

Activity Day!

Outline & Printable Resources

This Month's Lesson:

The Power of Patriotism



Suggested Activity and Discussion for Kids

Depending on the size and makeup of your group, you may want to divide the children into age groups for the different activities.

Opening

- Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance (*located in the General Resource pdf*) You can have one of the children hold a small flag or use a larger flag. This is a great opportunity to teach the children respect and proper care and folding of the flag.)
- Recite Preamble to the U.S. Constitution (*located in the General Resource pdf, doing this each day as a family will have your children memorizing it in no time at all.*)

Theme Story & Discussion: *America Is* by Louise Borden

Story & Discussion: *What Does It Mean to Be An American* by Rana DiOrio & Elad Yoran

Discussion & Activity: Flag Day & 4th of July

Story & Discussion: *The Flag We Love* by Pam Munoz Ryan (*Optional*)

Video: Schoolhouse Rock Fireworks

Project: Painting Fireworks

Treats: Patriotic Rice Crispy Treats

Closing

- Read/Recite "The American's Creed" (*located in the General Resource pdf*)
- Prayer
- Announce the next month's theme and date/location for next Activity Day

Preparation and Materials Needed:

- Review the entire outline to consider how best to present the activities to each age group.
- Cut out the copies of the Preamble and American's Creed to have on hand, or use copies from the previous Activity Day.
- Bring an American Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Prior to the meeting you will need to purchase or borrow the following books. All three books are available on Amazon.

America Is by Louise Borden

What Does It Mean to Be An American by Rana DiOrio & Elad Yoran

The Flag We Love by Pam Munoz Ryan (*Optional*)

- Once you have the books, read through the stories and the author's notes in the back of each book. *What Does It Mean to Be An American* has some great discussion starters at the back of the book.
- Have the images for Flag Day & 4th of July printed and cut out from page 6.
- Review the Painting Fireworks activity video and gather supplies listed on page 8.
- Make the Patriotic Rice Crispy Treats prior to Activity Day, or prepare for the children to make them as part of Activity Day. (see basic recipe and how-to video on page 9)

Theme Story and Discussion: Paraphrase the story from the book *America Is* by Louise Borden and read the author's note in the back of the book.

Discussion prompt question: If you were asked the question "what is it like to live in America" what would you say?

Read *America Is* with the children and explain to them this book was the author's answer to that question.

Story & Discussion: *What Does It Mean to Be An American* by Rana DiOrio & Elad Yoran

Using the topics in the back of the book, lead the discussion with the children on what it means to be an American. You can consider questions like "How do you become an American" and "what is the American dream?" Similar questions can be found in the back of the book.

Discussion & Activity: Flag Day & 4th of July

June 14th is Flag Day. That is the day Congress officially adopted the first flag, often referred to as the Betsy Ross Flag.

Read the story *The American Flag* from page 5 with the children. See page 6 for the pictures.

Story & Discussion: (Optional) Read *The Flag We Love* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Discuss the proper care and respect for the flag.

1. What do you think of when you think of the 4th of July?
2. Why do we celebrate the 4th of July?



Video: Schoolhouse Rock Fireworks here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdZYyY7g8g4>

Show the video to the children and help them understand the reason we celebrate 4th of July is to celebrate freedom and all America stands for.

Project: Painting Fireworks, see page 8 for instructions.

Treats: Patriotic Rice Crispy Treats (see basic recipe and how-to video on page 9)

These can be made prior to Activity Day and brought already made, or the children can make them as part of Activity Day.

IDEAS FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUTH (Optional)

Book Discussion

Have the children read *Freedom Factor* throughout the month, or read it aloud as a family. Have one of the youth lead a discussion of the book. This helps them gain leadership and communication skills.

Some discussion questions can be

1. What feelings did this book bring out for you?
2. Why, in the alternate universe, were Leslie's father's hands broken and twisted?
3. What did you like best and least about this book?
4. What other books did this remind you of?
5. What ideas do you think the author was trying to get across?

6. What new things did you learn?
7. What questions do you still have?
8. Would you recommend these books to others?
9. Did the book change your opinion or perspective about anything?
10. Do you feel different now than you did before you read the book?

Scavenger Hunt *(Optional)*

Talk about the meaning and colors of the Flag and then send the kids on a Red, White, and Blue Scavenger Hunt. See page 7 for **The Colors of Our Flag** and forms for the Hunt are included on page 10.

*Read and discuss the story **The American Flag** with the children.*

The American Flag

"When we honor our flag we honor what we stand for as a Nation
– freedom, equality, justice, and hope." –Ronald Reagan

The American flag is the ultimate symbol of freedom. General George Washington, recognizing the American people needed one banner they could unite under, determined to have one commissioned. Several flag designs with 13 stripes were used in 1776 and 1777, but on June 14, 1777, Congress established an official design. The act stated, "That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." General Washington explained it this way: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty." Once adopted and American independence was won, the flag came to be a symbol of divine intervention, public virtue and sacrifice. The red stripes remind us of the blood that was sacrificed on our behalf—a call to patriotism and love of country. The white stripes remind us that to be able to live under a system of limited government, we personally need to live a moral and upright life. The blue background with white stars remind us of Heaven's guiding and protective Hand and that it is to God that we look for certain inalienable rights.



Author, Candace Salima, shared her passion for the American Flag and everything it stands for.

"When I see the American flag rippling in the breeze against the majesty of Rocky Mountains a thrill of patriotism runs through my soul. How I love America and all that she offers to her citizens and the world. We must protect her against all who would destroy her as an ensign to the world of freedom, liberty, and justice. May God bless America and the efforts of her citizens to restore her." Candace passed away in 2017 but her passion lives on in all the hearts she touched and lives she changed.

(extract from "Symbols of Freedom" by Lisa Cummins)

Print this page for the Flag Day images.



What is the difference? Why?



Print this page for the meaning of our flag discussion.



The Colors of Our Flag

The Red Stripes remind us of the blood that was sacrificed in our behalf – a call to patriotism and love of country.

The White Stripes remind us that to be able to live under a system of limited government, we personally need to live a moral and upright life.

The Blue Background with white stars remind us of Heaven's guiding and protective hand and that it is to God that we look for certain inalienable rights.

Read and make preparations prior to Activity Day.

Painting Fireworks



View the **How-To Video** at <https://vimeo.com/706664897>

Supplies:

- Pipe cleaners
- Kitchen Brushes
- Paint (red, white, blue)
- Glue (optional)
- Glitter (optional)
- Colored Construction Paper (dark blue or black work best)

Directions:

Take 4 pipe cleaners and fold them in half. Twist the bottom portion to create a handle then fan out the pipe cleaners to create a star shape.

In three separate bowls pour red, blue and white paint. Pour glue into paint – One part glue to three parts paint. Mix the paint/glue.

Dip your pipe cleaner and brushes in the paint and stamp away! After the children are done stamping they can add some sparkle to the fireworks with glitter. Fine glitter from a craft store works best.

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Patriotic Rice Crispy Treats

These can be made prior to Activity Day and brought already made, or the children can make them as part of Activity Day.



View the **How-To Video** at <https://vimeo.com/706664924>

Basic Recipe for One Layer

3 tablespoons butter

1 (10 oz) bag miniature marshmallows

6 Cups Crispy Rice Cereal



In large saucepan melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Add **RED** food coloring.

Mix Well. Remove from heat. Add cereal. Stir until well coated.

Using buttered spatula or wax paper evenly press mixture into a 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan coated with cooking spray.

Repeat process without using food coloring or use melted white chocolate instead. Layer on top of red batch.

Repeat process again adding **BLUE** food coloring. Layer on top of plain batch.

While still warm, turn over pan onto cutting board. Let cool. Use Star cutters or other shapes to cut the crispy treats. You can use sticks to create crispy balls or other shapes with the leftovers from your cutting. Spraying the cutters with cooking spray makes straight smooth cuts.

Note: You can also add melted white chocolate and sprinkles. The kids will have a lot of fun making these and will love eating them.

Print these forms and cut along the lines for the Red, White, and Blue Scavenger Hunt.

Red, White, and Blue Scavenger Hunt

Each item on the list must come from a different object. For instance, if you find a flag, you can't also use that flag for the stripes or something red. You can, however, use three separate flags to check off each of those items. You don't need to collect the items just place a checkmark by what you found and write on the line below where you found it.

☐ Something Red

☐ Stars

☐ A Flower

☐ An Eagle

☐ American Flag

☐ Something Blue

☐ A Flag Shirt

☐ A Lady Bug

☐ Stripes

☐ Sparkler

☐ Streamers

☐ Pinwheel

☐ A Dandelion



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