

4th of July Activities

Karaoke Who doesn't love a chance to honor our country with song? Check out the music section of iN2L for patriotic karaoke songs that your residents and staff can perform. Encourage solos, duets, and group sing-alongs.



Film Fest Celebrate the United States on the 4th of July with a Patriotic film fest. Have your residents choose a few movies they feel are appropriate. Invite guests and serve popcorn and soft drinks. Here are some suggestions: *Patton*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *Glory*, *Independence Day*, *The Patriot*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Sands of Iwo Jima*.



Patriotic Bingo Switch up the bingo this month by printing up [patriotic bingo cards](#). Give the winners 4th of July themed prizes, like mini flags, glow sticks, and sparklers.



Scavenger Hunt Host a patriotic scavenger hunt among your residents and guests. Instead of searching for items, search for people that meet certain requirements and get them to sign your list. Here are some suggestions: someone wearing red, white, or blue; someone who has visited the White House; someone who has served in the military; someone who can recite the Pledge of Allegiance; someone who has performed the National Anthem in public; someone named George; someone who likes watermelon; someone who has seen a bald eagle.





Tic Tac Toe Create a life-sized tic tac toe grid on the grass with spray paint or indoors on the rug or floor with tape. Create the X and O pieces with cardboard. Paint one set blue with white stars. Paint the other set with red and white stripes. Enjoy the game!

Patriotic Parade A fun intergenerational 4th of July activity is a parade! Invite guests to join in the fun by “decorating” the wheelchairs of your residents with flags, streamers, and balloons. Those who do not require a wheelchair should dress in red, white, and blue. Play patriotic music and have everyone “march” through the building. Another option is to invite children to put on a parade for your residents, either inside or outside.



Find the Flag Ask one player to leave the room. Hide an American flag so that everyone but the absent player knows where it is. Call back the player and



explain to him that while he is looking for the flag, the crowd will sing Yankee Doodle (or other patriotic song), softly when he is away from the flag and louder when he is close to it.

Name the States Give each person a blank piece of paper. Instruct them to write down as many states as they can remember. Did anyone get all 50?

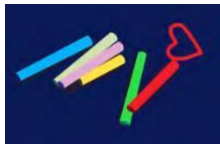


(Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming)

Keep it Up This game involves keeping a balloon from touching the ground. Use balloons that are red, white and blue, and tell the participants they will be trying to keep a balloon in the air. This can be done in teams, individually, or with a whole group working together. To increase the difficulty, add more balloons.



Patriotic Chalk Art This is another great opportunity for intergenerational interaction. Invite children (or staff) to create patriotic works of art with chalk



on black paper. Make sure the flag is included in the picture. Display the art. Let your residents be the judges. You can also have the residents be the artists and the guests be the judges. Give the ribbons in different categories: Best, Most Colorful, Most Creative, Honorable Mention.

Guessing Game Fill a large jar with peppermint candy (the red and white striped kind). Make sure you count them as you put them in.

Decorate the jar with red, white, and blue ribbons. Have people guess how many candies are in the jar. The player who comes closest to the number gets the jar of candy.



The Founding of Our Country Divide the group into teams. Give each team 13 index cards with one of the original 13 colonies written on each one. Have them work together to put them in chronological order. When they think they have it correct, they signal a judge to check it. If it is not correct, the team needs to made changes. The first team to get the cards in the correct order wins.



1. Virginia, 2. Massachusetts, 3. New Hampshire, 4. Maryland, 5. Connecticut, 6. Rhode Island, 7. Delaware, 8. North Carolina, 9. South Carolina, 10. New Jersey, 11. New York, 12. Pennsylvania, 13. Georgia

Mingle and Match Write jokes on individual slips of paper. Half the players get the question--and the other half gets the answer! Players move around the room and try to match the questions with the answers.

Jokes:

Why did the duck say "Bang!"?

Because he was a firequacker!

What did one flag say to the other flag?

Nothing. It just waved!

Where did George Washington buy his hatchet?

At the chopping mall!

Why did the British cross the Atlantic?

To get to the other tide!

What would you get if you crossed a patriot with a small curly-haired dog? *Yankee Poodle!*

Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell?

Yeah, it cracked me up!

What happened as a result of the Stamp Act?

The Americans licked the British!

What did King George think of the American colonists?

He thought they were revolting!

Why were the early American settlers like ants?

Because they lived in colonies.

What ghost haunted King George III?

The spirit of '76!

Did you hear about the cartoonist in the Continental Army?

He was a Yankee Doodler!

What kind of tea did the American colonists thirst for?

Liberty!

What march would you play at a jungle parade?

"Tarzan Stripes Forever"!

How is a healthy person like the United States?

They both have good constitutions!

Red, White, and Blue Circle Game Everyone sits in a circle. The first person in the circle must name something that is red, the next person names something that is white, and the next person names something that is blue.



Play continues around this way in the circle. Players cannot repeat an item that has already been said. If a player names something a second time or can't come up with an answer, they're out. The game continues until there is one player left.

4th of July Pictionary Write words associated with the 4th of July on slips of paper and place them in a hat (preferably an Uncle Sam hat). Suggestions: picnic, summer, England, United States, Congress, patriotic, freedom, party, park, anthem, flag, July, thirteen, independence, Liberty Bell and fireworks. Divide the group into two teams. Have one player from the first team pick a slip of paper and draw what is written, trying to get their team to guess what it is. Give them a 3-minute time limit. If they guess correctly, the team gets a point. Then the other team gets their turn. The team with the most points wins.



Pass the Torch Use old newspapers to make a torch. Roll it into a large cone shape and paint the cones on the torch red, white, and blue. When the torch is dry, make the flame by stuffing the top with red and yellow tissue paper. Use the torch for a 4th of July variation on the classic game "hot potato." The torch is passed around to music; when the music stops, whoever is holding the torch is out. For variation, use a small American flag.



Nickel Pitch In honor of Thomas Jefferson, one of the original drafters of the constitution, have a nickel pitching contest. Players toss nickels against the wall. Whoever is closest wins. One version of the game is played with the player with the coin nearest the wall takes all the other coins in that round. The game is over when one player has accumulated all the coins, or a designated time elapses and everyone gets to keep the coins they have earned.



Memory Box Create a 4th of July memory box for your residents. Find items that will jog memories of past Independence Day celebrations. Include things such as a flag, bells, firecrackers, barbecue tools, a baseball, streamers, and confetti.

Picnic Games Although many of your residents might be unable to participate in traditional 4th of July picnic games, they will enjoy watching guests and staff compete. Create a red team, a white team, and a blue team. Residents can be the “cheerleaders” for the teams. They can even wear shirts or hats in corresponding colors. Team members and cheerleaders all earn ribbons. Some suggestions for games could be a tug-of-war, a water balloon toss, a watermelon roll, an obstacle course, relay races, horseshoes, volleyball, or a kite-flying contest.

