



## The Fourth of July party is THE great American tradition!

Big, bustling cities and small, serene hamlets alike will go all out to celebrate the day we formally became a nation. And why not? With something as All-American as the Fourth of July, you'll want to throw a red, white and blue, star-spangled, food and fun fest worth remembering for years to come! And Pier 1 is here to help.

### It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't got a Theme!

This year, add a theme to your patriotic party and make it that much more fun. And if you don't have the perfect backyard, don't be afraid to take the party somewhere else! The idea is to have fun, eat a lot of great food and celebrate America's birthday. Here are some easy tips and suggestions to spark your own great ideas.

#### Host a Traditional Backyard Barbecue:

A tried and true family favorite, barbecues are easy and pleasing – and everyone loves the smoky, spicy food. Prepare one or two meat offerings like southern-style sliced brisket, slabs of meaty baby back ribs or smoky-sweet chicken. Yummy sides like potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans and of course, con-on-the-cob served in Red and Blue Star-Shaped Bowls are traditional faves. A flag cake made from a white or yellow sheet cake decorated with whipped cream, strawberries and blueberries to create an outline of the stars and stripes is both patriotic AND delicious! Dress the picnic table with our patchwork 4th of July Runner for color. Pier 1's Melamine Dinnerware in red or blue is perfect for serving (as well as eco-friendly, washable and reusable). Place Citronella-scented Torches (with matching pails) about the yard to help keep the critters away and decorate with sparkling Star Wreaths, American Flags on Sticks and colorful Pinwheels. The founding fathers would be proud!



#### Take a Picnic to the Park:

Gather the troops and visit your local park for an afternoon and evening of patriotic partying! Nothing too fancy here – grilling hotdogs and hamburgers is traditional and tasty. Serve ketchup, mustard and onions of course, but don't be afraid to go gourmet with toppings like a selection of cheeses, guacamole, sautéed mushrooms, bacon, and salsas – let your imagination be your guide! Serve with chips and fresh fruit. Use Pier 1's exclusive Patriotic Paper Plates and Napkins to serve. Fill a red wagon with ice and bottled drinks like lemonade, sodas and beer. Serve each can or bottle topped with a Patriotic Tinsel Straw – it's like fireworks for your drink! Don't forget blankets and a small stereo for music – you're gonna want to stay late and watch the fireworks.



#### Loosen up with a Poolside Luau:

Dare to be different with a red, white and blue-themed luau! Serve grilled fish and shrimp, a roasted pork loin, and sides like rice, black beans, fresh fruit and salads. Create fruit skewers with Pier 1 picks! Available in Tinsel-topped, Pinwheels or American Flags, these decorated wooden picks are perfect for serving fresh fruits, cheeses and veggies in a style befitting the Fourth. Decorate with our too-cute Hula Wobblers (available in dog, pig and cat shapes) and hold a hula contest. Give a Wobbler to the best hula dancer! Have guests wear their best grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts and hold a limbo contest. How low can you go? As evening comes, place lighted Star-Shaped Floating Candles in red, white and blue in the pool, creating a soft, sparkling ambiance – perfect for watching fireworks!

#### Go Coastal with a Beach Potluck:

Fresh air, cool water and the sand in your toes! Call your compadres, organize a potluck menu and gather together your beach gear. Everyone should bring their favorite dish along with their bathing suits, towels, blankets, frisbees, beach balls and – of course – the sunscreen. Grill hotdogs and burgers or have a traditional clambake! Finger foods work best here – like chips and fresh fruits – served on Pier 1's Patriotic Paper Plates - as well as canned sodas and beer. Build a campfire (if your beach allows them) and roast marshmallows or make s'mores for a fun dessert treat. Don't forget a trash bag! You definitely want to leave the beach as clean as you found it!

### Whatever party you decide to throw, here are a few tips to make decorating and serving easier.

- Get tableware in patriotic color combinations. Pier 1 stocks Patriotic-themed paper plates and napkins as well as Melamine Dinnerware in both red and blue.
- Our Fourth of July Cotton Runner makes any table a little brighter.
- Hang red, white and blue paper streamers, tinsel Star Wreaths and hand decorated Patriotic Paper Houses. Place swirling pinwheels in the ground for color.
- Use American Flags, both large and small, to decorate and serve. Shop Pier 1 to find



Flags on Stakes as well as wooden picks that can be used to create fruit skewers or serve small items.

- Having your picnic at the park? Define your space with decorations, like red, white and blue balloons anchored with weights, or tied to tables or trees. Or create a walkway of American flags on stakes and pinwheels.
- If you're using outdoor torches, wind red, white and blue ribbon or crepe paper around the poles for an all-American look.
- For outdoor parties, use citronella-scented candles, torches and incense at dusk to help keep the critters away.
- Place serving utensils in a Red or Blue Tin Bucket tied with festive ribbon for easy service.



### Fun Facts about the Fourth

- Over 74 million families will barbecue on this day. Will your family be one of them? Who wears the apron in YOUR family?
- Over 150 million hot dogs will be eaten on the Fourth. That's one hot dog for every two Americans. Please make mine with mustard and onions.
- The most popular sides at the 4th of July BBQ? Potato salad and baked beans.
- Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died within hours of each other on July 4, 1826.
- The only American president born on the 4th of July was Calvin Coolidge (b. 1872).
- The Liberty Bell weighs 2000 pounds and cost \$225 to make.
- In 1959, the very first Pepsi 400 race was held. This event is hosted by NASCAR every 4th of July or the Saturday of 4th of July weekend.
- In 1916, four immigrants are said to have been arguing who among them was most patriotic on this 4th of July. The four decided to settle the dispute with a hot dog eating contest, thus sparking the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest held annually on the 4th in Coney Island.
- In 1870, Congress made July 4th a national, but unpaid, holiday for all federal employees.
- America has its own places of patriotic pride, as shown by the multitude of places within the United States with patriotic names. For example, at least thirty cities include "liberty" in their names, such as Liberty, MO and Iowa's Libertyville, North Liberty, West Liberty and New Liberty. The United States also is home to thirty-two "Eagles," eleven "Independences," five "Freedom's," and even a "Patriot" (residing in Indiana).

### Music for Independence

Break out the iPod! It's all about America, sacrifice, pride and freedom! Perfect for your Fourth of July get-together, create your own CD or download mix with these All-American songs. Turn them up loud and sing along proudly! Some of our all time, all-American favorites are:

- Born in the U.S.A. – Bruce Springsteen
- 1812 Overture - Tchaikovsky
- Proud to be an American – Lee Greenwood
- America – Neil Diamond
- America the Beautiful – Ray Charles version
- Ballad of the Green Berets – Barry North
- Color Me Red, White and Blue – Dolly Parton
- God Bless America – Kate Smith or Celine Dion (our favorite Canadian!)
- Living in America – James Brown
- My Baby is American Made – Oakridge Boys
- Peaceful World – John Mellencamp
- Some Gave All – Billy Ray Cyrus
- Star Spangled Banner – Jimmy Hendrix, Whitney Houston and a host of others
- This Ain't No Rag – It's a Flag – Charlie Daniels Band
- This Land is Your Land – Bob Dylan and Joan Baez, Peter, Paul and Mary
- Travellin' Soldier – Dixie Chicks
- Undivided – Bon Jovi
- Rodeo – Aaron Copland (possibly the best American music ever created!)
- Stars and Stripes Forever – John Philip Sousa

### A Salute to Patriotic Movies

When the sun goes down and the fireworks are over, wind down the day with a patriotic movie. Our top 10 faves (in no particular order):

- The Patriot: Mel Gibson and Heath Ledger. The Revolutionary War. The drama, the pathos. And Mel Gibson. And Heath Ledger.
- Mr. Smith Goes to Washington: There's just something about Jimmy Stewart that totally restores your faith in people.
- Yankee Doodle Dandy: An old-fashioned musical with James Cagney. It's all red-white and true blue through and through!
- Saving Private Ryan: Yes, the first 30-minutes are very hard to watch and yes, Tom Hanks dies in the end. But this story of a brave band of WW II soldiers and their mission to save one young man is a must-watch, must-cheer, must remember film. A heartbreakingly honest tribute to The Greatest Generation.
- Independence Day: Will Smith, Harry Connick Jr. and some unfriendly aliens. There's no turning on your heart light here, just some good, old-fashioned alien whopping – on the Fourth of July, of course!
- Miracle: Sure it's about hockey. But it's got America beating the Russians at the height of the Cold War too. Totally unexpected and utterly heartwarming. And it gets bonus points for making the guys tear up.
- 1776: Yes, it's a musical. But it's also a totally cool way to learn about the birth of our nation. And you'll be humming the tunes when it's over.
- Rocky I, II, III, IV, et al: Is there a more American story than Rocky? From the streets of Philadelphia to the boxing ring, win or lose, you were always rooting for him. And now you can't get that soundtrack out of your head, can you? You're welcome.
- A League of Their Own: A baseball movie? About GIRLS? Well, it's a little known fact that women kept baseball in the forefront during WWII. We are all members of the All American League!
- Pride of the Yankees: Gary Cooper as Lou Gehrig, the "luckiest man on the face of the earth." He ended his career on July 4, 1939 with that famous speech. This film celebrates good-old American values without a whole lot of flag waving. Still a great watch.



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