

## Celebrate the States - Gathering Time

I'm recommending 1 hour but that will depend entirely on the age of your group. Remember most kids really want to just go play with their friends so keep the spirit of play throughout the gathering time.

Here's what we're planning BUT I haven't walked this out yet so it might adjust

1:00pm - quiet gathering activities like puzzles -  
make sure you have some fun things for the people who arrive on time.  
Also make sure the early birds are the ones bringing this portion of the activities.

1:10pm - Pledge of Allegiance - Star Spangled Banner

I know my crowd will be late so the actual "opening" will be late. It's okay to go with the flow of your group.

1:20pm - Little kids play the game of the week, while big kids do their memory work

Memory work will consist of 1-learning the states in the order they entered the union, 2-learning the pledge of allegiance, 3-learning the star spangled banner

Once a child has mastered these three options word perfect they can select another of the options on the Week 1 page like 1-States in Alphabetical Order, 2-Declaration of Independence, 3-Preamble to the Constitution.

Remember there are tons of historic documents to memorize so if you have a great memorizer keep finding things for them to memorize.

Word Perfect vs Good Enough - This will have a lot to do with the personality of the overall group. I prefer mastery learning with the understanding that there are people who will do things faster than you but you can do them correctly.

Groups are a great teaching tool wherever your child is in the learning process. Sharing in this journey and watching your kids gives you the opportunity to speak into their lives about how to relate to others. Some people will memorize everything and more, others will struggle with just memorizing the states. One person will be really good at a game and one won't.

Being present as a parent allows you to watch how your child interacts with others and help guide them to being a better friend.

1:40pm - Big kids play the game of the week, while little kids do their memory work

If I get crafts together I'd leave that for the end so that kids who don't want to do the craft and need to go play can bounce.