

FamilyFun



8

Great July 4th ideas

CRAFTS, TREATS, GAMES, & DECORATIONS
TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY SPECIAL!

straw star ► wreath

Our starburst decorations come together in a few simple steps.

Print our [template](#) (see last page) on [card stock](#). Cut out the circle and trace two circles on [corrugated cardboard](#). Cut out both. On one, make several rings of [tacky glue](#), then attach striped [paper straws](#), leaving 2 inches of space in the center. Thread a 1-inch straw piece onto a long length of [fishing line](#) or string; knot the ends. Glue the straw piece to the center of the circle. Add rings of glue over the straws and gently press on the other circle. Let the glue dry. With a [glue stick](#), attach the card stock center. Trim the straws to different lengths. Hang with the fishing line.



◀ stars on stripes

Using star-shaped cookie cutters, kids can help make these healthy treats. For the best results, choose fruit that's firm and not too ripe.

To make one, use a large star cookie cutter to cut a 1-inch-thick slice of [watermelon](#) into a star, then cut out the center with a smaller cutter (we used a 3-inch and a 1¾-inch). With the small cutter, make a star from a 1-inch-thick slice of [apple](#). Carve out a small hole in the center of the apple star for the [blueberry](#). Assemble the fruit star, then insert a [bamboo skewer](#). Cover with a striped [paper straw](#).

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◀ red, white & cool cubes

Tricolored spritzers offer a refreshing way to celebrate the Fourth. Make several trays of ice cubes with beverages colored red, white, and blue (we used **cranberry juice**, **water**, and **Powerade Mountain Berry Blast**). To serve, place the cubes in separate buckets and let guests make their own drinks with plain **seltzer**.

▼ air mail ballots

The votes are in, and this simple game is a runaway winner. Cut a 5- by 13-inch rectangle into a **cardboard box** as shown (an adult's job). You'll want a box that's at least 18 by 18 by 24 inches. Cut another rectangle on the opposite side for retrieving the disks. Seal the box with **tape**, then attach **card stock** and **scrapbook paper** decorations with **glue dots**.

To play, designate a throwing line and give each participant three tries to toss a **flying disk** into the slot. The first player to score an agreed-upon number wins.





flour power

Add some stellar decor to your lawn with this clever technique. Make a stencil by drawing a star on **cardboard** and cutting it out. Discard the star. Lay the stencil on the lawn and spritz the grass with **water** from a spray bottle.

Leaving the stencil in place, use a **flour sifter** to cover the damp star shape with **flour**. Remove the stencil and repeat to fill your yard with a galaxy of stars.



▲ glitterworks

Thanks to this spangled craft, you don't have to wait until dark to see Fourth of July fireworks.

Use **white glue** to draw firework bursts on a sheet of **dark blue paper**. Pour **glitter** onto the wet glue, then tap any loose glitter onto a clean sheet of paper and return the excess to the jar. For multiple colors, draw and sprinkle each firework shape separately.

patricotic parfait ▼

Colorful layers of flavored gelatin and whipped cream give our light and tasty dessert its banner good looks. For four servings, use one box each of **red and blue gelatin**, making it according to the package directions. In tall, clear glasses, layer red gelatin and **whipped topping** (we used Cool Whip), as shown. Top with the blue gelatin. (For a fruity version, substitute raspberries and blueberries for the gelatin.) Finish with **star fruit**.



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▲ a hangout to hang up

Our fanciful Independence Day tent is perfect for chilling out and goofing off. Hang lengths of **paper streamers** over a straight, **low branch** or clothesline. Tie the streamers' ends to **stakes** or broomsticks laid on the ground. Outfit the hangout with a comfy **blanket, pillows,** and **paper party decorations.**

doggie doodle dandy

Get Fido in on the Fourth fun with some fancy gear. Cut the collar off an old **shirt** (be sure it's big enough to button around your dog's neck). With **fabric paint** and a **brush**, add stripes. Accordion-fold a 2½- by 4-inch **card stock** rectangle and wrap the center with a **pipe cleaner**. Button the collar onto your dog's neck, then attach the bow with the pipe cleaner ends.

**BONUS
PROJECT!** ↓



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INDEPENDENCE PLAY!

STRAW-SPANGLED WREATH

Cut out the circle. Trace it twice onto a piece of corrugated cardboard, then use it to embellish the assembled wreath.



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