



4th of July - Independence Day

The fiery "spirit of 76" that swept the colonies into a war for independence, was sparked on January 10 by a rabble-rousing pamphlet, *Common Sense*, written by Thomas Paine.

Paine shouted for independence, and many of his readers shouted with him. In the following months the revolutionary spirit spread through the colonies.

At first, many colonial statesmen were hesitant about severing their bonds with Great Britain.

But the crusade for independence gathered more and more support as it became increasingly apparent that only through force of arms could the colonies win the prize of liberty.

Finally, on July 4, 1776, Congress passed the Declaration of Independence, announcing to the world "...That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved..."

The colonies had at last taken the step that meant either liberty or death. A union of states had never existed before. Now it was crucial that the states work and fight as one. The men who framed the Declaration had written, "...we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." Excited citizens in the street knew that this meant, in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

So the thirteen colonies joined forces against Great Britain. They asserted their right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," and the United States of America was born.



Fireworks Safety: From the Consumer Product Safety Commission and National Council on Fireworks Safety.

- Always read and follow the package directions
- Have an adult present
- Buy from reliable sellers
- Use outdoors, only!
- Always have water handy - garden hose or bucket
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks
- Light only one (1) firework at a time
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water)

Celebrate National Ice Cream Month



From hand cranked machines to ice cream cones, Baskin Robbins to Ben and Jerry's, baked Alaska to banana splits, the history of ice cream illustrates a pattern of American culture and tastes. Nothing beats the summer heat sweeter than a few scoops of America's favorite frozen treat.

Legend hails that ice cream originated in China. The concoction surfaced around 200 B.C, when a milk and rice mixture was solidified by packing it in snow. Marco Polo brought the recipe to Europe, which then traveled across sea to New England.

The first ice cream cone appeared September 22, 1896, in New York City. Cone creator Italo Marchiony was granted a patent for his special mold in December 1903. On July 23, 1904, the waffle ice cream cone debuted at the St. Louis World's Fair. The combo was concocted when waffle concessionaire helped out a cone-less ice cream vendor by rolling waffles into the shape of a cone.

Today, this quick cure for the summer blues is found in the freezer section of a local grocery store or at the counter of a neighborhood parlor. In addition, chiming ice cream trucks deliver instant relief straight to the streets.

To celebrate National Ice Cream month, pleasure your palate! Engage in an American traditional pastime. Kick back on your front porch and churn out a cool gallon of your favorite flavor.

July is...

- Anti-Boredom Month
- Cultivate Character Month
- Hay Month
- Hitchhiking Month
- National Baked Bean Month
- National Blueberries Month
- National Hot Dog Month

- National Ice Cream Month
- National July Belongs to Blueberries Month
- National Mobility Month
- National Peach Month
- National Picnic Month
- National Purposeful Month
- National Recreation and Parks Month
- National Tennis Month
- Parenting Month
- Tahiti Awareness Month
- Read an Almanac Month



Special July Week Celebrations:

- 1st Week Freedom Week
- 1st Week Take Charge of Change Week
- 2nd Week National Therapeutic Recreation Week

Special July Days

1 Canada Day (Canada) * Creative Ice Cream Flavor Day * Build A Scarecrow Day * St. Serf's Day * International Joke Day * Medicare Anniversary (1968) * National Financial Freedom Day * 2 Visitation of the Virgin Mary Day * Sts. Processus & Martinian's Day * Halfway Point of 1999 * 3 Stay Out of the Sun Day * Compliment Your Mirror Day * 4 Independence Day (US) * National Country Music Day * Tom Sawyer Fence-Painting Day * St. Ulric's Day * 5 Workaholic Day * St. Athanasius of Athos's Day * 6 National Fried Chicken Day * St. Maria Goretti's Day * 7 National Strawberry Sunday and Chocolate Day * Father-Daughter Take A Walk Together Day * St. Palladius's Day * 8 Video Games Day * St. Elizabeth of Portugal's Day * 9 National Sugar Cookie Day * St. Veronica Guilianni's Day * Intern Appreciation Day * 10 Clerihew Day * St. Amalburga's Day * 11 World Population Day * National Cheer Up the Lonely Day * 12 National Pecan Pie Day * St. John Gualbert's Day * 13 Fool's Paradise and Puzzle Day * 14 National Nude Day * Bastille Day * St. Camillus de Lellis's Day * 15 National Tapioca Pudding Day * Respect Canada Day * St. Vladimir's Day * 16 International Juggling Day * St. Helier's Day * 17 National Peach Ice Cream Day and Disneyland Opened * St. Alexis's Day * 18 National Ice Cream Day * National Caviar Day * St. Theneva's Day * 19 Flitch Day * Sts. Rufina and Justina's Day * 20 Moon and Lollipop Day * Ugly Truck Contest Day * St. Margaret's Day * 21 National Tug-o-War Tournament Day * St. Victor of Marseilles's Day * Tisha B'Av begins at Sundown * 22 Start of Leo * Ratcatcher's Day * St. Mary Magdalene's Day * 23 National Vanilla Ice Cream and National Hot Dog Day * St. Bridget's Day * 24 Amelia Earhart Day * Pioneer Day * St. Christina the Astonishing's Day * 25 Threading the Needle Day * St. Christopher's Day * 26 All or Nothing Day and Aunt and Uncle Day * St. Anne's Day * 27 Take Your Pants for a Walk Day * St. Pantaleon's Day * 28 National Milk Chocolate Day * Singing Telegram Day * St. Samson of Dol's Day * 29 Cheese Sacrifice Purchase and Rain Day * St. Martha's Day * 30 National Cheesecake and Father-in-Law Day * Sts. Abdon & Sennen's Day * 31 Parents Day * St. Ignatius Loyola's Day *