

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

FRIDAY, JULY 3

WAWA WELCOME AMERICA FREE FESTIVAL EVENTS:

**Independence Blue Cross #mindPHL Wellness Corner • Museums of the Day •
PECO Go 4th & Learn: *Historic Philadelphia* • Music Play Patrol • U.S. Army
Esports Tournament powered by Nerd Street Gamers: *Rocket League 3v3* •
POPS on Independence**

WHAT: **Independence Blue Cross #mindPHL Wellness Corner:
Enjoying the Great Outdoors**
This July 4th, be #mindPHL with us. Enjoy programming to help you relax, connect, and boost your mental health. Learn how enjoying the outdoors – even just a walk in the park – can help you create a positive outlook.

WHEN: Friday, July 3rd, 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: **Museums of the Day: African American Museum in Philadelphia**
This year for Wawa Welcome America, The African American Museum in Philadelphia invites you to reflect on the meaning of independence. How do you define independence for yourself and how does it apply to your

community and country? To commemorate Independence Day, The African American Museum in Philadelphia looks to the wise words of Frederick Douglass in his 1852 speech, “What to the Negro is the Fourth of July?” Listen in as reader Carlo Campbell recounts one of Douglass’ most powerful speeches. Further, check out our new Audacious Freedom Cryptograms and Word Searches to train your brain on Black History facts and figures.

WHEN: Friday, July 3rd, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/african-american-museum-in-philadelphia/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Troi Barnes, Jr Account Executive, Skai Blue Media,
troi@skaibluedmedia.com

WHAT: **Museums of the Day: The National Liberty Museum**

We’re all connecting and learning from a distance, and there are so many opportunities to learn at home. The National Liberty Museum invites you to explore ideas of liberty from home with us! Check out below for virtual learning activities, at home lessons and educational resources curated by our team

WHEN: Friday, July 3, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

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

MEDIA

CONTACT: Teri Scott, Chief Marketing Officer, The National Liberty Museum,
tscott@libertymuseum.org

WHAT: **Museums of the Day: Barnes Foundation**

Established by Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922 to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture,” the Barnes Foundation is home to one of the world’s finest collections of impressionist, post-impressionist, and modern paintings, including the largest groups of paintings by Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cézanne in existence. Displayed in ensembles that integrate art and objects from across cultures and time periods—revealing universal elements of human expression—the collection brings together renowned canvases by Henri

Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Amedeo Modigliani, and Vincent van Gogh, with African, Asian, ancient, and medieval art as well as metalwork, furniture, and decorative art.

The Barnes Foundation have a fun day planned, including:

- [Barnes Takeout: Your Daily Serving of Art](#), features curators, scholars, and educators sharing off-the-cuff musings about their favorite works in the collection.
- [#BarnesRollCall Instagram Live series](#), celebrates the creative spirit with a conversation and performance featuring Ruth Naomi Floyd and John Jarboe, all in celebration of Independence Day. Tune into the Barnes's Instagram Live from 4-4:30pm
- [Virtual Barnes Collection Tour on YouTube](#), guided by the Barnes Foundation's docent, Penny Hansen, provides a taste of touring the world-renowned Barnes collection.
- [Barnes Art Adventures](#), an interactive educational program—for grades 3 and up—encourages students and grownups to move, play, and create while learning about art from home! In each episode, guest artists lead projects inspired by works in the Barnes collection, from Picasso's acrobats to Degas's dancers.

WHEN: Friday, July 3, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/the-barnes-foundation/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Deirdre Maher, Director of Communications, Barnes Foundation, dmaher@barnesfoundation.org, press@barnesfoundation.org

WHAT: **PECO Go 4th & Learn: Historic Philadelphia**

Travel back in time with stories of history and adventure with some of Philadelphia's most historic figures. Eavesdrop on Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams as they debate the Declaration outside their favorite watering hole, City Tavern. And, over at the Betsy Ross House, the first lady of the Stars and Stripes prepares for Independence Day, and shares the history of her flag-making skills that inspired General Washington's famous visit in 1777.

WHEN: Friday, July 3, 10:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/peco-go-4th-learn-historic-philadelphia/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Kellianne DeBlase, Vice President of Marketing & Communications, Welcome America, Inc., press@welcomeamerica.com

WHAT: **Movement Activities with Music Play Patrol**

Join Music Play Patrol for interactive musical fun using items from your home. Rock out to the sounds of pots and pans, buckets, drinking straws, and more. Tune up your vocal cords and get ready to sing-along to a modern-day spin on some of your favorite childhood tunes.

WHEN: Friday, July 3, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/music-play-patrol-movement-activities/>

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.

Sign up and score the winning goal during the final day of our esports tournament.

WHEN: Friday, July 3, 4:00 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:**POPS on Independence**

For this uniquely American celebration, the POPS take a musical look at tradition and patriotism. In his debut performance as Music Director & Principal Conductor, David Charles Abell has created an original show with Philadelphia native & Broadway star Allison Blackwell, renowned trumpeter and POPS Artistic Director for Jazz, Terell Stafford, and POPS fan favorite Michael Cavanaugh. This virtual concert stream will also include a newly commissioned piece, "Fanfare for the Essential Workers," dedicated to healthcare workers who were first responders to the COVID-19 crisis.

WHEN:

Friday, July 3, 7:00 p.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE:

<https://welcomeamerica.com/event/pops-on-independence/>

MEDIA**CONTACT:**

Austin Berner, Manager of Communications, Philly POPS,
aberner@phillypops.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