

THE ENRICHMENT PROJECT

Badge Program

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INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES

Steps

1. Incorporate patriotic holidays.

Looking for flag-based ideas for July 4th? See the Enrichment Project badge program "Flag Day." Want to focus on your freedom? See the AEP badge program "Memorial Day." There are other patriotic holidays. Look through online suggestions for additional patriotic activities.

2. Parade.

Many communities have a parade to celebrate independence. You can watch the parade, but why not participate? Part of being an American is having the freedom to pursue those things that interest you. Discuss the possibility of making a float, marching, playing instruments, dancing or any other way you can participate in your local parade.

For example, my family has ridden on floats (Girl Scouts, gymnastics and Tae Kwon Do), played instruments, handed out candy and sang through the parade.

3. Fireworks.

Warning: Before you buy fireworks, check your local laws.

Communities that have rules in place to ban fireworks often have a display you can attend. If you plan on lighting fireworks, review safety precautions with everyone present before you light anything. Have a water source nearby in case of emergency. We also like to heavily water our yard before the holiday because even if we don't light anything, our neighbors do.

4. Plan a picnic.

Grilling out and having a picnic are great ways to celebrate Independence Day. Plan a picnic with activities for both kids and adults. If this is a tradition for your family, try something new this year!

5. Concerts and music.

Going to a concert, especially one that supports our troops, is a great way to spend the day. Check out concerts, drum and bugle corps shows and local music venues to find something fun to listen to for the holiday. If you can't go to a full-out concert, find some patriotic music to enjoy.

6. Sports events.

Baseball (or softball) games are the most popular. You don't have to watch, though. You can play. Find a sport event to watch or participate in on the holiday. Is this something you'd like to do every year?



Independence Day Activities

On July 4th, Independence Day is celebrated in the United States. Let's explore this holiday and the fun we can have.



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7. Support our troops.

Service to our troops shows our support and acknowledges their sacrifice to protect our values. Find a local veteran administration, veteran hospital or a soldier you can support. This might be giving a card, making something as a token of your appreciation or providing items that are needed.

8. Block party.

What's a holiday without a party? A block party allows you to close off the street and keep the kids safe. A larger group allows you to do bigger things. This might be hiring a band or renting a bounce house. You could even rent an area at a local park or a pool and have everyone in your neighborhood join in! Explore what you need to do to start a block party tradition where you live.

9. Historical reenactments.

Watching a historical reenactment (even a recorded one) can give you an appreciation of what our ancestors went through. Explore your local area to determine if you have any historical reenactment groups.

10. Ceremony.

You can participate in a ceremony or hold your own. From a simple flag ceremony to enjoying someone singing the Star-Spangled Banner, there are many ways to incorporate patriotic themes into your celebration. Plan and hold a ceremony for Independence Day.

11. Create a display of historical items.

Most of us have at least one person who has served in the military or done something substantial in our communities. Create a display honoring that person or group. Explore places you can put the display to share it with others.

12. Vintage activities.

Do you know how they used to do things in the old days? Explore crafts, games and other activities that were popular in 1776, 1876 or 1976. You can incorporate these activities into a carnival or block party. Ask someone who is skilled in vintage activities, search YouTube for ideas or figure out how to do it on your own — and share it.

13. Printables.

There are slews of printables online that feature Independence Day. You can also search other patriotic holidays. This includes color sheets, word puzzles and more. Check out the supplements that come with the "Independence Day" badge set or find some online to provide some quiet fun.

14. Create your own.

Take any game or activity and adapt it into a patriotic activity. Balance a raw egg on Uncle Sam's hat in a relay race. Use flags to define base in a game of tag. Create a ball toss with red, white and blue buckets. Replace your BINGO cards with something more patriotic. Look at what you have and create something new for the holiday.

Supplements

SUPP_EAGLE_bingo.pdf

Patriotic BINGO! Just remember to replace the letters as you play

SUPP_PatrioticObstacleCourse.pdf

Choose patriotic items to make your own obstacle course

SUPP_Words_Declaration.pdf

How many words can you make out of the Declaration of Independence?

SUPP_Words_USA.pdf

How many words can you make out of the United States of America?



Sites to Explore

fun.familyeducation.com/fourth-of-july/holidays/32874.html
www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/independence.shtml
www.surfnetkids.com/independenceday
www.dltk-kids.com/usa
www.first-school.ws/theme/h_united_states.htm
www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/usa.htm
www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/fourth-of-july
www.education.com/activity/fourth-of-july
www.brothers-handmade.com/colonial-crafts.html
www.pinterest.com/7onashoestring/happy-4th-of-july
www.pinterest.com/leahslife/holiday-happiness-independence-day
www.education.com/activity/fourth-of-july

Check out [larajla's](http://larajla.com) Enrichment Project to start your own adventure.