



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (AMERICA'S FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND DRUG PREVENTION)

Introduced by National Association of Town Watch in 1984 by Executive Director, Matt Perkins.



Perkins wanted to heighten awareness on a national scale against crime and drug prevention. Before the NNO began crime watches in local communities was less than 5%, and he felt it would grow if more people were involved and aware. Thus, the 1st national night out was instituted the 1st Tuesday of August, 1984. This involved whole communities standing vigil on their porch with lights on.

Since the 1984 introduction, the NNO has expanded to include cookouts, parades, visitation from local police, contests, rallies, safety fairs, neighborhood walks, and meetings.

Florida and Texas are the only state to host their National Night Out on the 2nd Tuesday in October instead of August each year.

CANADIAN THANKSGIVING, October 13th

Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated on the 2nd Monday of October.

Thanksgiving in Canada has generally thought to come from three traditions.

European farmers in Europe held celebrations at harvest time to give thanks for their good fortune of a good harvest and abundance of food. They would often fill a curved goat's horn with fruits and grains. This was known as a cornucopia or horn of good plenty. When Europeans came to Canada it is thought to have become an influence on the Canadian Thanksgiving tradition.

Around 1578 English navigator Martin Frobisher held a ceremony, in what is now called the province of Newfoundland to give thanks for surviving his journey there. Other settlers later arrived and continued these "thankful" ceremonies. This was also thought to be an influence on the Canadian Thanksgiving tradition.

The third influence happened in 1621 in what was to become the United States. Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in the "New World". Around 1750 this celebration of harvest was brought to Nova Scotia by American settlers from the south. At the same time, French settlers arriving were also holding feasts of "thanksgiving". These celebrations and offerings of "Thanks" influenced the Canadian Thanksgiving.

COLUMBUS DAY (U.S.): Second Monday of October, October 13th



Christopher Columbus had one ambition-to reach the East and its fabled wealth by sailing West. There were some who thought him crazy to believe the world was round. They thought it impossible to sail "around" a flat earth. But thinking people of Columbus' day, and even earlier, knew that the world was round.

Curiosity combined with persistence finally brought Columbus the answer to his dreams. The Queen of Spain, Isabella, supplied him with money, and on August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three ships, The Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

On October 12, 1492, Columbus sighted by moonlight what he thought was an island of the Indies near Japan or China. The island, which Columbus called San Salvadore, was actually a tiny part of an unknown world.

Columbus made several trips back and forth across the broad reaches of the Atlantic in a continued effort to locate lands that might be Asia or Japan. Despite his great discoveries, Columbus died a disappointed man because he had failed to bring back to Spain the treasures of the East.

UNITED NATIONS DAY: October 24th



This day is known as a global observance by all, the day does not constitute a holiday observation. The ideas around the United Nations were developed in the last years of World War II, particularly during the UN Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, the United States, beginning on April 25, 1945. The UN was officially created when a UN charter was ratified on October 24th that year.

United Nations Day was first observed on October 24, 1948. It is important to note that the UN does work in the fields of human rights, support in areas of famine, eradication of disease, promotion of health and settlement of refugees.

The UN emblem consists of a projection of the globe centered on the Pole. It displays all continents except Antarctica and four concentric circles representing the degrees of latitude. The projection is surrounded olive branches, representing peace. The emblem is often times blue, although it is printed in white on a blue background on the UN flag.

FALL FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS, October

Fall Festivals and Carnivals celebrate the bountiful harvest of the season. This is a time families come together to share the outdoors with the cooler weather in the forecast (weather permitting of course).

The festival or carnival usually includes enjoyable activities such as pumpkin picking, corn mazes or hayrides along with costume contest. No matter what the game, someone always wins a prize.

RING TOSS

Individual Glass Cola Bottles - (Use Crush Grape, Orange, Strawberry and Root Beer at a local grocery store.)

Rings to toss

2 liter bottles of cola and sodas

Don't forget Consolation prizes for players who do not win a soda.

Set up large grouping of individual glass sodas 2 - 4 dozen or so - in the middle of the carnival booth or on a table. Carnival players are given five rings to try their hand "ringing" one of the individual glass sodas. If they ring a soda, they get to keep a two liter bottle soda as their carnival prize. If they loop more than one, they can choose which one they keep - but they can only keep ONE. If players do not "ring" a bottle, they receive a consolation prize.

DUCK POND (favorite for preschoolers)

Wading pool with a few inches of water

Floating Ducks (with numbers 1, 2, or 3 on the bottom) Hint: If you have 2 dozen ducks – ten are marked with "1", eight are marked with "2" and six are marked with "3"

Small, Medium and Large Carnival Prizes – one for each number

Children pick a duck and look for the number on the bottom.

Children win the prize that corresponds to the number on the duck.

Hint – have the prizes displayed to show what prize is won with each number!

TOILET PAPER TOSS

3 or more rolls of Toilet Paper either individually wrapped or taped on the outside with masking tape to prevent unraveling.

Carnival Prizes – top, medium and consolation. (tootsie rolls)

How to Play:

Before the carnival, set up the Toilet Paper game and make a few different lines for different age groups of children. (Younger children will be closer to the game to make winning a little easier). Players get three chances to toss the TP roll into the "toilet". If they get 0 or 1 they get a consolation prize. If they get 2 in, they get the middle prize. If they get all three in, they receive the top prize.

Make the Toilet Paper Toss Game:

New, donated toilet seat.

Plywood, possibly donated, to construct the box with a back to support the toilet seat

TREASURE DIG

Supplies:

Mini Treasure Box

Mini rubber bands - to keep the treasure boxes closed

Shallow container filled with Play Sand

Carnival Prizes – some small prizes that will fit into the treasure boxes and top prizes

How to Play:

Before the carnival, count the number of top prizes and fill out one slip of paper for each top prize. For example if you have 12 Inflatable Hammers and 24 Glow Worms, then you fill out 12 slips of paper that say "Inflatable Hammers" and 24 slips of paper that say "Glow Worms", to fill in the mini Treasure Chests. Fill each Treasure Chest with a prize or a slip of paper and place a rubber band over the top to keep the treasure box from opening in the sand. Note: sometimes you will fill the box with a prize and a slip of paper for one of the top prizes. Carnival players dig in the sand and pick their favorite treasure box and open to reveal their prize.

NEEDLE IN A HAY STACK

To play Needle in the Hay Stack, festival coordinators should gather several bales of hay and an assortment of small fall-themed prizes, like pumpkin erasers, candy or Halloween pencils. Coordinators should then spread the hay out in large piles at their booth and hide the prizes throughout the hay. Children play Needle in the Hay Stack by searching through the hay for a prize. The game ends once the child discovers a prize.

FALL CAKE WALK

Festival coordinators should have fall-themed cakes donated as prizes. Coordinators can place 10 large pumpkins an equal distance apart to create a circle. Each pumpkin should have a number, 1 through 10, painted on it. Kids walk from pumpkin to pumpkin in a circle while fall or Fall-themed songs are playing on a stereo. When the music stops, the children must also stop. Then, coordinators draw a number and whichever child is standing next to the pumpkin with the same number wins a prize--in this case, a fall treat.



October is...

- Adopt a Dog Month
- Adopt-a-Shelter Dog Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness--Wear a pink ribbon
- Domestic Violence Awareness month--Wear a purple ribbon in support of abuse victims
- Computer Learning Month
- Consumer Information Month
- Energy Management is a Family Affair-Improve Your Home
- Family History Month
- Fire Prevention Month
- Hunger Awareness Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Lupus Awareness Month
- Medical Librarians' Month
- Month of the Dinosaur
- National AIDS Awareness Month
- National Apple Month
- National Car Care Month
- National Clock Month
- National Communicate With Your Kids Month
- National Cosmetology Month
- National Crime Prevention Month
- National Dental Hygiene Month
- National Depression Education Awareness Month
- National Desert Month
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- National Family Sexuality Education Month
- National Liver Awareness Month
- National Orthodontic Health Month
- National Pasta Month
- National Physical Therapy Month
- National Pizza Month
- National Popcorn Popping Month
- National Pork Month
- National Pretzel Month
- National Roller Skating Month
- National Seafood Month
- National Spina Bifida Awareness Month
- National Stamp Collecting Month
- National Youth Against Tobacco Month
- Polish American Heritage Month
- Vegetarian Awareness Month

Special October Week Celebrations:

- 1st Week National Fire Prevention Week
- 2nd Week National School Bus Safety Week

