

What We Love About The 4th Of July

July 1, 2023

If you ask people what is special about the month of July, many people will think of the 4th right away, and with good reason. There is much to love about that day. First and foremost, it is the day we celebrate to mark our independence as a new nation separate from Britain. On July 2nd, 1776, Continental Congress voted for this independence. On the 4th, we adopted the Declaration of Independence, largely written by Thomas Jefferson, and Independence Day was born. Early celebrations included mock funerals for George III as a way of declaring the end of the king's rule. Philadelphia is credited with the first Independence Day fireworks on July 4th, 1777. In 1781, the state of Massachusetts was the first to make Independence Day an official state holiday. But it would take an additional 89 years, until 1870, before it became a National holiday and not until 1941 would federal employees get a paid day off.

Besides celebrating the founding and spirit of our great Nation, what else is there to love about it?

First, as mentioned FIREWORKS. Fireworks have become more than just part of celebrating but a symbol of our patriotism. Even when you can't get to see large displays, there always seem to be sparklers around to enjoy.

Parades is another must for the 4th. Whether large or just the neighbors decorating lawn mowers to ride and kids their bikes, parades are great fun on the 4th.

Cookouts and picnics. Oh the wonderful food! Staples of 4th cookouts include hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans and corn on the cob. What foods has your family made a tradition of for this day?

Time for family fun and gatherings, usually outside to enjoy the summer weather. Horseshoes, badminton, frisbee and other games get played. Maybe you are lucky enough to have access to a pool, lake or the beach for your gatherings. Swimming just adds to the fun.

Another fun thing is decorating with flags and red, white and blue themes.

The Fourth of July holiday falls in the midst of summer's warm relaxing days. This time off is something most of us appreciate especially on the years when it means a three day weekend. Time off from work to have our celebrations. Time off allowing us to have the freedom to rejuvenate our body, mind, and spirit with our place in the world.

Yes, celebrating Independence Day is a wonderful event that July offers. And hopefully amidst our family fun we can remember that this holiday was and is still a way to create unity for this nation and carry on the spirit of freedom, family, and friends.

"It will be celebrated with pomp and parade, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the others." - John Adams

"We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it." - William Faulkner

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." - Nelson Mandela

"Tame birds sing of freedom. Wild birds fly." - John Lennon

"It's 4th of July weekend, or as I call it, exploding Christmas." - Stephen Colbert