



# big bang!

## Fireworks fun on July 4th

by *Raeann Van Arsdall*

There are so many great places to watch the fireworks on the Fourth of July. Whether you'll be at a ballgame, a rodeo or spread out at the park, plan ahead and have a great time. Where will you be watching? Check the MOM Blog for fun event locations.

### Colors of freedom

Red = courage  
White = purity  
Blue = justice

### Game on

The kids get restless waiting for the big moment. Prepare for outdoor games to keep them busy and smiling.

- » tug-of-war
- » egg-and-spoon races
- » balloon tosses with red, white and blue balloons
- » horseshoes
- » lawn darts
- » musical lawn chairs or blankets
- » sidewalk chalk
- » relay flag race
- » frisbee

### Craft ideas

**Balloon fireworks:** Pull a balloon over a funnel. Pour in confetti until balloon is a quarter-full and inflate. Use a sharp pencil to pop for a loud and colorful show.

**Paper firecrackers:** Decorate toilet paper tubes as mini fireworks. Fill with confetti or

have crepe paper streamers off the end and fill with candy.

**Splat paint fireworks:** Splatter a few drops of colorful paint on black paper and then blow with a drinking straw to make brilliant firework patterns.

**Chalk fireworks:** Draw fireworks on black paper with colored chalk. Try Crayola 3D chalk for even more excitement. Try black scratch paper and scratch off in the form of fireworks to the colorful paper beneath.

### Drink up, cool down

**Freedom floats:** Pour blue food-colored Jones Brand cream soda over vanilla ice cream. Top with whipped cream and a cherry on top for a delicious Freedom Float. Check out [www.mommag.com](http://www.mommag.com) for photos and details on this yummy treat.

**Stripes on ice:** The layers of this red, white and blue drink stay separated because of sugar content. Check your labels. The highest sugar content goes on the bottom.

- » Fill a clear glass with ice cubes. Pour the cranberry juice first.
- » Very slowly add Wild Berry Gatorade Fierce. Be careful to pour it onto an ice cube, not directly into the other drink, to keep them from mixing.
- » Use the same technique to add a layer of Diet 7-Up.

### Get your groove on

Choreograph the show to your own music. Here's a top-ten patriotic list.

- » Freedom, George Michael
- » I'm Free, The Soup Dragons

- » Pink Houses, John Mellencamp
- » God Bless the USA, Lee Greenwood
- » American Girl, Tom Petty
- » America, Neil Diamond
- » Me and Bobby McGee, Janis Joplin
- » Rockin' in the Free World, Neil Young
- » This Land Is Your Land, Woody Guthrie
- » The Star-Spangled Banner, Jimi Hendrix

### Glow in the dark

Give the kids glow-in-the-dark necklaces to wear when it gets dark. Or have them decorate t-shirts with glow-in-the-dark puff paint. They'll have fun playing, and you'll know which kids are yours in the crowd. Be sure to bring flashlights too.

### Watch it in 3D

Pack 3D glasses for the family and watch the fireworks display with a whole new dimension.

### Stay warm

Be sure to pack a blanket to sit on and to cuddle-up with when the sun drops down and the summer air gets chilly.

## Fireworks safety

Visit the MOM Blog at [www.mommag.com](http://www.mommag.com) for a list of firework safety tips.