

Flag Day



When you think about June 14th, what comes to mind? Could it be the beautiful stars and stripes of our United States flag, an image that signifies the pride, loyalty and unity of our country? Each year, we celebrate Flag Day, it's a day to take a moment with our families and loved ones to celebrate and honor our American flag. Across the country, there will be celebrations and festivities, you can attend a flag-raising ceremony in your community and talk about the history of our flag! Or attend a parade and even gain some insight with some good old fashioned education about our beautiful flag.

Did you know the following about our flag's history?

The US flag has undergone several changes throughout its history, primarily reflecting the addition of new states to the union. Here's a brief overview:

- 1777: The first official flag, known as the "Stars and Stripes," was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, with 13 stars representing the original 13 colonies.
- 1795: Two additional stars and stripes were added to the flag to represent Vermont and Kentucky, bringing the total to 15 stars and stripes.
- 1818: Congress passed a law fixing the number of stripes at 13 (representing the original colonies) and allowing for the addition of one star for each new state. This version of the flag, with 13 stripes and stars for each state, has remained the same since then.
- 1912: The last change in the flag's design occurred with the addition of the 48th star to represent Arizona's admission to the union. This 48-star flag was used from 1912 until 1959.
- 1959: Alaska became the 49th state, prompting the design of a 49-star flag.
- 1960: Hawaii became the 50th state, leading to the creation of the current 50-star flag, which has been in use since July 4, 1960.

So, while the number of stars on the flag has changed over time to reflect the addition of new states, the basic design with alternating red and white stripes and a

blue field with white stars (representing the states) has remained consistent since 1818!

I invite all of you to take a moment, and reflect on the special significance and beauty of our flag. Celebrate with your country, your community and your families and be sure to display your flags. Why not a patriotic picnic or meal, or a cake or some cupcakes using a flag theme, or display your patriotism with a craft project or two?

It's a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, reflect on the values their flag represents, and celebrate the spirit of their nation in a family-friendly environment.

Fun Facts

- The National Anthem was inspired by the American flag flying over Fort McHenry in 1814
- Flag Code states that stars and stripes should not be on bedding, apparel, or drapery
- A high school student from Ohio recreated and stitched the first flag showing 50 stars in 1960
- It's rumored that Betsy Ross made the first American flag
- And as an extra bonus, Happy Birthday to the Army on June 14th!