

In light of COVID-19, the 2020 Wawa Welcome America Festival has been reimagined to a completely virtual festival. All events can be experienced at welcomeamerica.com.
For the festival brochure, [click here](#).



MEDIA ALERT

THURSDAY, JULY 2

WAWA WELCOME AMERICA FREE FESTIVAL EVENTS:

Independence Blue Cross #mindPHL Wellness Corner • Museum of the Day • PECO Go 4th & Learn • Music Play Patrol • U.S. Army Esports Tournament powered by Nerd Street Gamers • Philadelphia Orchestra's "Let Freedom Ring!"

WHAT: **Independence Blue Cross #mindPHL Wellness Corner: Connecting with Family and Friends**
This July 4th, be #mindPHL with us. Enjoy programming to help you relax, connect, and boost your mental health. Connection and communication are keys to mental health for adults and children. Hear from the experts at Children's Crisis Treatment Center about how to use this holiday weekend to connect and communicate in ways that build resilience.

WHEN: Thursday, July 2, 8:30 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/events/>
**programming will become available each day of the series*

MEDIA CONTACT: Grant Gegwich, Director of Public Relations, Independence Blue Cross, Grant.Gegwich@ibx.com

WHAT: **Museum of the Day: Penn Museum**
Since 1887, the Museum has transformed understanding of the human experience. Dedicated to building connections between cultures, the

Museum welcomes everyone to uncover the ancient past, gain an understanding of our shared humanity, and find one's own place in the arc of human history.

Here's the line-up for this year's free online Wawa Welcome America festivities:

10:00 a.m. — Tour the **Egypt Galleries** through an interactive journey that puts you at the helm. Guide the direction of your experience by voting in online polls and answering quiz questions with fellow adventurers.

11:00 a.m. — Join us for **At Home: Anthro LIVE**, an engaging 30-minute session that's designed for elementary- and middle-school students to dig into archaeology, anthropology, and cultures from around the world, with exciting hands-on projects.

1:00 p.m. — Tune in for the **Digital Daily Dig**, a 3-minute "pop-up" talk that reveals the history and cultural meaning behind one extraordinary artifact.

5:30 p.m. — Raise a glass to democracy during a virtual happy hour and casual chat with Dr. C. Brian Rose, the Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section. He's hosting a special **Living Room Lecture: Founding of the Republic of Rome**. An archaeologist for 40 years, he has much to say about the field—from life in Ancient Rome to current excavations in Turkey. No prior knowledge or experience is required—everyone is welcome. To participate, visit facebook.com/pennmuseum

WHEN: Thursday, July 2, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/penn-museum/>

MEDIA Jill DiSanto, Public Relations Director, Penn Museum, jdisanto@upenn.edu

WHAT: **PECO Go 4th & Learn: Do You Have an Appetite for Food Science?**
Get an insider's peek at the Wawa Test Kitchen in Wawa, PA, where viewers can experience a virtual cooking demonstration of their favorite foods, with nutrition, sensory, and food safety tips from Wawa's culinary and nutrition experts, hosted by NBC10 Philly Live's Aunyea Lachelle.

WHEN: Thursday, July 2, 10:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/peco-go-4th-learn-do-you-have-an-appetite-for-food-science/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Lori Bruce, Public Relations Manager, Wawa, Inc.,
lori.a.bruce@wawa.com

WHAT: **Musical Storytelling with Music Play Patrol**
Experience interactive, educational, musical fun using items from around the home. Tune in to learn how to create rhythms using your body by stomping your feet, patting your lap, and clapping your hands.

WHEN: Thursday, July 2, 11:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/music-play-patrol-musical-storytelling/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Frank Coates, Founder & CEO, Music Play Patrol,
frank@musicolaypatrol.com

WHAT: **U.S. Army Esports Tournament powered by Nerd Street Gamers: Super Smash Online**
In Partnership with the United States Army and Nerd Street Gamers this year, gamers will be able to put their skills to the test during our first-ever esports tournament series. All Competitors must be 13 years or older to compete in the tournament. Smash the competition with FREE entry to Super Smash Bros Online. Pre-registration required at welcomeamerica.com.

WHEN: Thursday, July 2, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/u-s-army-e-sports-tournament/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Paige Funk, Marketing Director, Nerd Street Gamers,
pfunk@nerdstgamers.com

WHAT: **Philadelphia Orchestra's "Let Freedom Ring!"**

The Philadelphia Orchestra welcomes the Fourth of July with a musical celebration featuring many of your favorite patriotic pieces, including a special rendition of Elton John's "Philadelphia Freedom," Sousa's "Liberty Bell" March and a special video tribute to the City of Philadelphia. Let freedom ring and sing with The Philadelphia Orchestra!

WHEN: Thursday, July 2, 7pm (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/let-freedom-ring-with-the-philadelphia-orchestra/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Ashley Berke, Vice President of Communications, The Philadelphia Orchestra, aberke@philorch.org

About Welcome America, Inc.

Welcome America, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization engaged in a public-private partnership with the City of Philadelphia. Welcome America, Inc.'s goal is to promote American history, education, and the City of Philadelphia as a global tourist destination. Each year, Welcome America, Inc. produces Wawa Welcome America, a multi-day festival featuring art, culture, community engagement and entertainment - it is the nation's premier Independence Day celebration! Welcome America was founded in 1993, and celebrates its 28th festival in 2020. Visit www.welcomeamerica.com to learn more, and join the conversation at:

- Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica>
- Instagram – <http://www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly>
- Twitter – www.twitter.com/July4thPhilly