

Freedom's Feast **LABOR DAY**

On-line resources to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday celebrations.



LABOR DAY PICNIC FUN

Have your picnic and celebration too!

It's hard to say goodbye to summer. For many, Labor Day celebrations mark the transition from summer to fall. Maybe that's why we love the holiday. Try these suggestions and PLEASE be safe and smart. Wear masks and practice social distancing as necessary. Keep your gatherings small or virtual to help give everyone the best possible start to the school year.



Holiday Background

Labor Day was established to honor our nation's working men and women and the contributions they make to our well-being. Many think that unions, workplace regulations, child labor laws, and other protections have always been part of America's work environment. Labor Day reminds us of all those who worked to create these protections. The COVID pandemic has shown us how much still needs to be done to make America a place where work opportunities and work places are just, fair and safe for all.

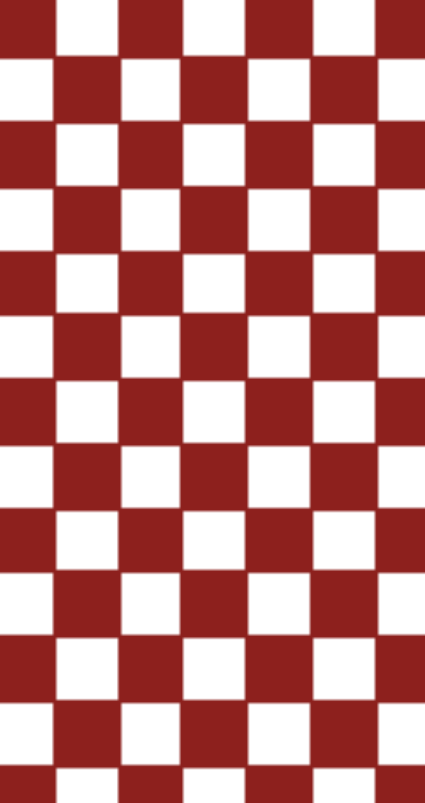
Use a Labor Day Theme (A "V" by an activity below shows it can work well virtually).

Consider the career diversity and job history of everyone attending. Ask guests to send in jobs they've had with their RSVP's. Create a display board listing all jobs on separate cards. List guest names on another set of cards and invite guests to try to match them up. **V**

Go to the National Archives' The Way We Worked Exhibit and print out photos from different eras of America's labor history. Put in temporary frames to decorate tables, tape to walls, attach to trees, posts and other outdoor upright surfaces. *Celebrate your own family's work history.* Go back as far as you are able on your family tree and list all the occupations held by various family members. Share your family "work tree" with guests so they will want to make their own. **V**

Play Games

Organize old fashioned lawn games for the children (and adults) including egg tosses, three legged races, potato carries, sack races (substitute old pillow cases), wheelbarrow races, cracker whistling contests. Include "worker dress-up race": have participants run from start line to marked destination with sealed costume bags or backpacks. At the far end, they open bags and dress in outfit of worker (think baseball player, banker, chef, rock musician, plumber, carpenter, doctor—any profession that has recognizable props and dress). Runners return to start line using props in a creative way.



Guess Who I Am

Ask participants to come dressed with one or two props that represent:

Version #1 *your favorite job ever* (for children: what you plan to be)

Version #2 *the job you've always dreamed of having* (for children, this may be different from what you plan to be; it may be a job that some don't think they can have but would still love to do)

Version #3 *the job my ancestor had*. Go back 1-2 generations representing jobs that may no longer exist. Kids will get a kick out of the history lesson and adults will enjoy the memories this exercise evokes.

Everybody gets to guess. Adults and kids love this game! **V**



LABOR DAY

Do a Brief Ceremony

Print out copies or have participants use smart phones to go to www.freedomfeast.us/labor-day and scroll to *Choose a Ceremony*. Use the quick and easy Freedom's Feast Labor Day ceremony to learn about the history of labor day and explore how Americans view work. Taking a few minutes to stop and think about the purpose of the holiday gives us a chance to share values and stories we care about with our children and grandchildren. Use the ceremony at any time over the holiday or during the month of September. **V**

Sing

Enjoy the Freedom's Feast Labor Sing-along featuring songs and specially selected Labor Day readings. Find it in *Celebrate Your Way*. **V**

Special Activities

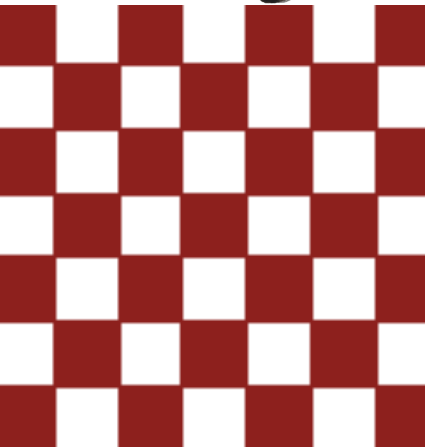
Look at the Freedom's Feast Create a Keepsake for Labor Day.

Set up a crafts table for people to make their own Labor day work signs, inspired by the history of trade work signs.

Print out a few copies of *What Did You Do At Work Today* to give participants conversation starters about their work. Be sure to honor any elders present. They have wisdom, memories and stories to share. Ask them about their first job or the job that taught them their most lasting lesson. **V**

Recruit Helpers

Don't do all the work yourself. It's more fun when everyone contributes to the celebration. www.perfectpotluck.com organizes helpers for the meal. Or have everyone bring their own picnic lunch or dinner and host provides the dessert. Ask someone who enjoys games and coaching to oversee the games. Recruit a teacher or performer to lead a ceremony or sing along.



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