



AFSA International Family Matters Trustee

June 2019



Summer will soon be upon us and so will Independence Day. This month's report will be focused on **FAMILY** activities you can do over the 4th of July weekend. So gather up your Chapter and Family Members at a park or someone's backyard, have a cookout and join in the fun. Invite those **FAMILY MEMBERS** who are not members yet. Let them see your **AFSA FAMILY** enjoying some camaraderie. You just might recruit some members!

- 1. RED, WHITE & BLUE TAG** -- Give each competitor one token of each color. When the whistle blows, the game starts! Challenge players to be the first to gather one red, one white and one blue token by tagging other players. One a player is tagged, they relinquish their token to the one who tagged them. This game is perfect outdoor fun for young kids.
- 2. PATRIOTIC BALLOON POP** -- Put a "You Win!" note inside deflated red, white and blue balloons, then blow them up and place them around the party area. Have party guests pop the balloons to find out if they win a prize. Prizes could be anything from an AFSA shirt or free membership to gift cards or yard help. Have your younger members Google for prize ideas on their Smartphones.
- 3. 4TH OF JULY BINGO** -- Perfect for indoor or outdoor fun, print out free patriotic Bingo cards online or design your own using construction paper and stickers. Give away small prizes to winners for extra fun. Check out free printables at this web site -- <https://studiodiy.com/2013/07/02/free-printable-july-4th-bingo/>.
- 4. UNCLE SAM HAT COMPETITION** -- Set up a card table with safety scissors, glue, star cutouts, construction paper, cotton balls, glitter and tape and have guests create their own Uncle Sam hat. After everyone is done, have a parade of Uncle Sam hats and let the party decide on the winner. Instagram bonus: Partygoers in their newly-made hats will make the perfect photo-op.
- 5. 4TH OF JULY JAR** -- Fill a large fishbowl or jar with red, white and blue candies and challenge guests to guess how many candies are in the bowl. Put a pen, paper and an empty basket beside the bowl and have guests place their names and guesses in the basket. The winner gets to take home the whole container of goodies.
- 6. RED, WHITE & BLUE CONCENTRATION** -- Have everyone sit in a circle. The first person names something red, the next one names something white, and the next one names something blue. Each time someone repeats or can't think of anything, they're out! The winner gets a prize.

7. PIN THE HAT ON UNCLE SAM -- While blindfolded, each person must try to pin the hat on Uncle Sam in this 4th of July rendition of Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

8. AMERICAN HISTORY COMPETITION -- Challenge guests to a little bit of history trivia. Compile facts about U.S. history and divide guests into four teams. The winners get to be the first to the dessert table! Consider including these fascinating facts about the American flag -- <https://www.rd.com/culture/american-flag-facts/>.

9. INDEPENDENCE DAY COSTUME CONTEST -- Ask guests to come dressed in their favorite patriotic attire for a costume contest. Give top prizes for patriotism and creativity.

10. KIDS CRAFT TABLE -- Set up a separate picnic table for the crafty kids. This gives them something to do in between the games and while the adults talk. Cover the table with a disposable tablecloth.

- **Popsicle Stick Flag** -- you will need red, white and blue craft paint, paint brushes, popsicle sticks, painter's tape, thick cardstock, glue, rhinestones and ribbon. Below are the instructions, but you really need to check out the web site to see the pictures. In fact, printing out the pictures would be a great guide for the kids to go by.
<https://apumpkinandaprincess.com/popsicle-stick-flag-craft/>

How to make Popsicle Stick Flags –

- ✓ Paint popsicle sticks red and white. Apply two coats on the front and one on the back. Allow paint to dry completely before next step.
- ✓ Use painter's tape to create a rectangle for the blue section of the flag. Apply 1-2 coats of blue paint.
- ✓ Glue popsicle sticks onto a piece of cardstock. Cut out cardstock to 2.75 x 4 inches (I suggest doing this step ahead of time). Let the glue dry before next step.
- ✓ Add rhinestone stars to your flag. Mini stars and large star rhinestones can be found at Hobby Lobby.
- ✓ Glue ribbon around another popsicle stick. For this step a hot glue gun was used (not recommended for kids) to cover the front and sides of the stick. One crafty Mom or Dad could help with this step. Then glue the stick to the back of the flag.

- **Patriotic Wand** – instead of sparklers, this Patriotic Wand would be fun to wave around (and so much safer). You'll need the following supplies: a 3-inch foam stars, red and blue craft paint, red/white/blue ribbon, wooden dowels, scissors and paint brushes.

How to make the 4th of July Wands –

- ✓ Paint the foam starred. Paint the wooden dowel blue and set aside to dry.
- ✓ Stick the dowel into the bottom of the star till secure.
- ✓ Tie on red, white, and blue ribbon.

Be sure to check out the “coolmompicks” web site under **Sources** listed below my signature block. They have a lot of fun things to do for kids. They even have printable coloring pages for kids and adults.

Thanks so much for all you do for our country and for AFSA. Take care and God Bless!

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6/5/2019



Sources:

<https://www.rd.com/advice/parenting/4th-of-july-10-fun-party-games/>

<https://coolmompicks.com/blog/2016/07/01/4th-of-july-crafts-activities-printables-for-kids/>

<https://www.care.com/c/stories/3687/12-fun-fourth-of-july-activities-for-kids/>