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A “Starr” Spangled Fourth of July

Four days, three ways to celebrate at Starr Pass

Tucson, AZ (6/23/08) – Indulge in a fantastic, fun-filled Fourth of July with the whole family at JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa. This year, the resort’s four-day long holiday celebration is infused with Nickelodeon characters, fun, food, and of course, fireworks!

At Starr Pass, there’s something for everyone this Fourth of July. The resort’s Starr Canyon River & Monsoon Falls Waterslide will please water lovers and kids alike, while different games and activities will be featured each day from Thursday, July 2 through Sunday, July 5. Weekend rates begin at \$159 per night.

Celebrate the holiday with three different room packages. Stay one or more nights in deluxe accommodations for \$159 per night, or stay for \$239 per night with a \$100 per night resort credit per night. You choose. For a family-filled kid’s weekend, book the Nickelodeon Getaway on Friday and Saturday for \$189 per night, which includes a Nickelodeon SpongeBob SquarePants or Dora the Explorer sleepover kit (up to two per room), Saturday or Sunday morning Nickelodeon-themed character breakfast for two adults and two children, crafts and activities and all Nickelodeon poolside shows on Saturday.

The Fourth of July celebrations at Starr Pass kick off **Thursday, July 2nd** with crafts, live music, water games, Nickelodeon activities and more Starr Pass fun. The annual sell-out poolside BBQ starts at 6 pm with delicious grilled foods and all the fixins’. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. Soak in the sounds of a live reggae concert 6 to 9 featuring Grantman and the Island Beat, followed by a fireworks extravaganza at 9:15 pm. For locals, barbeque-only tickets are available for purchase.

Friday, July 3rd brings more family fun! Celebrate Mexican Heritage Day with Starr Pass by enjoying face painting, airbrush tattoos and a piñata from 10 am to 4 pm on the Tash Lawn. Make Mexican paper flowers and cascarones (confetti-filled eggs) from 3 to 6 pm. Catch a mariachi and folklórico performance from 5 to 6 pm and Nickelodeon activities and poolside shows all afternoon! From 6 to 9 pm, guests can enjoy a salsa concert, featuring Salsa Manteca, on the Meecha Lawn. A special performance by the Arizona Skyhawks parachute team will be at 9 pm!

On, **Saturday, July 4th**, wake up to a fabulous Nickelodeon character breakfast with Dora the Explorer and SpongeBob SquarePants. At 10 am, the annual Ducky Drift Race will take place at Starr Canyon River. Next, participate in a watermelon-eating contest or take a peek at the animal/reptile exhibit on the Tash Lawn.

At 7:30 pm, Armen Dirtadian will perform the national anthem, while a Fourth of July fireworks show will light up the sky at 9:15 pm. A Live Country Western Concert featuring the band Flipside will take place from 6 to 9 pm so throw on your cowboy boots and hit the dance floor!

The weekend's finale on **Sunday, July 5th** is an added treat with a second Nickelodeon character breakfast then farewells from Dora the Explorer and SpongeBob SquarePants in the lobby.

For room reservations, visit www.jwmarriottstarrpass.com or call toll free at 1-888-527-8989. For general information, please call the resort at 520-792-3500.

For barbeque reservations only, please call the resort at 520-791-6137.

About JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa

Having been named to *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Hotels Top 500 List two years running (2008, 2009), Starr Pass draws on the beauty of its mountainous location. The resort incorporates the natural desert as its landscape design theme. With 575 spacious guestrooms, 88,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, five restaurants, a 20,000 sq. ft. spa, four separate pools, a lazy river and water slide, the Audubon Certified Arnold Palmer Signature golf facility consisting of 27 holes and practice facilities, and 888 underground and covered parking spaces, the resort boasts of being not only the largest resort in southern Arizona but also the only true eco-resort in Tucson. This eco theme extends to its Primo restaurant that serves only organic and jet fresh fish, its Hashani Spa, which uses natural desert plant oils and its direct access to the Tucson Mountain Park for fabulous hiking and mountain biking trails. To quote Bill Marriott, "you can build all types of amenities but it would be impossible to duplicate what Starr Pass has, the Tucson Mountain Park." The JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa is located at 3800 W. Starr Pass and can be reached directly by calling (520) 792-3500. Please visit www.jwmarriottstarrpass.com.

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