

Father's Day



Dad's First Holiday

For new dads, these initial celebrations are like no other.

To make the first celebration of Father's Day an unforgettable occasion, consider these thoughtful gift ideas tailored for new dads.

PERSONALIZE IT

Commemorate this special day by engraving the name and birth date of his first child on a meaningful item. There are countless options for engraving or embossing, but you can narrow the choices by considering his interests. For example, the golfer might love a personalized bag. Office workers or fathers with “man caves” will love an attractive wall sign. Just remember to select a size that leaves room for potential siblings. A smaller, more practical choice for dads on the go would be a customized key-chain. Still stumped? Local craft stores often offer customization services and experts there can help you pair dad with the perfect item.

GET ARTSY

Every moment during these early days is precious, so help a new father preserve them forever. You can transform digital photos into tangible memories by creating collages. Cherished images can be printed on coffee mugs, T-shirts, blankets or other keepsakes. Tiny hand prints or footprints can be turned into lasting pieces of art, allowing fathers to

remember these early moments long after their children have grown up. Your local gift shop may offer other creative ways to display these memories.

MAKE IT FUN

Busy dads will treasure a moment of humor on this special day with unique gifts

designed specifically for them. Buy one of the many T-shirts, hand towels, signs, beer-bottle labels or greeting cards that humorously reflect their new parenting experiences such as diaper crises and late-night feedings. Gift them goofy matching outfits for dad and child. Buy books, albums, movies or streaming content that

approach this era of life in a humorous light. He's sure to get a chuckle out of something relatable and fun.

THE PRACTICAL ROUTE

With an experience that's still so new, some fathers may really appreciate a practical gift. Thoughtful choices include creating a “toolbox” for new

dads that contains essential items to help with the new challenges of life around the house — including diapers, pacifiers, bibs and rash cream. Arrange a special outing and offer to help with childcare. Sometimes the best gift is simply allowing a parent to enjoy a leisurely morning on this special day.



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Gift Ideas for Dad

There are as many gifts as there are types of fathers.

Finding the ideal gift for any father doesn't have to be a daunting task. Just tailor the present to suit the various types of dads:

JET-SETTING DAD

If your dad is always catching a flight for work or leisure, consider upgrading his luggage. Buy him a rugged new duffel or a more spacious carry-on bag. They can also be personalized with his initials. If he often takes longer trips, replace his larger suitcase with newer models that allow for more efficient use of space. Get dad a new tracking watch. They're a handy tool for tracking vital signs in real-time, including heart rate, stress levels, sleep patterns, EKG and blood oxygen levels. Some offer dozens of different workout modes, too.

GADGET GUYS

If he lives in an area where storms threaten, consider an emergency weather alert radio. This can be an invaluable tool for emergency preparedness during power outages. Look for one that's water resistant with multiple power sources for added versatility, including outlet, battery, USB, solar and hand crank. Dad might love a hand-held garment steamer to ensure that he always looks polished, even while traveling.



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Many are compact enough to fit in his suitcase. Newer models heat up quickly, so he'll look great and never arrive late for the next meeting.

OUTDOORSY TYPES

Dads who love to camp, ski, hike or hunt might find that a trigger-start torch is very handy. They come in compact

designs for easy packing and fire-starting. (The propane-powered versions are even powerful enough to complete light welding tasks.) Any father can use an upgraded large tumbler for his next outdoor adventure. Modern vacuum insulation keeps beverages hot or cold for hours — and they're designed to

conveniently fit in a vehicle's cup holder.

OTHER IDEAS

Modern wireless speakers now serve multiple purposes, including amplifying music, movies and television, baby monitors, video calling and a smart home appliance hub. Dads can adjust the thermostat

while enjoying his favorite music or speaking with work or family on the phone. If your dad is prone to razor burn, consider a modern electric razor or liquid care solutions that offer astringent care. Is he prone to allergies? Choose the fragrance-free option to get effective results without an overpowering scent.

The History of Father's Day

Father's Day began in the early 1900s but didn't become a recognized holiday until the '60s.

Mother's Day was declared a national celebration nearly 60 years earlier by President Woodrow Wilson. The origins of that holiday can be traced back to efforts to reconcile those whose sons fought on opposing sides during the Civil War. Informal celebrations gained momentum as retailers — and particularly florists — recognized its commercial potential. But fathers didn't receive similar acknowledgment for decades.

In 1908, a church in West Virginia marked a day to honor fathers following a tragic explosion at a local coal mine, but it didn't become a tradition. Sonora Smart Dodd, the daughter of a widower from Spokane, Washington, eventually emerged as a prominent advocate for a dedicated holiday for fathers. This advocacy led to the establishment of the first statewide Father's Day. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge encouraged other states to observe the day, despite some movements advocating for the amalgamation of Mother's Day and Father's Day into a single celebration known as Parents' Day. Coolidge said the purpose of Father's Day was to foster closer relationships between fathers and their children, while emphasizing the respon-



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sibilities of fatherhood.

Challenges during the Great Depression led certain retailers to renew their efforts to promote Father's Day. The observance gained more traction during World War II, since this was perceived to be another opportunity to honor servicemen. Although the day

had become a tradition by this time, Father's Day remained unofficial.

The holiday was officially codified in 1966 when the third Sunday in June became the designated date. President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order recognizing Father's Day, and in 1972, President Richard

Nixon officially designated it as a national holiday during his re-election campaign. Sonora Smart Dodd passed away six years later at the age of 96.

Today, many other countries have also adopted the recognition of fathers on the third Sunday in June, including the United Kingdom, Mexico,

France, Greece, Switzerland, Cuba and Singapore, among others. But the holiday is celebrated on different dates worldwide. For instance, Italy observes Father's Day in March, while Brazil's holiday is in August. Australia's is in September and Finland celebrates in November.

Father's Day Meal Ideas

On a day meant to show appreciation, what better way to celebrate than with a meal?

According to figures provided by the National Restaurant Association, more than 50 million Americans will dine out on this special holiday for dad. It's a chance to enjoy a well-prepared meal while paying loving tribute to all your father does every day for the family — and there may be special discounts.

In fact, those responsible for selecting a place for dad's meal might be a little overwhelmed. You'll find that many local restaurants will offer specials in honor of Father's Day. Go online or check for coupons in your local newspaper before visiting to find the best deals. Many of the best memories surrounding Father's Day center on family time spent with a great meal.

DINING OUT

For many on Father's Day, the holiday offers a great excuse to visit their favorite restaurant. Just remember to play it safe. The National Restaurant Association reports that more than half of American dads will choose a place they're familiar with rather than exploring new options. Keep that in mind before you select a restaurant that they've never visited



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before. Your surprise dinner might not go as well as you'd hoped. Instead, return to a place he loves but hasn't been to in a long time to help ensure a satisfying experience.

DINING IN

While many fathers enjoy

the ambiance of dining out, others may prefer the comfort of home for their holiday meal. This option can be more economical, of course, but it also may be more meaningful if his family has a hand in preparing everything. Family members will have a better understanding of his favorite

side dishes and desserts, making it easier to stock the fridge with best-loved options. There's nothing like a peaceful day at home filled with quality family time.

PERFECT TIMING

Finally, pick the perfect time. This choice can be just

as important as deciding what you'll eat. Dinnertime is the preferred choice for most fathers celebrating this occasion. One prominent survey showed that 67% of diners prefer to go out in the evening, while only 24% chose lunch. Just 11% go out for breakfast.

Games to Play Together

Is your father the type to immediately conquer the latest video game?

If so, finding the ideal gift for Father's Day may be quite simple. Find out which new game he's most interested in playing next — even if it means visiting the video game store well beforehand. (Some local businesses close on Sundays, so you might not be able to go on the holiday itself.) If you're on a budget, affording the most recently released role-playing or sports title might be a challenge — but don't let that ruin the day. Opt for smaller, more inexpensive gifts like a cheat code book or a new controller that can greatly enhance his gaming experience.

MAKING TIME

Regardless of the gift he selects, the most involving aspect of getting a new game is the opportunity to play it together. Once he's opened his Father's Day present, take time to explore the game as a family, then watch as competing rekindles his youthful enthusiasm. The day will be transformed into a new bonding experience. If you choose a tablet for his gaming pursuits instead, he can share the hobby with younger generations. Depending on the app marketplace associated with the tablet, a wide selection of games is available that caters to many age groups. Some are even



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available at little or no cost.

SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERS

Ready to splurge this Father's Day? Level up by purchasing an entirely new gaming system or laptop computer. Most

gaming systems are priced within the \$300 to \$400 range, while high-performance laptops can have a higher price point. Once you've set a budget, you can begin exploring options. Your search should prioritize computer models

that are lightweight, slim and stylish. If you're unsure which is best, talk to local gaming professionals. They'll provide invaluable assistance in making the right decision for your father's new gift by sharing information on each individual

laptop's overall cost, memory capacity and processing power. Consider paying a little extra for a warranty to safeguard your purchase — and encourage your father to officially register the product in case you need to file a claim.

Dad's Day Out

Spending time together can be the greatest gift of all.

It's easy to become too focused on finding the ideal gift for this Father's Day, but remember that the best memories are made simply by spending quality time together. Get out there together! Here are several suggestions for celebrating this special day with your father:

SPORTS

Purchase tickets or season passes to a local sporting event, even if it's far off in the future. Whether it's baseball, basketball, football or a competitive golf tournament, there are often upgraded or all-inclusive tickets that offer better seats, exclusive experiences and additional food and beverage options. Arrive early before the games to get the most out of the experience. You might even get an autograph!

GOLF

For many, golf is not merely a game but rather an enjoyable pastime. Consider spending 18 holes of quality time with your dad. If one or both of you haven't played a round in a while, sign up for a lesson from an instructor to enhance your skills. This offers a wonderful chance to reconnect while engaging in an activity he appreciates.

CAMPING

Camping is an excellent

opportunity for bonding. Venture into the wilderness or simply set up a tent in your backyard, then share stories about your childhood to nurture a lifetime of connection. If he has grandchildren, including them could make for a memorable multi-generational experience that will stay

with your dad for years to come.

CAR SHOWS

Summer is the season for car shows. These events feature antiques, modified late-model cars and hot rods — some even have newer sports cars. Take a moment to

reminisce about when he learned to drive and the lessons he taught you when you were first behind the wheel. You can also talk about the models you aspire to drive one day in the future.

FISHING

Head to your dad's favorite

fishing spot or explore a new lake, river, inlet or stream.

You could book a guided tour in your area to learn new things about familiar waterways. Make a weekend of it to create lasting memories.

You could even sign up for a deep-sea fishing expedition for a real adventure.



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A World-Wide Celebration

The significance of fathers in family life is universally acknowledged across the globe.

Each individual culture observes its own unique traditions to honor these important figures. Here's a look at the many ways dads are celebrated:

BRAZIL

Father's Day is known as "Dia do Pais" in Brazil and is celebrated on the second Sunday in August. This date, selected to commemorate St. Joachim, the father of Jesus's mother Mary and patron saint of fathers and grandfathers, was established by journalist Roberto Marinho to stimulate newspaper sales.

The inaugural celebration took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1953, often characterized by large family barbecues and children crafting heartfelt Father's Day cards. Schools typically participate, organizing special concerts or ceremonies to honor fathers.

GERMANY

In Germany, Father's Day is referred to as "Vatertag" and coincides with Ascension Day, occurring 40 days after Easter. This day features a vibrant tradition in which groups of men embark on countryside hikes, equipped with wagons filled with beer and snacks. As a national holiday celebrated on



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Thursday, it is common for many to take the following Friday off as well. Festivities may include pub tours, excursions to Biergartens, group cycling adventures or social gatherings in parks that bring together games, grilling and crates of beer.

ITALY

In Italy, Father's Day falls

on March 19, coinciding with the feast day of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of fathers. Italian traditions include presenting fathers with small gifts like flowers or pastries, while children often create special cards and drawings accompanied by poetry. Meals on this occasion focus on cakes, biscuits and fried sweet treats, and street festivals are

commonplace, where attendees can enjoy fried donuts, cakes and Italian cream puffs.

THAILAND

In Thailand, Father's Day is commemorated on Dec. 5, the birthday of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Known as Wan Por, this celebration often includes the wearing of yellow shirts and the gifting

of yellow canna flowers, which symbolize gratitude and respect.

The birthday of King Bhumibol, who was born in Massachusetts, has been widely celebrated since his passing in 2016, as he is revered as the "Father of the Nation," renowned for his devotion to both family and country.