

Stony Creek News

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Last Day Of School Traditions

The last day of school is both a happy and sad occasion. While you celebrate your child's accomplishments, you also mark another year off the calendar.

1. Photo. Take a photo of your child in the place where you also took a photo on the first day. That could be by the front door, at the school, or sitting at their desk.

2. Balloons. Count down the last day with balloons. Fill five balloons with a note or a treat and number them. Each day, have your child pop a balloon and enjoy the surprise inside.

3. Signatures. Send your child to school on the last day with something that friends can write on and a sharpie. Your child's friends can autograph their shirt, a pillowcase, or another keepsake. This is especially fun for kids moving up to the next school campus, i.e. 5th grade to middle school.

4. Planning. Make a summer bucket list. Sit down together and plan out a few fun things to look forward to doing over the summer break.

5. Surprise. Kick off the summer with a fun surprise when your child comes home from the last day. Keep it simple, such as hiding a bucket of water balloons by the front door or making a Last Day basket full of summer fun.

6. Chalk. If your child rides the bus, decorate the sidewalk from the bus stop to the front door with sidewalk chalk. Write messages like, "Happy summer!"

7. Garden. Start a summer garden. Beans, carrots, cucumbers, and melons can be planted in May or June throughout the US.

—<https://onemamasdailydrama.com>

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10 Ways To Make Mom Feel Special On Mother's Day

Moms—they really deserve more than a day, don't they? While we always try to let the mothers in our lives know how much they're appreciated, we try extra hard to show her how much we care on Mother's Day!

- **Feed her!** Whether it's by taking her out to her favorite restaurant (or one she's been dying to try) or, even better, cooking a thoughtful meal full of her favorite dishes, it will leave both her heart and her stomach happy.
- **Plan a family photo session or maybe one for just you and her.** Get silly in front of the camera, and you'll have more than just the memory of your day together—you'll have something tangible to share with her. Plus, as a bonus, you can relive the day all over again when the proofs come in!



- **Treat her to breakfast in bed!** Sleeping in and not having to cook breakfast? Most moms can't think of a better gift!
- **Fill up her gas tank, do the grocery shopping, clean the house—**when you handle some of these simple but burdensome tasks like these, she'll appreciate your appreciation!
- **Experience something new together!** Experiences have a way of bonding people together, so take a hot air balloon ride, go to a concert, skydive, or take a cooking class together, and you'll create memories to last for a lifetime.
- **Every mom has a honey-do list.** Consider

tackling a big project on the list that she'll be so thrilled to see completed. We're talking cleaning the garage, organizing a closet, or maybe even a woodworking project.

- **Plan a party for her** and the other special moms in her life—her mom, her sister, her best friend, and, of course, those moms' children. She'll adore being surrounded by her closest loved ones.
- **Whisk mom around the town** with a day filled with her favorite activities. Soak in some quality time at a spa or a museum together, treat her to a shopping spree, or play a round of tennis with her.
- **Treat mom to a gift that is thoughtful and special.** Don't just buy another robe or sweater, unless you know she really wants one. Consider buying her something that she wouldn't typically buy for herself or something that she's been talking about for a while. Has she wanted new tableware? Does she have an empty place on her wall that she has been wanting to fill? Could she use a day to treat herself? Get personal with it!
- **You can write her a letter, make a list of all the reasons you love and appreciate her, or turn it all into a craft project.** Just be sure the day doesn't pass without you taking the time to thank her for being such a thoughtful mother.

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Four Meaningful Ways To Honor Memorial Day

While there are many fun things to do on Memorial Day, it's important for everyone to take time this day to reflect on what it means to be an American citizen and what sacrifices our people have made so that we could live freely today. There are many ways to participate in this special day, but here are four meaningful ways to honor our fallen heroes.

Learn: Visit a military memorial or museum.

Show: Make a donation to organizations that support veterans – even if it's just \$5! Show gratitude is through thanking a veteran with a card or letter, donation, or phone call.

Share: Consider taking some time to volunteer or donate your resources on this day. You can volunteer at a veteran's hospital, a nursing home, a local food bank, or a homeless shelter. You can also donate blood to the American Red Cross.

Participate: Go to a local parade or ceremony and watch as an honor guard carries an American flag for the fallen. Visit a war memorial and pay your respects, whether it's at Arlington National Cemetery or someplace closer to home. Visit any veterans in nursing homes and spend some time talking with them about their experiences.

–<https://www.viptogo.com/blog-ways-to-honor-memorial-day>

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Tissue Paper Poppy

Want to slide in a history lessons 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. **You'll need:** one sheet of red tissue paper, a small piece of black construction paper, two green pipe cleaners, scissors, and tape.

1. Cut a small (about 1-inch diameter or less) circle from the black construction paper.
2. Place a piece or two of tape on one side of your circle to reinforce the paper.
3. Fold the circle and make a small cut through the paper and tape near the center, just big enough to push a pipe cleaner through. Then fold and cut one more.
4. Cut all around the edges of your black circle so that they look like fringe.
5. Now, fold your red tissue paper until you have several layers – a 3" x 3" square is about right, but you don't have to be exact.
6. Cut a vaguely petal-like shape through all the sheets at once. Remember that your flower will most likely not



be inspected by a horticulturalist. Cut through all the edges so that each layer becomes separated from the others. Then fold it gently and cut a small hole through the center.

7. Hold a green pipe cleaner (for little ones, be careful of potentially pointy ends!) and stack the tissue papers onto the pipe cleaner, letting them turn and settle randomly. Then top it with the black construction-paper circle, tape side against the tissue so it isn't showing. Loop the end of the pipe cleaner through one of the center holes, then bend it, hook-like, and loop it back through the second hole, and twist to secure it.
8. Bunch up the tissue paper, folding it accordion-style for maximum volume in your flower. Flip the flower upside-down and secure it with a piece of tape. I've tried just doing a pipe cleaner and it slips, but you can also cover the tape with a second green pipe cleaner to make the underside of the flower more realistically stem-like.
9. Holding the bottom of the flower, gently separate the petals until your flower is beautiful.

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Etiquette For Dog Parents

- **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

Spring Landscaping Tips!

Spring is here and your landscape is beginning to wake up! It's the perfect time to get a head start on gardening tasks. By following these tips, you can create a beautiful and sustainable landscape that thrives in Colorado's unique environment. Dig in!

- **Cut back perennial flowers & ornamental grasses.** Cut all the dead, crispy, brown material from last year to ground level. Removing them allows new growth.
- **Prune shrubs.** Spring is the perfect time of year to prune damaged or crowded branches from your bushes. Use good pruning techniques and avoid shearing shrubs. For more info check out this video: <https://planttalk.colostate.edu/youtube-videos/tree-videos/#shrubs>
- **Refresh wood mulch areas.** Add new mulch to plant beds with enough mulch, chips, or bark so the entire layer is 3-4 inches thick. This will suppress weeds and preserve soil moisture throughout the growing season.
- **Water by hand in dry periods.** Your plants' roots become active once the soil temperature rises over 40 degrees. This means your plants will start using soil moisture before you turn on your sprinkler system. During an extended dry period, water your lawn, flowers and trees with a hose-end sprinkler periodically to ensure the soil is moist enough to support healthy growth.
- **Consider Xeriscaping a portion of your landscape.** Explore planting drought-tolerant native plants to reduce water and enhance the visual appeal of your yard. Options include sage, yarrow, Rocky Mountain Juniper or hedgehog cactus.

— Rob Stark, Realtor, Stark Real Estate Group
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Teacher Appreciation Day

National Teacher Appreciation Day is on the Tuesday during first full week in May as a reminder to show appreciation for teachers everywhere. We are using this National Day to say thank you to all teachers for their time and dedication to educate our children.

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who have fought and died for their country
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— **Lucian Adams**



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