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6 movie moments to inspire your Fourth of July celebration

by Wendy Hathaway, Community Contributor @WisWendy

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There are so many options for how you can spend the Fourth of July weekend honoring the red, white, and blue. But why not look to the movies to find inspiration for how you can celebrate America's Independence Day—as we do for so many other holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Groundhog Day)?

Let's get started!

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Play a night game: *The Sandlot* (1993)

If you can find an open field (or, better yet, a manicured diamond, if the Tigers don't get there first), and if you don't lose your only ball over the neighbor's fence, you can play baseball all summer long. But only on the Fourth of July, when fireworks illuminate the sky, can you pretend you're in the big leagues. (Though all but the most dedicated of players will likely need a brief pause to peer up at the pyrotechnics.)



BONUS TIP: Pack your speakers and use Ray Charles' "America the Beautiful" as your stadium soundtrack.

Visit the amusement park: *Adventureland* (2009)

Adventureland - Fourth of July Kristen Wiig Bill Hader

Hey, U.S.A! Happy birthday!

Your local amusement park is sure to have plenty of Fourth of July activities to fire up some flag-waving fervor. Try your hand at carnival games, check out the jugglers or the performing dog show, or get cozy with your crush under the rockets' red glare.

BONUS TIP: Don't throw your trash on the ground! Use the holiday-themed garbage can.

Go for a swim: *Jaws* (1975)

Jaws - Amity Island - Fourth of July

Amity Island would love to welcome you to its seaside resort town for the holiday weekend. And wouldn't you know it? The water's fine! With Chief Brody on duty, it's fairly unlikely you'd encounter any trouble taking a dip in the ocean, despite pesky rumors of shark attacks, and a few young practical jokers trying to scare the tourists.

BONUS TIPS: Stav in the shallows, keep an eye out for fins, and don't forget to wear

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And for an extra burst of patriotism, watch [Quint's "Indianapolis" speech](#).

Throw a backyard BBQ: *My Girl* (1991)


 My Girl - Fourth of July picnic

Nothing says summer in America like burgers and hot dogs on the grill, and you can usually count on a foxy family friend to share their famous potato salad. Add corn on the cob, baked beans, and beers, and you've got yourself a feast fit for our founding fathers.

To stay true to the spirit of the holiday, gather your guests around the flag pole and sing *The Star-Spangled Banner* together—or, if you're especially talented, toot the tune on your tuba. And for dessert, snuggle close with a loved one, or learn a few life lessons from your wise Uncle Phil while watching the fireworks display.

BONUS TIPS: To avoid a scene, don't invite your ex. And be polite, please; no one wants to see your half-chewed food.

Celebrate with the townsfolk: *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (1997)

 Know What You Did Last Summer - Sarah Michelle Gellar pageant

Most communities host Independence Day celebrations, from parades and potlucks to beauty pageants. The parade route is often packed with spectators, so show up early to stake a prime viewing spot where you can check out festive floats and the marching band.

Later, sample the lobster boil on the boardwalk, or head to the community center to ogle the young women showing off their, ahem, talents as they vie for the Croaker Queen crown.

And for those night owls who want to keep the party going, you can always head to the nearby beach for ghost stories around a campfire, or a sandy makeout sesh next to a mysterious shipwreck.

 Know What You Did Last Summer - Jennifer Love Hewitt - What are you waiting for, huh? via gifling.com

BONUS TIPS: Don't drink and drive, don't run over an old fisherman, and definitely don't try to cover up his death by throwing him in the ocean. Oh, and don't get murdered, either.

Catch a show: *Magic Mike* (2012)



BONUS TIP: Remember to bring your dollar bills!

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Wendy Hathaway, Community Contributor
Wendy's DVR is often full to the brim of automatic deletion with a wide range of television programs—from the fiery, violent romances of *The Vampire Diaries* to the fiery, violent romances of *Deadliest Catch*.

 @WisWendy

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