



**EARLY BIRD
-SHOPPERS GUIDE-**

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MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025
VOLUME 47 / NO. 26

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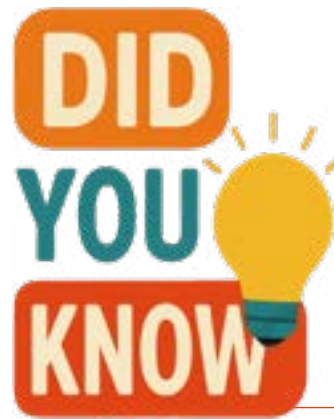
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July 4, 1776, is an important date in American history that is widely considered the birthday of the United States of America. But some people argue that August 2 should actually be America's birthday, since that was when the Declaration of Independence was signed. The National Archives says that the Second Continental Congress adopted the United States Declaration of independence on July 4, 1776, formally severing ties with Britain. The approved Declaration was printed on July 5. On July 19, Congress ordered

Ice cream is a wildly popular dessert, with an estimated 15.4 billion liters of ice cream consumed each year around the world, according to the World Atlas. New Zealand consumes more ice cream than any other country, followed by the United States. When it comes to ice cream flavors, the International Dairy Foods Association says vanilla is still America's favorite flavor, followed by the others of the "Big Three": chocolate and strawberry. Butter pecan and cookie dough round out the top five flavors in the United States. Vanilla reigns supreme worldwide as well. Forty-six countries choose vanilla over other options according to research conducted by Premier Inn, a United Kingdom-based hotel chain. Worldwide, neapolitan and chocolate also are popular ice cream flavors.



that the document be engrossed on parchment, which is a process of copying an official document in large hand. It is surmised that the engrosser was Timothy Matlock, an assistant to Charles Thomson, secretary to the Congress. It was nearly a month after the Declaration was adopted before the document began to be signed

by delegates. The signing of the Declaration of Independence occurred primarily on August 2, 1776, at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, a building later renamed Independence Hall. John Hancock, who was the President of the Congress, was the first to sign the engrossed copy. Signatures were ar-

ranged by states from northernmost to southernmost. Fifty-six delegates eventually signed the document, although not all were present to sign on August 2. Some delegates never managed to sign the Declaration, including Robert R. Livingston of New York, who was a member of the Declaration's drafting committee.



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The **EARLY BIRD** SHOPPERS GUIDE

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025
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Stay safe when around fireworks

Fireworks have been integral components of celebrations for centuries. These pyrotechnics originated in ancient China, with their earliest forms thought to be made from bamboo stalks thrown into a fire. Fireworks ultimately evolved into gunpowder-filled paper tubes. Modern fireworks still largely use traditional gunpowder as well as additional ingredients like aluminum and iron to create flashes, bangs and sparks. Additional elements are blended to create the colors that make for vivid fireworks displays.

Fireworks can be a wonder to behold, but there is no denying that shooting them off can be dangerous business. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that eight deaths and an estimated 9,700 injuries involving fireworks occurred in 2023. Of the eight deaths, five were associated with misuse of fireworks

and two with a device malfunction. Fireworks injuries increased between 2008 and 2023, which underscores the importance of fireworks safety.

To celebrate safely, the CPSC urges consumers to follow these tips:

- Make sure fireworks are legal where you live and only purchase and set off those that are labeled for consumer use. Never purchase fireworks that are designed for professionals.

- Children should not be allowed to play with or ignite fireworks. This includes sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures that can reach or exceed 2,000 F, which is hot enough to melt some metals.

- Stay sober when using fireworks. Alcohol or drug impairment can cause people to act recklessly and make mistakes when handling fireworks.

- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case of fire or

another mishap.

- Only light one firework at a time, then move away from it quickly.

- Soak malfunctioning fireworks in water. Do not try to relight them.

- Never place any part of your body directly over a firework when lighting the fuse.

- Never point or throw fireworks at anyone.

- Douse spent fireworks with water before tossing them in the trash.

Spectators should remain at a distance from any fireworks being ignited. Fireworks should be lit away from buildings or trees. Many times it is safer to let professionals handle the fireworks since they are trained in the proper safety precautions.

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