



Father's Day

Sunday, June 15, 2025

Why do we celebrate Father's Day in the US?

In the U.S., Father's Day was [first observed in 1910](#) when it was introduced to complement Mother's Day, which was celebrated for the first time two years earlier. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson recognized Father's Day, and in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged states to observe the holiday.

Finally, in 1966, [President Lyndon B. Johnson made the first presidential proclamation](#) that honored fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

Like its counterpart, Father's Day is not a federal holiday. And, though it always falls on a Sunday, there is no weekday off in lieu, and most businesses and all public transport systems observe a normal Sunday schedule.

Who started Father's Day?

After hearing a Mother's Day sermon in 1909, a Spokane, Washington woman was inspired to create a similar holiday that celebrated fathers, [according to History.com](#).

Sonora Smart Dodd, who was born in 1882, is recognized as the founder of Father's Day. Dodd, who died in 1978, was raised by a twice-married, twice-widowed Civil War veteran with 14 children. As a result, she wanted to honor "[loving service](#)" of fathers.

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