



JULY

THE FRANKLIN FIVE

- TALK WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT THE COST OF FREEDOM**
Plan to visit a war monument (almost every town has one) and talk with your children about the sacrifices soldiers and their loved ones have made for freedom. Share stories with your children to help them gain a deeper respect for the heroes around them.
- MAXIMIZE YOUR YARD**
Pick a small section of your yard to update this month. It's not too late to plant something new, lay out a small patio of paver bricks, or build a small arbor. Make sure it's a project you can do in a weekend or two, so you can spend the rest of the summer enjoying it.
- DITCH SOME DUDS**
Get rid of older clothes that aren't fit for school or that don't get worn. If you can't bear to part with your favorite worn out t-shirt, take a picture or scan the graphic on a computer to keep the memory before throwing it out or donating it. You might also consider cutting your shirts into squares and making a quilt.
- CELEBRATE FAMILY TRADITIONS**
If you ask your friends and children to tell you their favorite Independence Day traditions, two things will happen. You'll get great new ideas to try, and you'll discover that some of the things you're already doing mean more to your kids than you think.
- BROADEN YOUR MIND—READ**
Take some time to relax in the shade with a good book. Reading broadens vocabulary, excites the mind, and expands our understanding. Not only that, it's rather enjoyable.

MY FOCUS FOR THIS MONTH

FUN HOLIDAYS THIS MONTH

4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

Celebrate our country in style with fireworks. It is believed that as early as 200 BCE, the Chinese stumbled upon a natural firecracker. In order to ward off evil spirits they would roast bamboo which explodes with a bang when heated due to its hollow air pockets. Over the centuries, fireworks developed into the artwork we ooh and ahhh today.



22 HAMMOCK DAY

Plan and complete tasks early so you have plenty of downtime scheduled for relaxing today.



30 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

Reach out to a friend you haven't spoken with in a while. Write letters to friends and family around the world. Learn about how other cultures celebrate friendship. But maybe the most important thing to do is to develop and strengthen the friendships you love and cherish.

