CURRENT EVENTS TOPICAL

# **LABOR DAY**



### **EARN THIS NUGGET**

### **Trailblazers/Rockhoppers:**

• Ask your Mom or Dad what kind of work they do. Ask them to tell you about their average day at their work.

#### **Craigsmen:**

• Develop a list of questions to ask a local small business owner about what Labor Day means to them. Prepare your questions ahead of time and make notes of their answers. Your questions might include: How many employees they have, what services or products they offer, and what the company gives back to the community. Don't forget to thank them for hiring workers at their business! and ask them what they consider the most important characteristics in a good employee.

#### **Everyone:**

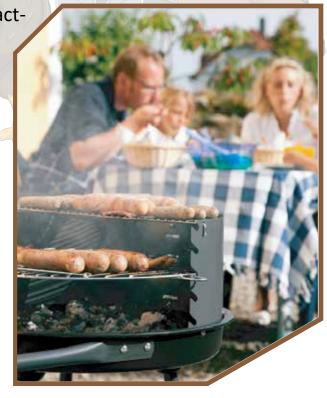
• In celebration of labor day, spend an hour laboring around the home to be a blessing to your family. if your family will be cooking out or having some other celebration, ask how you can labor towards it and help get everything ready. Labor Day lesson – What is Labor Day and how did it start?

Labor Day is an American holiday that honors the American worker's contributions to our country and our way of life.

It became a national holiday way back in 1894, when President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. While no

one really knows exactly who came up
with the idea of a
Labor Day holiday,
the tradition is celebrated every year
on the first Monday
in September.

Back in 1894, our economy was mostly based on agriculture, when most people lived and worked on a farm. But over time,



people began to work more in factories and mills. It was the start of the Industrial Revolution in America.

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As time passed, it became clear that working conditions for some people became unacceptable. They often worked twelve to fifteen hour days, without breaks, for low pay, and sometimes in conditions which were unhealthy. Labor laws were changed to protect these workers. These laws included a standard eight hour work day, overtime, worker breaks, minimum age requirements to work, and fair pay.

Today Labor Day is usually celebrated with a day off from work, parades, and family get-togethers like back yard barbecues. For millions of students around the country it has also come to mean the last holiday before school starts. So get back to work, students!



