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Etiquette For Dog Parents

Dog parents have a responsibility to manage their pets' behavior and follow certain rules of etiquette. Follow these guidelines to ensure that you and your dog are being courteous community members.

- **Scoop your poop.** Bring several bags on your walks to be sure you have enough. If you run out, either come back and clean it up later, or ask another walker if they have a bag to spare.
- **Prevent barking.** Practice getting your dog's attention to easily redirect him if he barks at people or other dogs. If you know your dog acts this way, only allow him in the yard when supervised.
- **Only let your dog greet a stranger if they ask.** The same rule applies if you see another dog and caretaker approaching. Ask first and respect the other's response.
- **Always leash your dog on walks.** Not everyone is comfortable around dogs. Keep your dog close to you and stay alert to others. Your leash should be short enough to prevent your dog from contacting or jumping on passersby.
- **Don't play while on leash.** If you meet another dog on a walk (and it's alright with their caretaker) let the dogs sniff each other for five seconds and move on. Letting your dog play with another dog while on leash can result in injury and teach your dog that all dogs enjoy this kind of interaction, although many don't.
- **Be aware of other people's feelings.** If your dog does something to upset someone (jumping up, barking) apologize to them and take measures to prevent the situation from reoccurring.

— Animal Humane Society

Family Mother's Day Activities

TAKE AN AT-HOME TRIP

Even if you can't hop on a flight to Paris for the weekend, Mom can still enjoy a little taste of France (or any other destination that intrigues you). Start by buying some French croissants for breakfast. Then pack a picnic lunch of French bread, cheese, and fruit—or order a meal from your favorite deli or restaurant (quiche, anyone?). For an added touch, adorn your kitchen or dining room table with a red-and-white-checked tablecloth and fresh flowers, put on some French music, and teach the kids a few basic words in French, such as “bonjour” (good morning) and “merci” (thank you). Even better? Have your waitstaff do all the food prep and cleaning!



SHARE OLD MEMORIES

One sentimental way to share family memories is by looking through old photographs or home movies. If you live near Grandma or Grandpa, ask them to pull out old mementos of Mom as a child, and take a trip together down memory lane. The kids will get a kick out of the styles of clothes their mom wore—not to mention the fact that there may be visible proof that Mom

was once a baby, toddler, and teen. And who knows? The clothes Mom rocked in the past just may very well be back in style again!

CREATE A FAMILY COMIC STRIP

Start a new tradition this year by creating a family comic strip. Take a long sheet of paper, and draw three or four large squares next to one another, like a newspaper comic strip. Then, think of an event, celebration, or something funny that happened this past year, and illustrate it with markers, crayons, or paints. Be sure to include dialogue, a date, and a title, such as “Life with the Smiths.”

Older children can help with the drawing and writing, while younger kids can dictate their thoughts or help color. Save your comic strip, and create another one next year and others in years to come. When you're ready to compile all of your strips into a book, stack the pages and thread them together with sturdy yarn. Or, go digital and upload them to your favorite photo-sharing website and order a memory book to enjoy together.

HOST A LIP-SYNC CONTEST

Nothing brightens a family celebration quite like music. But if you want to really turn up the fun, stage your own “lip-sync” contest. To begin, each family member will choose a favorite song. Then turn on the music, and have each person lip-sync the words to the song, doing their best to mimic the performer. Other

continued on page 3

Fun Things To Do In May

As the sunny, warm days begin to outnumber the chilly ones come May in Colorado, it's natural to want to get outside and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Seasonal recreation opportunities become more plentiful with melting snow and the reopening of many attractions and roads, so you'll have countless options for things to do.

1. Camp before it gets too crowded. You can beat the camping crowds at many popular spots around the state. There are still many campgrounds that haven't officially opened for the season quite yet, so research and plan accordingly. May is typically a terrific time to visit the Rockies or camp along the Front Range Urban Corridor without as many people as later in summer. Keep in mind it still gets quite cold in the evenings, so pack your winter clothes.

A lot of the USFS campgrounds at higher elevations may not open until later in the month, but rest assured, there are always places year-round. State parks are usually a safe bet, although finding an available campsite in places near the Denver and Colorado Springs metros such as Cherry Creek or Cheyenne Mountain state parks will be tougher. Keep in mind all of Colorado's state parks require camping reservations in advance.

2. Chase a few waterfalls. With all the fresh snow fueling the rivers and creeks around Colorado, waterfalls will be near their peak flow at this time. The water will be too cold to plunge into, but mild May weather means you won't be tired and hot by the time you reach the falls. Be sure to pack some water shoes if you want to explore the riverbeds at the base.

There are a variety of choices for your waterfall adventure, some close to home. If you want to stay around the Denver/Colorado Springs area, check out Seven Falls or Helen Hunt Falls in Colorado Springs, or Rainbow Falls in Manitou Springs. Alternatively, head west to places like Rifle Falls State Park. Most of these will require a short hike to access, but the views are well worth it.

3. Celebrate spring at a festival. Festival season is in full swing by the time May comes around, meaning each weekend is filled with fun events for the whole family. If you love art and film, check out the Denver Arts Festival, Film on the Rocks, Mountainfilm In Telluride, or the Mile High International Pastel Exhibition. Find a full list of popular Colorado events happening in May.

4. Colorado Rapids or Rockies

The Colorado Rapids are a professional men's soccer team competing in Major League Soccer. Their home field is Dick's Sporting Goods Park, located near downtown Denver in Commerce City. They have 3 matches here in May, so it's the perfect opportunity to see them live in action. The team has a rivalry with neighboring Real Salt Lake, so keep an eye out for that can't-miss game.

If you are more of a baseball fan, the Colorado Rockies have 5 series scheduled for May at Coors Field. Opponents include the Marlins, Phillies, Reds, and Mets. Coors Field is a gorgeous stadium with great baseball and sweeping views of the Rocky Mountains. What better time to grab your friends and family and take them out to a ballgame?

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5. Tour a working Colorado factory. On those scattered rainy or cold days, head inside for one of the many factory tours Colorado has to offer. This is a great, affordable option (often free) to spend the afternoon, and sometimes you even get a complimentary product out of it. The state is home to many working factories that produce everything from cheese to bikes to craft beer.

In Denver, take a peek into the candy-making process at Hammond's Candies to see how your favorite sweets are made. They offer free 30-minute tours daily. Boulder is home to the Celestial Seasonings tea factory, offering daily tours with the chance to taste-test all of their glorious herbal concoctions.

If you want to see how your favorite alcohol is made, head to a brewery, distillery, or winery to get a behind-the-scenes look. Notable ones include the Coor's Brewery in Golden, Wood's High Mountain Distillery in Salida, and Mesa Park Vineyards in Palisade.

–<https://www.uncovercolorado.com/>

Mother's Day Activities, *continued from front page*

family members can rate the performance from 1 (not at all like the performer) to 5 (exactly like the performer), and write down their score on a card. The person with the highest score wins the contest.

RECREATE THE SPA AT HOME

At some point on Mother's Day, moms usually want a little rest and relaxation. Make sure they get what they need—and deserve—by creating a list of “spa services” they can choose from. The list could include:

- An hour alone so they can call a friend or soak in the tub
- The opportunity to take a nap
- A massage from their partner or children
- A manicure at their favorite nail salon

The kids can make up coupons with each of these services, and encourage Mom to redeem them throughout Mother's Day.

PLANT SOME FLOWERS

If you have some extra space in your garden, you can create a live Mother's Day canvas. First, buy various packets of flower seeds that grow fast and well in your region. Then have your kids draw a picture or write a short message (like “We love Mom”) in the garden dirt with a stick. Drop the flower seeds into the dirt lines; then cover them up, and water every few days. Before long, your picture (or message) will be blooming, and you'll have a Mother's Day gift that keeps on growing.

MAKE SENTIMENTAL ARTWORK

On a warm day, go outside and have your children (and anyone else who's game) place their hands and feet into a shal-

low tub of colorful, nontoxic paint. Spread out a roll of butcher paper, and encourage everyone to press their hands and feet onto it, leaving their prints behind. Label each handprint and footprint with the person's name, the date, and a special message to Mom, and allow your collective masterpiece to dry. Try this activity again next year, and see how much bigger some hands and feet have become!

READ A GOOD BOOK

For a family storytime, take a blanket outside and leaf through a children's book that's just right for the day, such as *The Mother's Day Mice* by Eve Bunting, *No Time for Mother's Day* by Laurie Halse Anderson, *Clifford's Happy Mother's Day* by Norman Bridwell, or *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman. Mom could also select a childhood favorite, and read it with the kids.

SCHEDULE TIME FOR HUGS

Finally, what would Mother's Day be like without hugs and kisses all around? One way to work them into your day is by setting up a silly “hugs and kisses” schedule and posting it on the refrigerator or other visible spot. For instance, you could write, “10:30 a.m.: Everyone runs around the couch and gives Mom a hug and kiss.” or “2:15 p.m.: Everyone hops around the oak tree on one foot and assembles for a group hug.”

And when in doubt about what Mother's Day activities are best, don't be afraid to simply ask. Every mom has something special that they will enjoy on their big day, so make it special in a way that's just for them.

—<https://www.parents.com/holiday/mothers-day>



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Memorial Day Activities With Kids

We're so excited for the summer! The pools are opening, the grill's heating up, and school's winding down. But in the midst of the fun, take a few minutes to teach your family that Memorial Day is a special time to recognize the service men and women who've fought for our country.

Explain the History of Memorial Day

The Memorial Day tradition began around the Civil War, when folks wanted to honor the soldiers who had died in that conflict by decorating their graves. There's some disagreement over whether this started in the south or in Waterloo, NY, but in either case, the tradition started as Decoration Day. Families would gather together at cemeteries, bringing picnics and remembering, together, those whom they had lost. Gradually Decoration Day became Memorial Day, and in 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May. While Memorial Day is specifically a holiday to recognize the sacrifices of men and women who have died in combat, many people also spend the day honoring veterans and current service personnel and working for peace and unity with all people.



Watch a Parade or Memorial Service

We have some local parades, and kids love a parade, but you can also take the opportunity to point out traditions and Memorial Day etiquette. Teach children that we stand and

take off hats as veterans pass in a parade. Have them look for American flags, and point out that, officially, flags are to be flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day as a remembrance. During services you may also see soldiers fire rifles into the air or people throwing flowers into the ocean in memory of those lost at sea. Next time you're at your local town hall or playground, check for a memorial and take time to read it with your kids.

Make a Tasty Treat

Bring cookies or another treat to our neighbor, a World War II veteran. It's wonderful to recognize someone your kids know. But it's also fun to enjoy a treat yourselves! A simple one is a blueberry and strawberry parfait with yogurt, whipped cream, or ice cream. Put them into clear plastic containers to show the patriotic colors, and pop them into the freezer if it's a hot day.

Craft Something Special

Want to slide in a history lesson while keeping little hands busy? You can help kids make a tissue paper poppy while explaining about Memorial Day's origins, then explain that poppies, because they are blood-red, became a symbol of sacrifice during World War I. These are easy to create, and they make a lovely gift.

—<https://denver.kidsoutandabout.com>

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Bring Flowers To Somone Day

April showers means May 15 is Bring Flowers to Someone Day to celebrate why giving flowers plays a significant roll in kindness. Flowers are one of nature's most beautiful gifts. Bring Flowers to Someone Day is the perfect way to give the gift of love and kindness to those around you. Whether you gift flowers to show sympathy or give them just because, the simple act of giving flowers brings joy to the recipient.

Real Estate Has Officially Awakened For Spring!

Last week the real estate market hit some milestones. There were more homes listed that same week than seen since 2012 and sold prices hit an ALL TIME HIGH! It is definitely time to sell if that is in your plans. Contact me with questions regarding your home's value, the selling process, and what updates you should consider.

— **Celia Zaharas, Your Trusted Realtor, 303-949-3107, Colorado Home Realty, Celia@ColoradoHomeRealty.com**

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Our June deadline is May 15th.

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Red, White, And Blue Trifle

When you're looking for festive Memorial Day desserts or just an easy summer treat, turn to this red, white, and blue trifle to satisfy your sweet tooth. The key to this patriotic trifle is using fresh, ripe berries. Skip the frozen fruit here.

YIELDS: 8 - 10 serving(s); TOTAL TIME: 30 mins

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 c. heavy cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 lb. pound cake, cubed
- Two 6 oz. containers blueberries (about 2 cups)
- Two 6 oz. containers blackberries (about 2 1/2 cups)
- One 1/2 qt. strawberries, stems removed, sliced

Directions

1. Combine the cream cheese and granulated sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer with a paddle attachment. Beat on medium-high speed for 1 to 2 minutes until smooth. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl. With the mixer on medium, slowly add the heavy cream and vanilla and mix until combined. Switch to the whisk attachment and whip at medium speed until soft peaks form and the mixture is easy to dollop.

2. Place a single layer of cake cubes in a large trifle dish (about 12 to 14 cups). Top with 2/3 of the blueberries and blackberries, then 1/2 of the whipped cream (about 2 cups), then 2/3 of the strawberries. Repeat the cake and cream layers once more, then decorate the top with the remaining berries. Serve immediately or make in advance and store for up to 24 hours in the refrigerator.

— <https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/>

Scavenger Hunt Day

National Scavenger Hunt Day on May 24th each year sends us off to find random items all in the name of good fun. American gossip columnist, author, songwriter, and professional hostess Elsa Maxwell (May 24, 1883 – November 1, 1963) is credited with the introduction of the scavenger hunt for use as a party game in the modern era.

The game challenges teams to scavenge for a list of odd items. As part of the rules, participants are not allowed to buy the objects. Depending on where the hunt takes place, players may have to beg, barter, or even work for them, too. Some scavenger hunts add difficulty to the game by adding riddles describing each item. The team with the most items, or the first to complete the list, wins.



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