How did Fatherâ€™s Day start anyway?

Nancy Buttra

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Fatherâ€™s Day is a special day to recognise and celebrate the role fathers play in our life. Whether it is your Dad, step-dad, foster dad or just a special father figure who has helped you along the way, Fatherâ€™s Day is your chance to say â€˜Thank Youâ€™.

The history of Fatherâ€™s Day dates back to the early 1900â€™s, and was partly inspired by the unofficia Mothers Day services which began in 1908. These Motherâ€™s Day services prompted many people to arrange similar services to recognise fathers. While many services were arranged in the next couple of years, the most widely noted was organised in Washington, by Mrs Sonora Dodd. Mrs Dodd wanted to pay tribute to her late father, William Smart, who became a single parent when her mother died in childbirth. William Smart raised 6 children on his own, which was an unusual feat at that time. Originally Mrs Dodd wanted to hold the memorial service on the anniversary of her fatherâ€™s death, June 5th 1910, however this did not leave organisers enough time to prepare a service. Instead the service was arranged to be held on the June 19th, and this has became known as the first Fathers Day.

While services continued every year, it was not until 1924 that President Coolidge recommended Fatherâ€™s Day as a national holiday. It took 48 years from that recommendation, before Fatherâ€™s Da was officially recognised by President Nixon in 1972.

When is Fatherâ€™s Day celebrated?

Most countries follow the United States tradition and celebrate Fatherâ€™s Day on the 3rd Sunday in June like here in Holland. Other cultures around the world coincide Fatherâ€™s Day with other celebrations in their community. In Germany it is celebrated on Ascension Day (40 days after Easter), in the Roman Catholic tradition it is St Josephs Day (March 19), and in Thailand it is the kings birthday (December 5).

How is Fatherâ€™s Day celebrated?

Fatherâ€™s Day around the world is a chance for sons and daughters to pay tribute to their Dads. While for most countries there are no set traditions, it often involves a nice meal, presents, and a chance for Dad to put their feet up. In Germany, Dads take part in a Fatherâ€™s Day hike. Groups of men hike into the forest dragging a wagon full of wine or beer, and local foods. On reaching their destination they have a Fatherâ€™s Day feast.

Ideas and presents for Celebrating Fathers Day

Fatherâ€™s Day is all about making Dad feel special, and letting him know how much you appreciate the role he plays in your life. Think of Dadâ€™s favourite things, and organise a special personal gift or outing surrounding that theme. Above all else, remember to tell Dad how much you love him, and how much you appreciate the things he does for you. Make him a nice breakfast, a cup of tea, pamper him, let him watch the football and news in peace. But above all, give him a special day in the spotlights and celebrate and enjoy Fathers day with the whole family. Father's Day is a time to remember just how special is your Dad.

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Nancy Buttra - About Author:
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