Fun Facts: Father’s Day—June 16

History of Father’s Day

The idea of Father’s Day was conceived more than a century ago by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Washington. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children on a farm.

June 19 was chosen for the first Father’s Day celebration in 1910. Father’s Day has been celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

Gift Ideas for Dad

- **22,000** - The number of sporting goods stores in 2016. These stores are good places to purchase traditional gifts for dad, such as fishing rods and golf clubs.
- **15,000** - The number of hardware stores in 2016, a place to buy hammers, wrenches, screwdrivers, and other items high on the list of Father’s Day gifts. Additionally, there were **7,000** home centers across the country in 2016.
- **7,000** - The number of men’s clothing stores across the country in 2016, a good place to buy dad a tie or shirt.

Services for Dad

- **102,000** - The number of landscaping services nationwide in 2016.
- **81,000** - The number of general automotive repair businesses nationwide in 2016.
- **5,000** - The number of barber shops nationwide in 2016.

Why do golfers carry an extra pair of socks?

*In case they get a hole in one!

Fathers by the Numbers

- **72 million** - The estimated number of fathers across the nation.
- **29 million** - The number of fathers who are also grandfathers.
- **25 million** - The number of fathers living in married-couple family groups with children younger than age 18 in 2018.
- **2 million** - The number of single fathers (without a spouse or partner present) in 2018 living with their children under age 18; 18 percent of single parents were men.
- **190,000** - The estimated number of stay-at-home dads in 2018.

Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2018 Current Population Survey (Stay-at-home Parents: Table SHP-1), Annual Social and Economic Supplement, and 2016 County Business Patterns.