

Born on the 4th of July

Celebrating the 4th of July with family and friends should be fun, easy and relaxing. But just because you're eating at the park, beach or the backyard doesn't mean you can't set a festive and patriotic table.



I started with an old patchwork quilt. The faded red and white stars add a simple touch of country to my buffet table. If you are concerned about spills on your quilt, layer it with placements to catch any drips. I found the denim mats at Goodwill for a couple of dollars.



Picnics should be casual, so buffet style is the order for the day. Have everything set out and handy for guests. I just love the little galvanized buckets I found. They were a bargain at only 49¢ each! I can think of a dozen uses for them. Next spring I might plant pansies in them and give as party favors at a luncheon or brunch.



For a 4th of July party they are the perfect holders for plastic forks, spoons and candles. I added a mini flag with a bit of blue ribbon.



When you are ready for dessert, they're the perfect size for ice cream sundaes. Kids will love eating frozen treats served in little buckets with handles. Don't forget to embellish with little flags, or sparklers.



Paper napkins are easy, but bandanas add a nostalgic look to the picnic table. I folded the hankies in thirds, then in half, then made a little accordion fold and pinched them together with a clothespin. Voila, Americana at its finest! Set them out on your buffet table next to the plates.



If the party calls for a sit-down dinner, personalize the clothespins. Your guests will have no trouble finding their seats. It doesn't have to take a lot of work to make your 4th of July picnic spectacular!

