

# Ice Cream Time

at Farmpark

ICE CREAM  
WEEKEND  
July 10 & 11



By Ray Patacca, INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATION MANAGER

CELEBRATE NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH at Farmpark this year.

On July 9, 1984, by an act of Congress, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed July to be National Ice Cream Month. Not only did President Reagan love ice cream, millions of Americans do too! According to NASDAQ president Connie Tipton, ice cream “generates more than \$21 billion in annual sales and provides jobs for thousands of people.”

Two hundred years ago, when Dolly Madison first served ice cream at the White House inaugural ball in 1812, it was a rare and exotic dessert. Today, more than 90% of American households purchase ice cream, with each person eating an average of 21 quarts a year. It was a sensation then, and its popularity has grown steadily ever since.

The origins of ice cream are not clear. Although the Romans relished flavored ices, the Chinese are credited with being the first to create a frozen treat that was more like sorbet. They actually discovered the process of adding salt to ice water to lower its temperature enough to freeze liquids. The idea of a frozen treat traveled to the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century and Western traders brought it to Europe. There, cream was substituted for ice to create the ice cream we have grown to love.

Ice cream used to be an expensive treat reserved for society’s elite because the ice to freeze ice cream was carved from frozen rivers and ponds and held in ice houses. The process of freezing ice cream was very labor intensive. Nineteenth century technology fostered the invention of the hand-cranked ice cream maker by Nancy Johnson. The invention of refrigeration by Carl von Linde paved the way for reasonably priced ice cream for everyone to enjoy.



Most everyone in the United States loves ice cream. We love it so much that we are the number one consumer of ice cream in the world! So, why not dedicate a month to celebrate and have fun with our favorite dessert? At Farmpark’s Ice Cream Weekend we’ll do just that—have fun with ice cream! You can make ice cream, attend an old-fashioned ice cream social, and make your own ice cream sundae. Become an ice cream connoisseur when you sample ice cream, sorbet, gelato, frozen yogurt and other frozen treats. Even explore the greenhouse for ice cream flavors while the kids play games and make ice cream crafts. Of course, you’ll get to milk a cow, and then we’ll show you how to separate the cream from the milk. If it’s dry and sunny, we’ll even show you how to make the hay that feeds the cow, that makes the milk, that gives the cream, that we freeze into delicious ice cream!

Sound like fun? Then gather your family and friends on July 10 and 11 and head to Farmpark for some old fashioned fun at a weekend long ice cream social where you can imbibe in the planet’s most tasty treat—ice cream!