

# Freedom's Feast INDEPENDENCE DAY



*We hold these truths to be self-evident... that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776

*Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**  
16TH U.S. PRESIDENT,  
1809-1865  
FROM THE **GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**

*Be yourself. No one can say you're doing it wrong.*

**CHARLES M. SCHULZ**  
CARTOONIST  
1922-2000

## MAKE YOUR OWN AMERICAN DREAM QUILT!

The American Dream of Independence was fully declared on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence contains many remarkable ideas. Perhaps the greatest is that we are born with certain "unalienable rights." In America, our system of government would ensure that we would have access to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Many believe that this connection is the heart of the American Dream and the reason why centuries later, the United States of America remains a dream destination for immigrants everywhere.

### The Idea

Create an American Dream Quilt that reflects your family's or your group's history and enjoy a keepsake for years to come.

### Why?

Just as Americans come together in communities for barn raisings, we also come together to make quilts. Americans in rural communities developed the traditions of the quilting bee, to help complete one or more quilts in a single day. More recently, entire communities have made giant patchwork AIDS quilts and quilts for other causes.

### What It Is

A quilt is a multilayered cloth cover with a top, filler, and a back. Crafted in many styles - patchwork, embroidered, applique, and used for many purposes - bedcover, wall hangings for warmth, or decorations, given as wedding and baby gifts; they have become a unique and cherished form of American folk art.

### What You Will Need

- 6" x 6" paper squares in red, white, and blue (sturdy paper)
- Yarn, cord or ribbon to stitch together
- Images of American symbols
- Beads, sparkle, buttons, other red, white, silver and gold embellishments
- Copies of:
  - family photos
  - immigration documents
  - special letters
  - diplomas, awards, or other important records of your American story
- Glue stick, white school glue, archival glue (depending on materials chosen)
- Hole punch



## INDEPENDENCE DAY



*AIDS Quilt on the National Mall. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.*



*A portion of the "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" Quilt made by CMOM visitors.*

