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report states no murders, three robberies, and 36 burglaries reported to authorities in 2011. Leander also boasts a lower than average cost of living when compared to the U.S. average and an amazing diversity of things to do.

From its famous Bluegrass Festival that's packed with sensational sounds, to gardening classes, golf courses and lots of senior activities it's no wonder that Leander's population grew from 7,596 in 2000 to 27,079 in 2010 according to the census. Another reason families are flocking to Leander is its terrific parks. Benbrook Ranch Park is a 46.5 acre park that offers the entire family opportunities to enjoy the fresh air, including hike and bike trails, a dynamic BMX track, skate park, and a fun disc golf course. For those who enjoy fishing and wildlife observation, Leander's 45.5 acre Devine Lake Park is the place to spend a casual Sunday afternoon.



## 9. University Park

It might surprise you that an inner suburb of Dallas ranks as one of the safest cities in Texas, but it's true. University Park is located just five miles north of downtown Dallas, and according to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report there were no rapes, no murders, and eight violent crimes reported to law enforcement in 2011. Home to Southern Methodist University, the 3.75 square mile suburb overflows with stunning homes that give it an alluring charm your family will fall in love with. It also offers 10 parks, and the renowned Holmes Aquatic Center where families congregate to enjoy a giant water slide, lap pool, children's pool and a zero-depth "sprayground" that entertains little ones with more than 25 spray and water features.

Because of its fantastic location, those who are fortunate enough to move to University Park can expect easy access to numerous business opportunities, shopping galore and an assortment of cultural activities. They can also brag that they live in one of the most highly educated cities in the U.S.; Over 72 percent of University Park's residents have a college or advanced degree and approximately 98 percent of the local high school's graduating class go on to college.



## 10. Cedar Park

There are a number of reasons why you'll want to move to Cedar Park, Texas. The fact that it's one of the state's safest cities is just the first. The FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report reveals that authorities were alerted to six robberies and one arson in 2011. That's remarkable for a city of almost 55,000.

In addition to being safe, Cedar Park also boasts an amazing location. Just 17 minutes from hip downtown Austin, and a day's drive from beautiful Texas Hill Country, it's no surprise that "Family Circle" magazine named it one of the "Top Ten Places to Raise a Family" or that according to "Forbes" magazine, it's one of the fastest growing suburbs in America. There's something for every member of your family to enjoy in Cedar Park. For outdoor enthusiasts, the city offers 860 acres of park space giving your family an abundance of well-groomed bike paths and hiking trails to explore. A highly educated labor pool, and pro-business leadership make Cedar Park a great place for those who own their own business. Plus, it has an exemplary rated school district and is surrounded by a number of colleges and universities.

# CEDAR PARK, TX



## 11. The Colony

Quiet tree-lined streets, a cozy hometown feel and the shores of stunning Lake Lewisville are just a few reasons why The Colony is an amazing city to move to. Just a 30 minute drive to downtown Dallas and a 25 minute drive to the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, all the amenities of big city life are right at your fingertips. And if you're searching for a safe city, you'll be glad to know that according to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report, one arson and 12 robberies were reported to law enforcement in 2011.

Its 470 acre Hidden Cove Park skirts the almost 30,000 acre [Lake Lewisville](#) and offers endless recreation and fun. Camping, fishing, swimming and water skiing are just a few activities your family will enjoy when you call The Colony home. Its Five Star Complex is a modern sports facility that provides hike and bike trails, playgrounds, plus fields for soccer, football, baseball and softball. The Colony is a safe Texas city also has the honor of being recognized as a Tree City USA and a Playful City USA.

# THE COLONY, TX



## 12. Kyle

Situated 20 miles south of Austin and less than an hour drive from San Antonio, Kyle is recognized as one of the most affordable cities in Central Texas. It's also one of the safest according to the FBI's Crime Report which says authorities were alerted about five robberies and 69 burglaries in 2011. Low cost of living and safe streets are two more reasons why Kyle is a great place to move to; its outstanding school district is yet another.

Parents considering a move to Kyle will be glad to know that its school district offers students a state of the art performing arts center and award winning theater, music and athletic programs. Texas State University and University of Texas at Austin are less than 30 minutes away and soon Kyle will be home to a branch of the Austin Community College. Kyle's quaint downtown features restored and renovated buildings that house a collection of shops, and the city boasts the most modern of medical facilities. We aren't surprised that families from all over the country are moving to Kyle, making it one of the fastest growing cities in Texas.



### 13. Wylie

Known as the “City Between the Lakes,” (Lake Ray Hubbard and Lake Lavon) Wylie offers plenty of good reasons to call it home. For starters, Wylie offers its residents a huge assortment of outdoor activity and provides them with a dozen stunning parks. From hiking trails to fishing, concerts in the park to holiday themed celebrations; Wylie’s residents know how to enjoy Mother Earth. Parents considering a move to Wylie will be impressed with its school district that hosts a wide range of programs, including culinary arts and television production.

It also has a reputation as an attractive place for business owners to set up shop, and it’s recognized as one of the state’s safest cities. The FBI Crime Report says that less than 40 incidents of violent crimes and eight robberies were reported to law enforcement in 2011. For a city with over 40,000 residents, Wylie’s low crime rate is impressive. It’s no wonder that this once tiny Texas town has developed into a booming residential community that includes gorgeous master planned communities.



## 14. Coppell

Pair green living with a vibrant business community and an educated workforce and you've created Coppell, Texas. A suburb of Dallas, Coppell is also one of the state's safest cities. The FBI Crime Report says authorities were alerted to three robberies and 134 burglaries in 2011. In addition to being safe, there are a number of other reasons you'll want to make Coppell your hometown.

One of which is its focus on green living. Coppell offers an amazing farmers market, where backyard gardeners are welcomed to sell their produce next to veteran farmers who offer organic dairy, artisan breads, and a variety of all natural meats. Coppell's Community Garden brings together a cross section of residents who enjoy classes on topics like composting while tending to garden beds. And business owners will want to take advantage of the city's very active Chamber of Commerce, and its highly educated workforce.

More than 69 percent of Coppell residents have an associate's degree or higher. Entrepreneurs looking for a new home should become familiar with [Coppell's Main Street](#) community which offers professional office cottages, luxury villas, retail space, restaurants and more.



## 15. Southlake

Founded in 1956, Southlake is an affluent suburban city located within the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Southlake offers a welcoming business environment, amazing cultural arts, abundant park space, and a safe environment to raise your family. The city's Department of Economic Development and Tourism provides an assortment of resources to help local small businesses, including a guide to marketing opportunities and a comprehensive guide to assist new business owners.

The city also provides over 600 acres of park space and well attended community events such as the annual Arts in the Square festival. Plus, five lakes are conveniently located within a 30 minute drive of Southlake, so your family will never run out of activities. All of Southlake schools have a reputation for excellence, and an 85 percent graduation rate or better. In fact one of Southlake's high schools has a 99 percent graduation rate. Southlake is also safe according to statistics from the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report that reveal no murders, no rapes, four robberies and less than 60 burglaries were reported to law enforcement in 2011.



## 16. Socorro

In the heart of El Paso County, just 20 minutes from downtown El Paso, you'll find the quaint city of Socorro. Situated on the bank of the Rio Grande River, the city's population has skyrocketed over the last decade, and it's gained a reputation as one of the fastest growing cities in the southwest. Socorro's ideal location is one reason why families are moving to the city; its safe streets may be another. According to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report, there were no murders, six robberies and 85 burglaries reported to law enforcement in 2011.



## 17. Georgetown

The FBI's Crime Report identifies the historic city of Georgetown, Texas as a safe place to live. With over 50,000 residents, authorities were alerted to 35 aggravated assaults and 13 robberies in 2011. In addition to its stellar safety record, those relocating to Georgetown from larger cities will be impressed with its shopping opportunities, entertainment and healthcare facilities.

They'll also fall in love with its charm. Almost 200 Georgetown homes and building are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and poppies and wild flowers bloom relentlessly. Georgetown also offers newcomers the benefit of three disc golf courses, a splash pool, and the amazing [Inner Space Caverns](#). "Fortune Small Business" magazine named Georgetown as the second best place to live and launch a business in America. Welcome to your new home!



## 18. Mansfield

Once a rural agricultural community, Mansfield has developed into a lively suburban city with more than 50,000 residents. There are plenty of reasons why you'll want to move to Mansfield. First off, its location is ideal. Mansfield is a suburb of Fort Worth and is within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, so every imaginable amenity is just a short drive away. Next, it's a safe city according to the FBI's Crime Report which identifies 62 violent crimes, and less than 20 robberies reported to law enforcement in 2011.

It also has a reputation for friendliness, so it won't take you or your kids long to meet the neighbors or find new pals. Its school system has been awarded with superior ratings and Mansfield's business community continues to grow at a rapid rate. But perhaps Mansfield's biggest draw is its proximity to a number of lakes. Bordered by beautiful [Joe Pool Lake](#), Mansfield is surrounded by almost a dozen more lakes. If outdoor adventures get your family excited, Mansfield, Texas is the place to head.

# MANSFIELD, TX



## 19. Rowlett

Rowlett, Texas was ranked number 24 in the Top 100 Best Places to Live by “Money” magazine. There’s good reason for that. In addition to the fact that the FBI’s Crime Report reveals nominal crime in Rowlett (no murders, 50 aggravated assaults, and 35 motor vehicle thefts were reported to law enforcement in 2011,) the stunning suburb of Dallas is family friendly, and believes in supporting its small business owners.

It’s also an educated community with over 30 percent of the adult population having attained a bachelor’s degree or higher. On Friday nights, families often head to Main Street to enjoy a family picnic followed by a movie under the stars. During the warm season, you’ll find Rowlett residents off all ages taking advantage of its premier [Wet Zone Waterpark](#), and when mom and dad need a night out on the town they can enjoy a play at the Amateur Community Theatre of Rowlett. Family friendly through and through, Rowlett even offers newcomers a state of the art community center that’s outfitted with the latest fitness equipment, a walking track, gyms and racquetball courts.



## 20. Missouri City

Missouri City offers small business owners access to a dynamic economy, and its office of Economic Development is dedicated to helping local businesses succeed. It also has a 168 acre business park and is part of the ever growing Houston, The Woodlands-Sugar Land metropolitan area. Nearly 30 percent of Missouri City residents have a bachelor's degree, and 16 colleges are within driving distance.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department operates 20 parks, and a dozen more are under development. The city was designated as a "Scenic" city by Scenic Texas, a program that honors cities that show an exceeding sense of pride. The median age is 35, so families looking to move to Missouri City will find a lot of company. And as if you need one more reason to fall in love with Missouri City, it's also one of the state's safest cities. The FBI's Crime Report reveals that in this city of almost 70,000 people, less than 300 burglaries, 11 arsons and 35 robberies reported to law enforcement in 2011.

# MISSOURI CITY, TX



## 21. Allen

This northern suburb of Dallas has almost 100,000 residents, yet remains one of the state's safest cities according to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report. No murders, less than 75 violent crimes and 17 robberies reported to law enforcement in 2011. Besides being safe, the city offers newcomers an average temperature of a comfortable 64 degrees. That's good news because Allen has lots of water activities you'll want to partake in.

One of its most famous is the [Hydrous Wake Park](#) that features three lakes, a restaurant, and a pro shop outfitted with the latest in wake board gear and apparel. Boasting 1,363 acres of park and open public space, there's no doubt Allen takes outdoor fun seriously. Plus, Allen offers small business owners lots of opportunity at the mixed-use development of Watters Creek at Montgomery Farms. Packed with tons of dining and entertainment options, and lots of water views, the business owner who relocates here is sure to enjoy abundant foot traffic!



## **22. Sugar Land**

The name Sugar Land might give you the impression this town slow paced and stuck in yesteryear. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sugar Land is located just 20 miles southwest of downtown Houston and it's an amazing place to work and raise your family. Over half of its working residents are in management or professional occupations, and large companies like Aetna Healthcare employ thousands of Sugar Land residents.

Despite its amazing growth, Sugar Land is identified as a safe city according to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report that reveals authorities were alerted to 29 robberies and 33 motor vehicle thefts in 2011. With safety on its side, a cost of living lower than the country's average, two minor league sports teams, and a decidedly cosmopolitan vibe, it comes as no surprise that families are flocking to Sugar Land's gorgeous master-planned communities. From the low \$100,000 to well over \$1 million, there's a home waiting for you in Sugar Land.



## 23. Pflugerville

Short commutes, strong city finances, quality healthcare, amazing schools and plenty of activities top the list of reasons why Pflugerville is a great place to move to. It's also has a low crime rate. Data gathered in the FBI Crime Report states, no murders, 11 robberies and less than 70 violent crimes were reported to law enforcement in 2011. Personal and property crime incidents were reported at just one incident per 1000 residents. Those are impressive statistics for a city of almost 100,000 people.

It's no surprise "Money" magazine named Pflugerville one of the Best Places to Live in America two years in a row. Pflugerville has also experienced incredible job growth in the last decade. In fact, job growth from 2000 to 2011 was 147.94 percent. Beyond being safe and offering a number of job opportunities, those who move to Pflugerville won't waste any time getting familiar with Lake Pflugerville or its soon open [Hawaiian Falls Water and Adventure Park](#). Located on 25 acres and packed with fun for all ages, the \$21.5 million park is sure to serve as your family's new favorite gathering place.



## 24. Pearland

Pearland is a Gulf Coast city located just south of Houston. Its ideal location makes it the perfect place to live for both business and pleasure, plus it has nominal crime. The FBI's Crime Report states no arsons and less than 30 robberies were reported to law enforcement in 2011. Those who like to hit the links will be glad to know Pearland offers three golf courses, and putt-putt for the little ones.

Its 107,000 square foot recreation center is the place to head for fitness and fun. In addition to the most modern exercise equipment and classes, it also provides a competition pool and a zero entry activity pool. If your family has a four-legged friend, he'll enjoy exercising at Pearland's dog parks. Both of its dog parks include agility courses, covered picnic areas and more. Pearland has one of the highest per capita incomes in the state, and it's also one of the fastest growing cities in Texas. Boasting a reputation for offering newcomers a pro-growth business environment and highly motivated workforce, Pearland is one of the state's best kept secrets.

# PEARLAND, TX



## 25. La Porte

If you're search for an affordable water community that's also safe and oozes small town charm you've just found it. The city of La Porte is situated on Galveston Bay just east of downtown Houston and its residents enjoy a quality of life that you'll easily acclimate to. A variety of housing in almost every price range make it easy to find a home that suits your family perfectly, and quality job opportunities are plentiful. In fact, 29.4 percent of La Porte residents are employed in management, or otherwise professional occupations.

Plus, the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report reveals there were 10 robberies and 18 aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement in 2011. When it's time to relax, head to the city's renowned [Bay Forest Golf Course](#) which has the distinction of being named one of the Top 20 Public Courses in Texas by the "Dallas Morning News," or pack up the family and head to magnificent Galveston Bay. Move to La Porte and you'll never run out of activities to keep your family smiling.

# LA PORTE, TX



## 26. Frisco

Frisco is a progressive community that values the arts and offers families a quality of life that's hard to find these days. Small business owners will appreciate its refreshing pro-business vibe and access to over 8 million square feet of retail space and top-quality commercial developments. We're not surprised that this rapidly developing suburb of Dallas was named by "Money" magazine as one of the Top 100 Places to Live in America.

Conveniently located less than 30 minutes from both the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport, residents can come and go with ease. Plus, the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report shows Frisco has a low crime rate. The median age in Frisco is just 33, so newcomers with children are sure to make fast friends. They'll also enjoy watching the city's four professional sports teams in action, visiting the longest continuous-themed bronze sculpture collection in the U.S., and getting wet at one of its spray parks.



## 27. Lake Jackson

Lake Jackson is a quaint small town with an interesting history. The city was built in the early 1940s on Old Jackson Plantation to support the families moving to the area to work at Dow Chemical Company. Dow continues to be a major employer in Lake Jackson, with approximately 4000 workers. In an effort to save majestic plantation trees, the streets in Lake Jackson twist and turn through town. Lake Jackson's continuous effort to preserve trees has earned it being listed on the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA list.

Families moving to Lake Jackson will want to visit its [Sea Center](#), a marine aquarium, fish hatchery and education center located on nearly 100 acres. In addition to its appealing history and focus on conservation, those who move to Lake Jackson will appreciate that it's conveniently located within the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan area and it's a safe place to live. In fact, the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report shows no murders, no arsons, and less than 50 violent crimes were reported to law enforcement in 2011.



## 28. Schertz

Foresight, innovation and its location within the desirable San Antonio metropolitan area make Schertz a popular place to move to. The community is also decidedly family oriented and safe. The FBI's Crime Report shows authorities were made aware 70 burglaries in 2011, and no murders or arsons.

Business owners relocating to Schertz will be glad to know that it has the region's highest proportion of military veterans, and a highly educated workforce (more than 30 percent of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher). A dozen colleges and universities surround the fast growing city, so there's lots of opportunity for continuing education. Schertz cost of living is below the national average and low property tax rates make homeownership refreshingly affordable.



## 29. Rosenberg

A proud community full of rich history yet on the cutting edge of progressive development, it's no wonder families from across the nation are moving to Rosenberg, Texas. Located within the Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land metropolitan area, the city is just 30 minutes from downtown Houston and has a low crime rate. Data from the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report states less than 150 burglaries and one arson were reported to law enforcement in 2011.

The city's historic downtown serves as its hub and was recently designated as a Cultural Arts District by the Texas Commission on the Arts. So whether you enjoy a day filled with cultural arts and packed with shopping or an evening at the live theater and a savory meal, downtown Rosenberg has it. Affordable housing and a laidback ambiance, coupled with a business-friendly atmosphere and convenient access to two ports make Rosenberg a fantastic place to relocate to.



### 30. McKinney

In addition to being ranked number two on “Money” magazine’s 2012 Best Places to Live in America list, McKinney also has the honor of being ranked the fourth best city in Texas for job seekers by NerdWallet.com. McKinney’s reputation for valuing its children hasn’t gone unrecognized either. Thanks to its amazing educational programs America’s Promise Alliance placed McKinney on its list of Top 100 Best Communities for Young People.

Those moving to McKinney will appreciate its variety of affordable housing that ranges from restored Victorians to modern “Texas style” homes and its serious commitment to business. Rolling hills surround the friendly community that’s punctuated with golf courses like [Oak Hallow Golf Course](#), dozens of parks and plenty of green spaces. As if you needed another reason to move to McKinney, you’ll be glad to know that the FBI’s Crime Report states less than 50 robberies were reported to law enforcement in 2011. For all these reasons and more, we aren’t the least bit shocked that the population in McKinney has doubled in the last decade and the city continues to attract the very finest families.



## 31. League City

“Money” magazine named League City one of the 100 Best Small Cities in America, and it’s easy to see why. Located within the Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land metropolitan area, League City boasts gorgeous waterfront, abundant water recreation opportunities, a historic district that has enjoyed magical revitalization and a low crime rate. According to the FBI’s Crime Report, authorities were made aware of less than 100 incidents of violent crime and 37 robberies in 2011. If you’re a business owner or entrepreneur considering a move to League City, you’ll be glad to hear that the city’s Economic Development Department provides free marketing and research services to help new businesses and startups succeed.

Just a short drive to Galveston Island, and bordered by Clear Creek and Clear Lake, newcomers who enjoy water activities will be thrilled that the League City area is the third largest pleasure boat anchorage in the United States. And birders will be excited to find out that League City is ranked in the top five birding destinations in the U.S., is home to more than 220 species of birds and is located on the [Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail](#).



## 32. Round Rock

Round Rock, Texas has won numerous awards, including those from “Money” and “Kiplinger’s” that recognize the 100,000 resident city as a fabulous place to live and work. The Austin-Round Rock metro area was also ranked number six on a list of Best Cities for Relocating Families according to a thorough study conducted by Primacy and Worldwide ERC.

Round Rock boasts an amazing 80,000 square foot indoor sports center that offers residents access to a number of sports and sporting events, including seating for almost 2,000 fans! No wonder Round Rock is known as The Sports Capital of Texas! In addition to good schools, an assortment of affordable housing options and incredible sports, another reason you’ll want to move to Round Rock is because it’s safe. The FBI’s Crime Report reveals that 51 vehicle thefts and one arson were reported to law enforcement in 2011.



### 33. Del Rio

Although Del Rio's population is nearly 40,000, the city retains a small town feel that's attractive to families looking to relocate. It also benefits from a low crime rate. The FBI's Crime Report, says no rapes, 12 robberies, and less than 20 vehicle thefts were reported to law enforcement in 2011. With an average annual temperature of a comfortable 72 degrees, newcomers won't waste much time getting to know the city's abundant recreational activities.

One of its finest recreational outlets is Amistad National Recreation Area. Spanish for the word meaning friendship, Amistad offers water sports, hiking, rock art viewing and a rich cultural history. After a day at the park, residents can enjoy sipping samples of vine at the popular [Val Verde Winery](#), recognized as the oldest continuously running winery in Texas. Just seven miles east of Del Rio is the Air Education Training Command's Laughlin Air Force Base, skilled veterans and military spouses make excellent workers for local businesses.



## 34. Benbrook

Benbrook has a lot going for it. It's location as a suburb of Fort Worth, and just a 30 minute drive to Dallas is just one. Those who relocate to Benbrook will enjoy a unique blend of quiet neighborhoods, booming businesses, strong schools and a low crime rate. In fact, the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report, notes that three robberies and 118 burglaries were reported to law enforcement in 2011, making Benbrook one of the state's safest cities.

The small community of just over 20,000 residents greets newcomers with open arms, and excellent city services they aren't likely to find elsewhere. Benbrook also offers endless recreational opportunities including a sensational [golf course](#). From Sunday afternoon bike rides to playdates at one of the city's modern parks, families of all shapes and sizes will appreciate Benbrook's 1,000 acres of parkland.

# BENBROOK, TX



## **35. Saginaw**

Saginaw close proximity to world-class museums, zoos, professional sports and limitless shopping coupled with its small town charm and tightly knit community are just a few reasons why Saginaw is a great place to call home. No wonder it is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in north Texas.

At just 7.5 square miles, the petite Fort-Worth suburb is home to top rated schools, and a collect of family-centered facilities, including the Saginaw Aquatic Center which features a unique train themed play structure with water slides, a full service concession stand and plenty of shaded areas for summer afternoon picnics. In addition to being family friendly, the city is also recognized as one of the state's safest according to data from the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report. The report reveals 29 aggravated assaults, less than 100 burglaries and two arsons were reported to law enforcement in 2011.



## 36. Deer Park

Just 25 minutes from downtown Houston, and 45 minutes from the sun, fun and surf of gorgeous Galveston Island, friendly Deer Park, Texas makes an ideal hometown. It's also a rather young community. Almost 34 percent of its population is under the age of 44, and 31 percent of its residents fall in between 5 to 19 years of age, so you can bet your family will fit right in.

Deer Park boasts a proactive police department that encourages programs like National Night Out and Neighborhood Watch. That could be why Deer Park has a low crime rate when compared to other Texas cities according to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report. A stellar [golf course](#), skate park, disc golf course, fitness center and five multi-use sports facilities are sure to keep every member of your family healthy and active.



### **37. Plano**

With a population of almost 300,000, Plano is the state's ninth most populous city. Despite its sizable population, Plano offers newcomers an unexpectedly low crime rate. According to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report, five arsons and less than 450 incidents of violent crime reported to law enforcement in 2011. The 71 square mile city was recently designated as a platinum level Texas Certified Scenic City thanks to its robust scenic standards that help fuel economic development and improve quality of life for its residents.

Its Green Business Certification Program recognizes green small and medium sized businesses, and its fiscal management is top-notch according to the site 24/7 Wall St. that ranked Plano The Largest, Best-Run City in America. Plano has also been honored as the third best place to retire "on the cheap" by The Exchange (a Yahoo! finance blog) and was ranked as one of the Top 25 Happiest and Healthiest Cities In America by "[Prevention](#)" magazine. Plano proves that big isn't synonymous with bad; quite the contrary, Plano is a wonderful place to live.

# PLANO, TX



## 38. Rockwall

With a comfortable annual temperature of 66 degrees, exemplary rated schools and a variety of industries that include technology, medical, logistics, and defense, you'll have a hard time finding a reason *not* to move to Rockwall, Texas. A suburb of Dallas, Rockwall is the county seat of Rockwall County, which is noted as the third wealthiest county in the state. It also has a low crime rate according to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report.

Data from the FBI Report reveals no murders, no arsons and eight robberies were reported to law enforcement in 2011. Business owners will find Rockwall offers an incredibly business friendly environment that includes a strong Economic Development Corporation that's committed to customizing incentive packages and a 365-acre technology park. Voted number one in job creation by "Money" magazine, Rockwall is a stable community with an educated and skilled workforce.

# ROCKWALL, TX



## 39. El Paso

With a population of nearly 700,000 you might be surprised to learn that the west Texas city of El Paso has a relatively low crime rate according to the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report 2011. In addition to moderate crime, there are plenty of other reasons why moving to El Paso is smart. It's decidedly family friendly and offers entertainment for all ages.

Take in a professional baseball game, spend the day at the modern [El Paso Zoo](#) or zip down a waterslide at [Wet-n-Wild Waterworld](#). If you're a nature or history buff you'll be in heaven in El Paso and won't want to miss a trip to the Museum of Archeology or a hike through one of the city's four state parks. From a trip to the weekly downtown art and farmers market, to beer festivals, 5K runs, and numerous family events, your family will never run out of things to do in El Paso.

# EL PASO, TX



## 40. Carrollton

Diverse, cultured, and booming are just three words that describe Carrollton, Texas. Located in the hub of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Carrollton is not only an energetic residential community, it's a flourishing business community as well. In fact, over 5,000 businesses call Carrollton home. New comers will be welcomed into a community that's well educated.

Over 34 percent of Carrollton residents have attained a bachelor's degree or higher, and those who want to continue their education will be glad to know that the city is conveniently located within 30 minutes of most colleges and universities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. With more 1200 acres of parkland, more than 50 lakes and 100 public and private golf courses within a 100-mile radius, Carrollton is a recreation mecca. All this, plus the fact that the FBI's Crime Report notes Carrollton's relatively low crime rate very likely contributed to it being named by "Forbes" magazine as number 12 on its list of America's Best Places to Move.

# CARROLLTON, TX



## 41. Weatherford

Recognized as the Western Gateway Business Centre of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Weatherford is located just 20 minutes west of Fort Worth. Thanks to its community and family oriented way of life, lots of families are moving to the charming city. Adding to its reputation as a premier place to relocate is its low incidents of crime. According to the FBI's Crime Report, no murders, 11 robberies and 20 motor vehicle thefts were reported to law enforcement in 2011.

In addition to safe streets, newcomers will enjoy the city's increasingly popular First Monday Trade Days. Known as one of the oldest open air markets in the state, First Monday Trade Days is full of Texas traditions and a diverse collection of vendors. Weatherford's historic district overflows with antique stores, boutiques, galleries and a variety of eateries for the perfect day of shopping. Weatherford's [key economic indicators](#) are positive, and its motto "Growing with Tradition" ensures that Weatherford's future remains bright.



## 42. Kerrville

If you're looking for a safe city that's American through and through you've found it. In addition to the fact that the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report indicates no rapes, 10 robberies and 24 motor vehicle thefts were reported to law enforcement in 2011, making it one of the state's safest cities, Kerrville is also full of community pride. Named as a Preserve America community for its focus on preservation, it is also home to the [Official State Arts and Crafts Fair](#) that draws talented artisans from all over Texas. Those who appreciate rolling hills and rugged terrain will enjoy the many recreational opportunities found in and around Kerrville. In fact, families that move to Kerrville will surely enjoy its beautiful parks that line the

Guadalupe River, its hunting ranches and abundant youth programs. Take your toddler to story time at the library, enjoy a gardening class or invigorate with a hike at the recently renovated Louise Hays Park. There are lots of activities and friendly people waiting for you in Kerrville, Texas.



### **43. Richardson**

If you're a business owner looking for a technology rich employment pool and a safe city to raise your family in, you've just found it. Richardson's business owners benefit from the city's highly respected Chamber of Commerce that has earned a five-star ranking from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, placing it in the top one percent in America.

And you'll feel good about safety in Richardson because the FBI's Crime Report states less than 100 aggravated assaults, less than 100 robberies, and three arsons were reported to authorities in 2011. If you and family enjoy culture and live entertainment, then you'll get lots of pleasure from Richardson's Eisemann Center. Be sure to grab tickets to its collection of interactive and educational children's performances. All year round you'll have the pleasure of hiking more than 40 trails and walkways.

# RICHARDSON, TX



## 44. Huntsville

With a city motto of “There’s no place, like this place. Any place!” you’re family is bound to get excited about a move to Huntsville, Texas. Home to some of the most cherished historical architecture in the state, it’s Cultural District makes the perfect place for a casual weekend afternoon that’s filled with art, shopping, antiquing and tasty treats.

If recreation is more your thing, you’ll want to waste no time in discovering [Huntsville State Park](#). A heavily wooded park, Huntsville State Park neighbors the Sam Houston National Forest and encloses 210-acre Lake Raven. Enjoy swimming, canoe and paddle boat rentals, biking and even guided horseback trail riding. In addition to these fine reasons to move to Huntsville, you’ll feel good about safety in Huntsville. Data from the FBI’s Crime Report states that less than 30 robberies, less than 30 motor vehicle thefts and one arson were reported to authorities in 2011, plus the city offers an active Crime Stoppers program and a proactive police department.



## 45. Denton

Denton is located on the edge of the bustling Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, which means newcomers can expect access to big city amenities while enjoying a relaxed, small town way of life. Parents will be impressed with Denton's strong focus on education. Its school district is the second fastest growing school district in the region and offers cutting edge curriculum, including advanced technology. Students in Denton score well on the [state's standardized tests](#), and the city is served by three universities.

Quality schools, and access to an abundance of [activities](#) like the world-class Texas Motor Speedway, are two more reasons families are flocking to Denton. And data from the FBI's Crime Report proves it is a low crime city. Denton is located in Texas Horse Country, which boasts the largest concentrations of horse farms in America. Its population has a median age of just 26, so young families moving to Denton will fit right in.



## 46. Watauga

You might be surprised to learn that an inner suburb of Fort Worth is one of the state's safest cities, but that's what data from the FBI's Crime Report reveals about Watauga, Texas. Settled by Cherokee Indians, Watauga has transformed from a small rural community to a railroad town and now a prosperous business and residential community. The 4.2 square mile Watauga, meaning village of many springs, is attractive to families because it offers access to big city life, yet retains a small town character.

Several weekends throughout the year you can find kids of all ages enjoy the town's many special events. Fishing derbies, hay mazes, breakfast with Santa, and 5Ks are just a sampling of the activities Watauga families take part in. Watauga is also serious about business. Its active Community Development Program is committed to a strong Shop Local campaign and provides a comprehensive list of resources for small business moving to Watauga.



## 47. Copperas Cove

Home to Fort Hood, one of the country's largest military establishments, Copperas Cove is located in central Texas. Situated between five picturesque hills, families moving to Copperas Cove will enjoy a welcoming atmosphere and low crime. In fact, according to data from the FBI Crime Report, Copperas Cove has the honor of being one of the state's safest cities. The Report states authorities were alerted to eight robberies and 21 motor vehicle thefts in 2011.

Of the number of Part I crimes reported to law enforcement (crimes such as robbery, burglary and arson), 40 percent were cleared. Of Part II crimes (crimes such as fraud, gambling, DWI), 70 percent were cleared. Newcomers will feel safe knowing that Copperas Cove's [crime clearance rate](#) above the state's average. Known as a city built for family living,

Copperas Cove offers a wide variety of housing. From plush executive style homes, to affordable entry-level developments where kids occupy almost every home, to lovely golf course communities, whatever your budget and desire, there's a comfortable home waiting for you in Copperas Cove.

# COPPERAS COVE, TX



## 48. Midland

Move to Midland and your family will not only enjoy 135 holes of golf, 39 playgrounds, 2 fishing ponds, a dog park, skate park and BMX park, but safe neighborhoods too according to the FBI's Crime Report. Boundless recreation and a low crime rate are just two reasons families that relocate to Midland are glad they made the move.

Booming business is another. From new eateries, to modern commercial developments and everything in between, Midland, Texas is a great place for your small business. When the weekend rolls around, explore the [home of George W. Bush](#), stargaze at Midland's high-tech planetarium, or enjoy rock, ballet, jazz or a number of other performances at Midland's brand new \$81 million performing arts center.



## 49. Burleson

Active adults and parents with energetic kids won't regret moving to Burleson, Texas. A suburb of Fort Worth, Burleson is located in an incredibly fast growing area south of the city and it strives to keep its families happy and healthy. Burleson's recreation center offers an indoor pool area that includes a lazy river, slides, learn to swim classes, and aquatics programs for almost every fitness level.

It also boasts a boulder rock climbing wall, homeschool physical education classes and family track time. Over 40 percent of Burleson households have children, so your kids won't have any trouble finding playmates. Best yet, housing is affordable, and it's a safe city according the FBI Crime Report that states no murders, three arsons, and 14 robberies were reported to law enforcement in 2001. A safe community that advocates family fitness, we're not surprised Burleson was recognized as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance.

# BURLESON, TX



## 50. North Richland Hills

North Richland Hills is a suburb of Fort Worth that values citizenship participation in government. In fact, the city of 65,000 residents offers a robust citizen academy programs (civic, fire and police) to encourage its residents to learn more about the ins and outs of the city. North Richland Hills newcomers we be happy to hear it's one of the state's safest cities according to data provided by the FBI's Crime in the U.S. Report.

In 2011, fewer than 200 violent crimes, 33 robberies and no arsons were reported to authorities. A progressive Art in Public Spaces Program, a [thriving community garden](#), and the Iron Horse Golf Course (named by the Golf Channel as a one of the top ten in the Dallas-Fort Worth area) ensure every family member has something to keep them busy. North Richland Hills is community even Fido will enjoy moving to. That's because North Richland Hills offers Tipps Canine Hollow. An amazing dog park that includes a 2 acre fenced area for large dogs, and a one acre fenced area for small canines, your four legged family friend will get plenty of exercise.



These great cities secured a spot on our 50 safest cities in the entire state of Texas. No matter where you live in Texas, it's best to do your part to keep your home secure. SafeWise recommends a monitored security system to get the best protection possible. To discover which system is right for your home, check out the [SafeWise security system finder](#).

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[Alexia Chianis](#)

Wanderlust junky and mom of two, [Alexia](#) is a former police officer and U.S. Army Captain who draws on her experiences to write about a myriad of safety topics.



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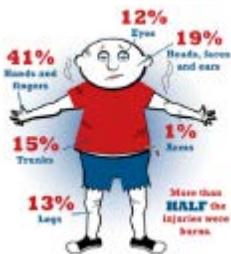
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