



*Building Our Future Through  
Education, History and Culture!*

# *June Holidays Celebrations Recognition in the United States Virgin Islands*

June

*St. John Festival and Carnival Season ... May 31<sup>st</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Father's Day ... Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Holidays observed by the  
Virgin Islands of the United States of America  
strengthen an important process in the development of the territory.*

*Compliments of:  
Virgin Islands Department of Education  
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education*

# *St. John Festival and Carnival Season*

***St. John Festival and Carnival Season*** displays the best of the United States Virgin Islands and Caribbean culture.

The unforgettable experience climaxes with a memorable evening of spectacular fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup>. During the month long feting, you will be entertained with festive music in the air, activities / events catering to the very young and very senior and the local culinary delicacies will satisfy your taste buds! For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July cultural carnival parade, you will be entertained by majorettes, Indians, and mocko jumbies who will dance on stilts dressed in elaborate pants and jackets made of colorful silks and satins.

Below is the general schedule of the 2015 St. John Festival and Carnival Season ...



## ***2015 St. John Festival and Carnival Season Schedule***

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Steelpan Music (Cruz Bay Ballfield)

Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm ..... Pan-O-Rama (Winston Wells Ballfield)

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Beach Jam (Cruz Bay Beach)

Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Senior Variety Show (Cruz Bay Ballfield)

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am ..... St. John Carnival Bike Race (Cruz Bay National Parking lot)

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Princess Pageant (Cruz Bay Ballfield)

Friday, June 19, 2015 at 9:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Music Mix (Cruz Bay Ballfield)

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Queen Pageant (Cruz Bay Ballfield)

Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Food Fair and Festival Coronation (Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park)

Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Boat Races (Cruz Bay Harbor)

Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Children's Festival Village (Cruz Bay National Park Ballfield)

Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm ..... St. John Carnival Adult's Festival Village Opens (Cruz Bay Parking lot)

Opens nightly from 7:00pm – 1:00am until July 5<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00am ... St. John Carnival J'ouvert (Cruz Bay National Park Ballfield)

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am ..... St. John Carnival Festival Parade (Cruz Bay Harbor)

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm ... St. John Carnival Fireworks (Cruz Bay Harbor)

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00pm ... St. John Carnival Beach Concert (Cruz Bay Beach)

### **Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:**

Interview a participant / organizer about their experience

Attend an event at the St. John Festival 2015

Study the origin of the St. John Festival and Carnival and share what you have learned

Courtesy of

Text: <http://www.vicarnivalschedule.com/stjohn/>; <http://stjohnisland.com/carnival-festival-schedule-events/>;

Pictures: <http://www.windspre.com/article/46-2014-st-john-carnival-schedule-of-events> ; <http://albanykid.com/2011/07/05/caribbean-carnival-on-the-fourth-of-july/>

# Father's Day

**Father's Day**, which is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in many countries, honors fathers and fatherhood, paternal bonds, and father's influence in the community.

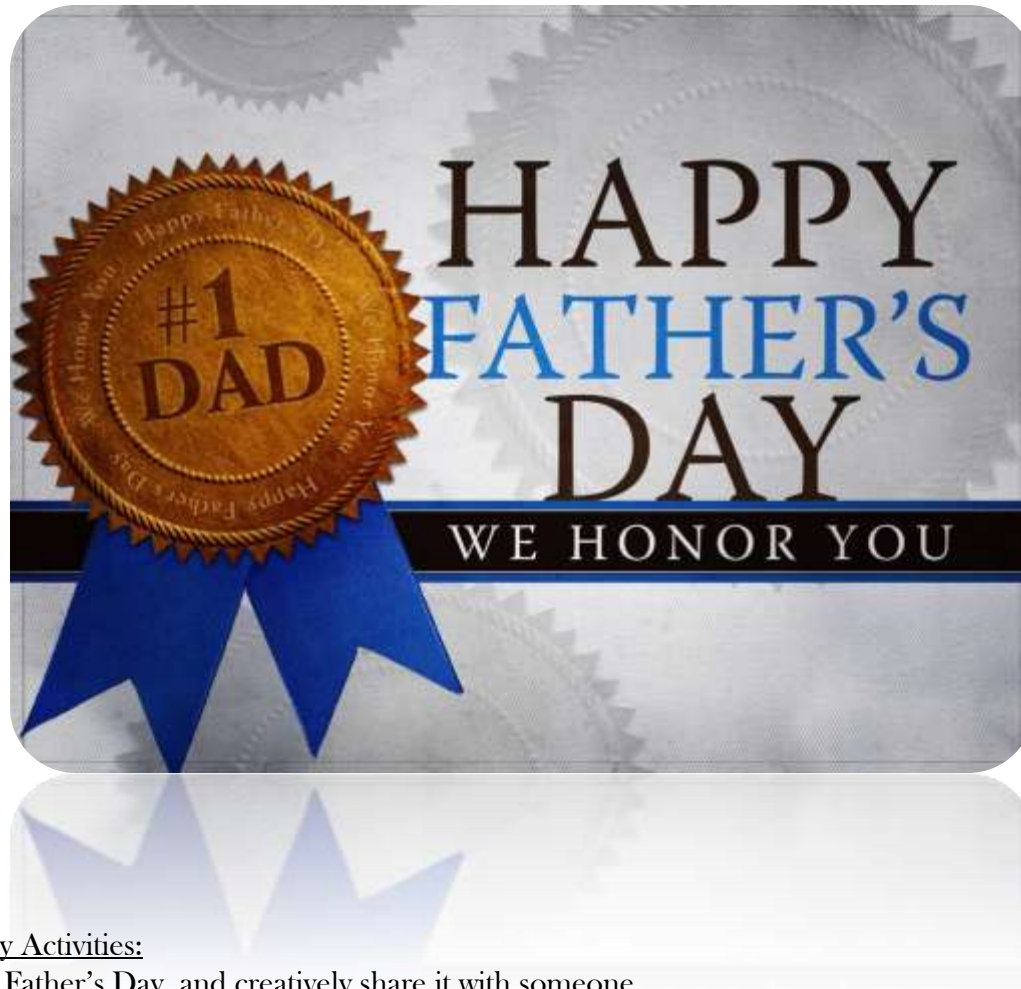
It wasn't until 1972 during the President Nixon's administration that Father's Day was officially recognized as a national holiday. President Calvin "Silent Cal" Coolidge in 1924 recommended that Father's Day become a national holiday, but no official action was taken. About 42 years later in 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson, through an executive order, designated the third Sunday in June as the official day to celebrate Father's Day.

West Virginia, United States is where the first recorded observance of Father's Day was held on July 5, 1908. Either Mrs. Grace Golden Clayton or Jessica Clinton Clayton in Fairmont suggested the Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South hold a special service to honor 361 individuals - most of who were fathers - who had died in a coal mine explosion seven months earlier. This Father's Day service was an isolated event that wasn't repeated in later years, nonetheless, West Virginia erected a historical marker in 1985 claiming credit for holding the first Father's Day observance, but they do not claim credit for promoting the idea as a national holiday.

Promoting the idea as a national holiday goes to Sonora Smart Dodd, a young woman from Spokane, Washington State. Credited as the original and most influential proponent of Father's Day, the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910 when she came up with the idea of honoring and celebrating her father while listening to a Mother's Day sermon at church in 1909. She believed mothers were getting all the accolades while fathers were equally deserving of a day of praise. Her dad, William Smart who was quite a man and a veteran of the Civil War, was left a widower when his wife died while giving birth to their sixth child. He went on to raise the six children by himself on their small farm in Washington. To show her appreciation for all the hard work and love he gave to her and her siblings, she thought there should be a day to pay honor to him and other dads like him. Initially she suggested the anniversary of her father's death – June 5<sup>th</sup> - to be the designated day to celebrate Father's Day, but due to some bad planning, the celebration in Spokane, Washington was deferred to the third Sunday in June.

In the United States Virgin Islands, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June, as well. On their special day, fathers are treated to special dinners and luncheons held in their honor. In the Frenchtown area on St. Thomas, USVI, special weekend-long events are held in celebration of fathers to promote fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in our community.





Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:

Study the origin and purpose of Father's Day, and creatively share it with someone.

Attend church service and/or special Father's Day program with your dad, grandpa, and/or special dad in your neighborhood / community.

Create a special gift and/or special treat, which truly expresses your love for your dad, grandpa, and/or special dad in your neighborhood / community.

Spend the day with your dad and/or grandpa doing what he loves to do (for example at a sporting event, barbecuing, gardening, etc.)

Courtesy of

Text [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father's\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father's_Day); <http://www.artofmanliness.com/2008/06/11/a-brief-history-of-fathers-day/>;

<http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/origin-of-fathers-day.htm>

Pictures: <http://www.goshorty.net/happy-fathers-day-2014#sthash.SvJ0pgfM.dpbs>



**To receive monthly complimentary electronic holidays celebrations recognition, kindly contact .....**



*Virgin Islands Department of Education  
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