



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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Father's Day Activities Set For a Park Near You

Father's Day is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and it all began when a young woman wanted to honor her dad. In May of 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash. sat in church listening to a Mother's Day sermon. She decided she wanted to designate a day for her dad. Dodd's father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran, had taken the responsibility of single-handedly raising the newborn and his other five children after his wife died in childbirth.

Her idea gained traction with local officials and the first celebration was held in June 1910 according to the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitor Bureau. President Lyndon Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers in 1966, but it wasn't until 1972 that President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it a permanent holiday. The Fairfax County Park Authority wants to help you celebrate.

On Sunday, June 21, 2015 pretend to be a penguin, wolf and beaver dad as you learn about these doting fathers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. The Animal Dads program is perfect for children age two to six and runs from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Meet live animals and make a craft for your favorite father/grandfather. The cost is \$6 per child. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Celebrate Father's Day with some fishing at Riverbend Park from 5 to 7 p.m. on June 21. The cost is \$8 per person and includes supplies and equipment or you may bring your own rod and reel. All fish caught will be released, and we'll give you some tips. For information, call 703-759-3211.

Treat Dad to a special day at Lake Accotink Park on June 21! Spot soaring eagles and sunbathing turtles while enjoying a 30-minute cruise aboard the Lake Accotink Park tour boat. Cruise times are 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are required. Arrive 20 minutes before your cruise time to pick up your reserved tickets and get ready for boarding. The fee is \$3 for Dad, \$6 for other adults, \$4 for children ages three and up. For information and to make a reservation, call 703-569-0285. Cruises will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather or windy conditions. No refunds for any other reason.

Treat Dad to a free wood carving lesson with the Northern Virginia Carvers from noon to 4 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site on June 21, ages 12 and up. There will be a nominal charge for wood blanks. There will also be free mill tours for all fathers accompanied by children from noon to 3 p.m. For information, call 703-759-2771.

You can find lots and lots of great activities for the entire family online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-events-calendar.htm>. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.