



February 7-14
National
Marriage
Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage
NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org



NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

PHOENIX



February 7-14

National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

A national campaign to help marriage
which benefits children and reduces poverty

"We have launched highly effective public education campaigns on much less momentous issues, from smoking to recycling...For now, the decline in marriage is our most ignored national crisis..."
TIME Magazine commentary
March 5, 2012

The Benefits of Marriage:

- ▶ Married adults live longer lives, have better health, and greater personal happiness.
- ▶ Children raised by both parents at home perform better in school, have less addiction, less teen pregnancy and less trouble with the law.
- ▶ Marriage is the unsung anti-poverty program.
- ▶ Single motherhood is greatest cause for poverty among women and children.
- ▶ Married adults have more wealth and financial stability.
- ▶ Healthy marriage saves U.S. taxpayers—costs \$112 billion per year for divorce and unwed childbearing.

We Can Do Better

Huge decline in married adults: from 79% in 1970 to 57% in 2013

US births to unwed mothers grew from 5% in 1960 to an alarming 41% in 2008

White, working-class, U.S. children living with both parents declined from 96% in 1962 to only 37% in 2004

Never-married Americans soared nearly 4-fold from 21 million in 1970 to 77 million in 2012

Children Need Both Parents

Teen birth rate for girls when their father leaves before they are 6-yrs-old is 35%. 7 times the rate from when fathers stay married.

Boys without fathers at home are twice as likely to end up in prison

What Can You Do?

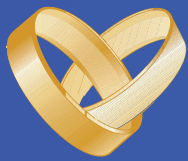
- ▶ Find a marriage class or event near you on the NMW National Calendar!
- ▶ Mobilize your organization to start a new marriage class or host a special event.
- ▶ Help build a groundswell of marriage education across the nation, and post your info for free with us!
- ▶ Launch a National Marriage Week USA Celebration in your town!

Marriage Reduces Poverty

We'd have 25% less poverty today if we had the marriage rates we had in 1970

Only 2% chance of poverty if you finish high school, work fulltime, & postpone marriage/child bearing until age 21. 77% chance of poverty if you don't do these 3 things.

In U.S., marriage drops probability of child poverty by 82%



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

National Marriage Week USA “Event Kit”

A Guide to Developing Your Own NMW Celebration and Impacting Your Community

I.	Printable Facts and Statistics Flyer	page 2
II.	About National Marriage Week USA.....	page 4
III.	What You Can Do	page 5
IV.	Easy to Use National Curricula.....	pages 6 & 7
V.	Live Conferences & Crisis Resources	pages 8 & 9
VI.	Media Kit.....	page 10 & 11
VII.	Church Kit	page 12
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IX.	Newspaper Ad.....	page 14
X.	Sponsors	page 15
XI.	Local Information and Contacts.....	back cover

**National Marriage Week USA is promoted by
the Coalition for Marriage and Family**

The Colson Center
Family Dynamics Institute
Focus on the Family
Hope for the Hurting Home
Let's Strengthen Marriage
Pinnacle Forum



February 7-14

National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

What is National Marriage Week USA?

National Marriage Week USA, from February 7th to 14th every year, is a collaborative effort to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate, encourage marriage prior to childbearing, which in turn helps curtail poverty and benefits children. Almost everyone wants lifelong lasting love but admittedly people make mistakes and have regrets, yet aspire to more success; hence, the reason for this national service campaign. Together we can make more impact than by working alone.

Why do we need National Marriage Week USA (Feb. 7-14)?

Successful marriage makes people happier, healthier, lead longer lives, and have more financial stability. Children with both parents at home perform better in school, have less trouble with the law, less addiction issues and less teen pregnancy. Strong marriages are good for your city or town. Marriage is the unsung anti-poverty program. If you finish high school, work fulltime, and postpone marriage and childbearing until after age 21, you have only a 2% chance of ending up in poverty. If we had the marriage rate today that we had in 1970, we would have 25% less poverty today.

While there are wonderful marriage curricula providers already providing classes and conferences, there is no one entity which builds collaboration among all the groups, or promotes the need for a nationwide movement of marriage education all across the country. National Marriage Week USA serves to highlight all these great efforts and provide one "National Calendar" where all classes and events can be located online by the general public, listed on a state by state basis. Couples nationwide do not always know where to turn to get the help they need. Having a national public relations campaign for marriage will go a long way to let people know where they can get help, whether couples are in a small town or a large city.

The Goals of National Marriage Week USA

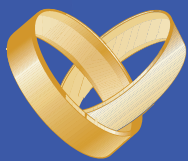
- 1. Promote marriage as a national benefit in the media and in public policy, because strong marriages help people flourish, bring stability to communities and the nation, and provide the best environment for thriving children.**
- 2. Create a groundswell of marriage strengthening activities and provide a national calendar for existing, trusted marriage classes, conferences and events across the nation**
- 3. Get the word out and let everyone know where they can find help and help others.**

The History of National Marriage Week USA

National Marriage Week USA began in the U.S. in 2009 and is affiliated with Marriage Week International, founded in the U.K. and now in more than 20 countries around the world.

In its first few years, National Marriage Week USA™ has already been covered in major news outlets, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *FOX and Friends*, *Washington Times*, *KLOVE/Air 1*, *BreakPoint*, and the *U.S. Congressional Record*.

Major cities in America are now launching citywide marriage week campaigns to bring churches and businesses together to strengthen both the health and rate of marriages. National Marriage Week USA is the lead program of the Let's Strengthen Marriage Campaign.



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

What You and Every American Can Do

Launch Your Own National Marriage Week USA Celebration! It's Simple!

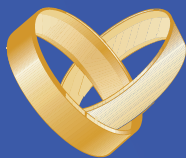
- Host a marriage strengthening activity or speaker in your home, church, local library, community center or YMCA during the week leading up to Valentine's Day, and/or
- Work with others in your community to launch a citywide campaign (See Media Kit; page 11-12)
- Initiate a DateNightWorks Campaign (see page 6)
- Host a Date Night Challenge DVD screening event (see page 6)
- Create a dessert gathering or potluck dinner (using any resource on pages 6 & 7)
- Participate in a marriage course to improve your own marriage
- Encourage couples from your church to attend a weekend conference (see pages 8 & 9)
- Encourage your church to use our Church Kit (see page 10; ex: renewal of vows ceremony, etc.)

"...We should provide the facts about the importance of marriage as a matter of child welfare and economic aspiration. As a society, we have launched highly effective public education campaigns on much less momentous issues, from smoking to recycling... For now, the decline of marriage is our most ignored national crisis..." Rich Lowry commentary, TIME Magazine, 2012

Be sure to POST your event information FOR FREE.

Click on National Calendar at www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org





February 7-14

National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

National Resources for Hosting a National Marriage Week USA Event

The Date Night Challenge

The Date Night Challenge— a convenient 90-minute DVD full of laughter, music, and tips to strengthen your marriage—presented by Focus on the Family, 2014. Churches host their own events. Focus on the Family provides the entertainment. The convenient format includes premier music and teaching, plus clean comedy for just \$99. NEW Book, available now: *Take the Date Night Challenge: 52 Creative Ideas to Make Your Marriage Fun*, by Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley! <http://datenightchallengedvd.org>

DateNightWorks

This successful Date Night movement has encouraged thousands of couples to plan 4 dates in 4 weeks starting in early February. The first Date Night initiative was organized in West Palm Beach, FL in 2009 where thousands of couples experienced 5 date nights over 5 weeks, with dozens of local businesses providing discounts to restaurants or evening events. Chicago, Portland, Chattanooga and other cities have since followed suit. A Date Night Report in 2012 by the National Marriage Project says that couples who spent time together at least once a week were more likely to be happy in their relationship in comparison to those who enjoyed less quality time together.

<http://www.datenightworks.com/>

Love & Respect

Love & Respect offers a 6-week DVD series or 14-week home study series based upon the national best-selling book by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, who also hosts inspiring live Friday night and Saturday morning conferences. Love & Respect provides resources to the married, divorced, separated, dating and single. Men and women will learn how to resolve conflict, dealing with the negative reactions (the crazy cycle). They will also learn how to motivate each other by meeting each other's need (the energizing cycle). Even those who feel hopeless in their relationships will gain understanding on how to handle an indifferent or unresponsive partner (the rewarded cycle). Each cycle centers on two concepts: love and respect as key to experiencing understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation, change, and hope.

<http://loveandrespect.com/>

Fight Less, Love More

Family Dynamics Institute and Bestselling author, Harvard lawyer and couples mediator Laurie Puhn have created a 9 session class, *Fight Less, Love More– The Course*. Based on the book *Fight Less, Love More* this course teaches couples the vital skills needed to grow lasting love. Covers the benefit of using 5-Minute Conversations to avoid and reduce conflict, increase appreciation, intimacy and respect, give a perfect apology and create a personalized daily communication routine that will keep their marriage strong and healthy for a lifetime. An out-of-the box tool for marriage enrichment or engaged couples, a step by step course great for couples of any age and stage. 800-650-9995 or www.FamilyDynamics.net/fight-less-love-more



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

The Marriage Course

The Marriage Course, created by the esteemed ALPHA Course developers, is a 7-session DVD series in a dinner party setting where couples learn to re-energize and build communication within their marriage. No group interaction. A seven session course set in a fantastic atmosphere. Couples are served with a candlelit meal and/or coffee, tea and dessert at a romantic table for two while listening to practical talks that are informative and fun, either given live or played on DVD. The Marriage Course is a great way for churches to reach out to their communities and a great way to welcome couples who have no church background or no current church participation. <http://www.alphausa.org/themarriagecourse>

The Art of Marriage

The Art of Marriage is a video experience designed for church and community settings, which consists of six video sessions typically held on a Friday night and Saturday. These videos combine dramatic stories, real-life testimonies, expert interviews, humorous vignettes and other teaching methods to lay out God's design for marriage in a fresh, engaging way. Guests attending the event are each provided a manual with projects to help them apply the principles taught in each session, augmented by dozens of articles and additional content to help them dive deeper. Since its launch in 2011, more than 300,000 people have been impacted by The Art of Marriage.

<http://theartofmarriage.com/>

Online Couple Check Up

Online Couple Check Up. Both husband and wife can take this nationally renowned "Couple's Check Up" quiz, developed by Prepare-Enrich, which will generate a report about your relationship. This is a productive way to have a conversation and move forward with growth and change in ways to strengthen your marriage. You can use the results as a topic for discussion in a Date Night Campaign or Valentine's Day itself. Or an entire church can have member couples take the quiz and generate a composite report about marriages in your church! Discounts during National Marriage Week USA are at this link:

<http://www.couplecheckup.com/nationalmarriageweek.html>

Marriage by The Book

Marriage by The Book guides couples through an interactive experience to look at marriage through the lens of faith. This discussion based study is ideal for 45-60 minute small groups, Sunday school, or Bible class. It uses both traditional and unexpected passages to illustrate the differing viewpoints of men and women as they examine real life situations. Marriage by The Book is a unique opportunity for couples to openly discuss their faith and marriage ideals with each other as well as other Christian couple. 800-650-9995 or www.FamilyDynamics.net/marriage-by-the-book

Uniquely for Catholics

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops heartily supports involvement in National Marriage Week USA. To gather resources to launch a NMW celebration in Catholic parishes, consult either www.foryourmarriage.org or www.marriageresourcecentre.org



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

Live Conferences Around the Nation

You might find one near you or bring one to your town!

Family Dynamics Institute

Family Dynamics Institute (FDI) is a non-profit Christian ministry committed to developing and providing hands-on marriage resources that make a real difference in the lives of today's busy couples. FDI partners with churches, organizations, and companies to build powerful Comprehensive Marriage Ministries by providing training for leaders, courses that bring about change in marriage, inspirational workshops, and intensive retreats that save troubled marriages. Each year FDI conducts more than 50 Training Seminars and Marriage Intensive Workshops nationwide. Along with training couples and church leaders in Marriage Ministry, FDI develops interactive courses and workshops that combine a solid knowledge of Scripture along with consistent application of marriage principles. This approach delivers comprehensive and effective marriage programs that change lives and strengthens marriages. Since 1994 more than 70,000 couples have experienced these life changing courses and FDI has shared their training workshops and classes throughout the world. To learn more about how to provide a Comprehensive Marriage Ministry with Family Dynamics Institute, call 800-650-9995 or visit www.FamilyDynamics.net or www.SaveMyMarriage.com

Love & Respect

Love & Respect live conferences provide inspiring and entertaining presentations by the author of the best-selling book, Love & Respect, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and his wife Sarah. Even those who feel hopeless in their relationships will gain understanding on how to handle an indifferent or unresponsive partner. This message has been transforming for couples. <http://loveandrespect.com/>

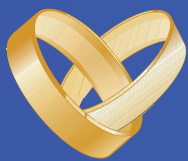
Family Life

Family Life- Weekend to Remember - The speakers show you how to pursue a marriage that really works through stories of their own breakthroughs and blunders. You will leave the weekend with encouragement, hope, and practical tools to build and grow your relationship.

Visit <http://www.familylife.com/events/featured-events/weekend-to-remember> or call 800-358-6329.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has offered weekend-long intensive retreats for 40 years to millions of couples in over 80 countries around the world. Today couples can find a WWME Weekend in almost every state in the USA, sponsored by one of 12 licensed "faith expressions": Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran, Mennonite-Brethren, Orthodox, Presbyterian, Reformed, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ, United Methodist, and Wesleyan. The Weekends are led by a clergy couple/priest and 2-3 lay couples who will share their personal growth in communication and faith, providing hands-on practice in a safe environment. <http://www.wwme.org>



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

United Marriage Encounter

United Marriage Encounter Weekend is a 48-hour opportunity for a married couple to focus on each other and strengthen their relationship by learning, developing and practicing communication skills they can use over their lifetime. Dates and locations all over the country and the world. All information at www.united-marriage.org

National Marriage Encounter

National Marriage Encounter assists a couple to discover their marriage through ongoing mutual trust and dialogue. This unique method of dialogue means prayerful, personal reflection and mutual sharing, which leads to an enrichment of the marital relationship and growth of the man and woman as individuals and as a couple. Visit <http://www.marriage-encounter.org> or call 573-893-5178

To Repair Marriages

Family Dynamics Institute

Family Dynamics' Help for Troubled Marriage-- A New Beginning is a weekend to help troubled marriages which proved to work well in 75 percent of the people that attend. One out of every 2 children born today, whose parents are marked, will experience the divorce of their parents before they graduate from high school. Visit www.familydynamics.net/a-new-beginning or call 800-650-9995

Affair Recovery

Affair Recovery – At Affair Recovery, we help people heal from the pain of affairs and betrayal. Our inspiring programs are research based, combining a solid curriculum with the strength of collaborative support to provide solace and recovery for both couples and individuals. All of our materials are created by clinical professionals, many of whom have personally experienced infidelity. Visit <http://www.affairrecovery.com> or Call 888-527-2367

Training to Become a Marriage Resource

Hope for the Hurting Home

Hope for the Hurting Home – Marriage First Responders trains believers to effectively talk with their friends about marriage struggles and steps towards solutions. Because people in trouble tend to go to their friends before seeking professional help, we believe that teaching friends to help friends can significantly change the divorce culture in America. Visit <http://hopeforthehurtinghome.com/index.php/marital-first-responders>

Family Dynamics Institute

Family Dynamics also provides Facilitator Training--a three-day workshop which enables, encourages, and equips couples to become Facilitators using the best materials and most effective training methods available for Transformative Courses. Contact 800-650-9995 or www.FamilyDynamics.net/blocks/facilitator-training



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

Media Kit: How to Publicize and Promote Your Efforts!

Infographic: The fact-filled graphic on this Guide's inside cover is available online at www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org for your use. Feel free to post on your local websites or in your local newspaper, or print it as a poster with your event info at the bottom!

Radio PSAs: Ask your local radio station to read a PSA announcing your event and some important facts about National Marriage Week USA. Or you can offer to record the 60 second spot for them. There is an audio sample under Tool Kit at the NMW website, or you can use or adapt the sample language below.

- **Version #1 PSA: National Marriage Week USA**—February 7th to the 14th—is a part of an international campaign to strengthen marriage. Research proves that married people have greater financial stability, better health, longer lives, and that children raised by both parents perform better in school and have less trouble with the law, less teen pregnancy and less addiction. Get your friends, community, or church involved in ways to strengthen marriage. At National Marriage Week USA dot org, there are hundreds of classes and events listed from all around the country. Locate an event near you, or post one that you are hosting. Go to National Marriage Week USA dot org. That's National Marriage Week USA dot org. Let's work together. Let's Strengthen Marriage!
- **Version #2 PSA: National Marriage Week USA**—February 7th to 14th—is a new campaign to strengthen marriage. U.S. taxpayers spend at least \$112 billion a year for divorce and unwed childbearing. Forty one percent of all American babies are now born outside of marriage. The percent of married U.S. adults has dropped from 79% in 1970 down to 52% today. At National Marriage Week USA dot org, there are hundreds of marriage classes and events listed from all around the country. During the week leading up to Valentine's Day, locate an event near you, or post one that you are hosting. Go to National Marriage Week USA dot org. That's National Marriage Week USA dot org. Let's work together. Let's Strengthen Marriage!

Press Release: Use our sample press release and fill in the blanks with your local info. Then email, fax or even hand deliver it to your local newspaper office or radio station where you can meet the editor face to face. Find the press release under "Tool Kit" at the NMW website.

Mayor and Governor's Proclamation: Many cities and states have asked their Mayor or Governor to issue a proclamation in support of National Marriage Week USA during February 7 to 14. Find the sample and versions used by others under "Tool Kit" at the NMW website.

Banner Ads : Please place a NMW banner ad on your organization website and lead to your own city-wide or church activity information! Download a few different sizes and versions under "Tool Kit" at www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org (multiple shapes and sizes available).





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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

Media Kit: How to Publicize and Promote Your Efforts!

Logos: Please add the NMW logo to ALL your local event information! Download under "Tool Kit" at www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org



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National Marriage Week USA

Let's Strengthen Marriage

www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org



Bulletin inserts: Please use our template to add inserts to your church bulletin

Newspaper ads: Feel free to place this ad in your town and add your own local event information to the blank space at the bottom.

All Media Resources are downloadable under "Tool Kit" at www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org

8-1/2 by 11 newspaper ad with space for local event info is shown on page 14.

Contact sheila@nationalmarriageweekusa.org to obtain high resolution or different sizes of this ad for use in your local newspaper.





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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

Church Kit: Options and Ideas!

1. Ask your local clergy to preach about Marriage on the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day.

Sermons resources are at <http://www.marriageresourcesforclergy.com>

2. Form a Community Marriage Policy

Work with local clergy in your community and all agree to require pre-marital counseling and other common clergy standards—which are proven to lower the divorce rate in communities where a CMP has been implemented. <http://www.communitymarriagepolicy.org>

3. Get this Renewal of Vows ceremony

Use this with all couples collectively in your church service during the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day. <http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/images/nationalefforts/RenewalofWeddingVowsSamplePlan.pdf>

4. Launch a new Sunday School class for Married Couples.

Curricula suggestions at www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org or see pages 6-7 of this booklet.

5. Provide pre-marital instruction for engaged couples.

<http://www.relationshipcentral.org/marriage-preparation-course>

6. Get churches in your town behind National Marriage Week USA

This is a huge way to build and grow churches. Contact Sheila@nationalmarriageweekusa.org for personal help and to get a customized **Event Kit** for your city.

7. Create a Date Night campaign for your church.

www.datenightworks.com

8. Church Wide Couples Check Up!

Ask every couple in your church to take the online Couples Check Up. The Couples Check Up company (Prepare-Enrich) can be contacted to do a composite report from an anonymous fact gathering about the couples in your church. The quiz is at discount during National Marriage Week USA at this link <http://www.couplecheckup.com/nationalmarriageweek.html>

9. Archived Pastors' Conference Call and Webinar

For inspiration plus research you need to know, listen to the archived 30-minute conference call featuring both Catholic Bishop Kevin Rhoades, head of family ministries for U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Rev. Leith Anderson, president of National Association of Evangelicals at <http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/a-call-to-the-church>. Or hear an archived pastors' webinar, pre-recorded with the late Chuck Colson at <http://www.marriagewebinar.org/mw3/index.htm>

10. Create a Community Outreach event for National Marriage Week USA in your town.

Reach your neighbors by sponsoring a Friday or Saturday night speaker on the topic of "How to Have a Great Marriage" or show an easy to use DVD (see our Resources page in this booklet.)



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

Visit NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org

Read research, learn about seminars, access our toolkit, and read current news

National calendar:
Post your event free.
Others can find you on
a state-based search.

Hundreds of
resources for
promoting and
sustaining
marriage.

National
programs with
numerous
suggestions and
materials.

Community
guides and
suggestions
for promoting
National
Marriage Week.

Information from
sponsors. Contact
us to become a sponsor.

Current news
and insight
from marriage
leaders.

The screenshot displays the homepage of National Marriage Week USA. At the top, it features the logo and the dates February 7-14. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Research, A Call to the Church, National Strategy, Classes/Seminars, Free Tool Kit, News Room, About Us, Get Involved, and Like Us. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there's a 'National Calendar' section with a search bar and a list of resources including 'Find Events and POST Events (Free)', 'Join the Campaign', 'Register to Stay Informed', 'Recommended Reading', 'Fun! Free Quizzes, Kits and Tips', 'What Others are Doing', 'Marriage Champions', and 'Marriage Tips and Ideas'. The central part of the page features a video player with a thumbnail of Sheila Weber, Executive Director, and a link to watch the video. Below the video, there's a section titled 'Like and Share our FoxNews Op-ed, "Here's A Secret--Marriage is America's most effective anti-poverty program"'. To the right of the video, there's a 'Sponsors' section with logos for Family Dynamics Institute and Jotz. At the bottom, there's a 'Goals of National Marriage Week USA' section with three bullet points. The footer contains copyright information and contact details for Sheila Weber.

February 7-14
National Marriage Week USA
Let's Strengthen Marriage
www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org

Financial Stability
Better Health
Less Troubled Kids
Greater Happiness

Home | Research | A Call to the Church | National Strategy | Classes/Seminars | Free Tool Kit | News Room | About Us | Get Involved | Like Us

February 7-14
National Marriage Week USA
Let's Strengthen Marriage

National Calendar

Find Events and POST Events (Free!)

Join the Campaign

Register to Stay Informed

Recommended Reading

Fun! Free Quizzes, Kits and Tips

What Others are Doing

Marriage Champions

Marriage Tips and Ideas

Search Our Site

Search...

National Marriage Week USA

From February 7th to 14th every year—is a collaborative effort to encourage many diverse groups to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and build a stronger marriage culture, which in turn helps curtail poverty and benefits children. Together we can make more impact than working alone. Please join with others to host special events, launch a marriage class or home group, or place local advertising or news stories during National Marriage Week USA.

Click here to watch the video.
Sheila Weber, Executive Director, shares her thoughts about National Marriage Week

Direct YouTube Link
<http://youtu.be/XM-fguKpZU>

Like and Share our FoxNews Op-ed, "Here's A Secret--Marriage is America's most effective anti-poverty program"

Watch this national TV clip re: NMWUSA on "Fox and Friends"

U.S. Congressional Floor Statements in support of National Marriage Week USA Feb. 7, 2012

Together For Marriage

Marriage works. It makes people happier, live longer, and build more economic security. Children with married parents perform better in school. Click here for new research on "Why Marriage Matters: Thirty Conclusions from Social Science."

Deep down, everyone wishes they could have a rewarding lifelong commitment with their spouse. But in the midst of challenges, we forget how marriage can benefit our personal lives. We are losing our determination and the skills to keep marriages healthy and strong.

Marriage breakdown is costly to our kids and to society at large. Divorce and unwed childbearing cost the U.S. taxpayers a whopping \$112 billion annually. In these economic challenging times, building stronger marriages helps build a stronger nation.

Goals of National Marriage Week USA:

- 1) To elevate marriage as a national issue in the media and with policy leaders.
- 2) To promote the benefits of marriage, that stronger marriages bring economic stability to individuals and to the nation, and provides the best environment for thriving children.
- 3) To create a national calendar for existing, trusted marriage classes, conferences and events where people can find the help they need, or reach out to help others.

Get Involved Now!

- > Keep Me Informed
- > Tell Us What You Are Doing
- > Submit an Event
- > 2-Minute Video Contest

Family Dynamics Institute™
Building Stronger Marriages & Ministries Since 1994

Jotz
NIGHT CHALLENGE EVENT
DVD with Marriage Tips, Music, and Comedy! Great for Groups!

"...We should provide the facts about the importance of marriage as a matter of child welfare and economic aspiration. As a society, we have launched highly effective public education campaigns on much less momentous issues, from smoking to recycling. For now, the decline of marriage is our most ignored national crisis..."
Rich Lowry
commentary, *TIME* Magazine, 2012
Click here for the article

Marriage Week INTERNATIONAL
CELEBRATING COMMITMENT

Copyright © 2011-13
Date Night Challenge DVD 2013
<http://datenightchallengeDVD.org>
Let's Strengthen Marriage & National Marriage Week USA
<http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org>
<http://www.letsstrengthenmarriage.org>
For media interviews contact sheila@nationalmarriageweekusa.org

National Marriage Week USA is part of International Marriage Week, with 16 major countries around the world now mobilizing leaders and events to strengthen marriage in their countries.
<http://www.marriage-weekinternational.com>

For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact the NMW executive director, Sheila Weber, at Sheila@NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org

**“It’s not love that keeps your marriage alive.
It’s marriage that keeps your love alive.”**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing to a young bride and groom from his prison cell in Nazi Germany 1943

Marriage Pays

Economically: Married individuals have more wealth and financial stability.

Personally: Married folks have more happiness, more lifelong thriving love, longer lives and better health.

For Children: Children with both parents at home do vastly better in school and have far less trouble with the law, teen pregnancy, and addiction.



We can do better

Taxpayers spend at least \$112 BILLION annually on divorce and unwed childbearing.

40 percent of all American babies are now born outside of marriage.

72 percent of African-American babies are now born outside of marriage.

Married adults dropped from 79% in 1970 to 57% today.



How Can Marriage Keep Love Alive?

At www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org

Locate a marriage course near you—we’ve posted them state by state.

We have resources to help your marriage, or for you to help others.

Tools you can use--Quizzes, Kits and Tips.

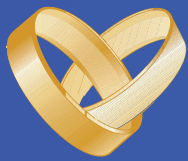
Read the research. Support the cause.



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National Marriage Week USA

Let's Strengthen Marriage



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National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

Sponsors

Focus on the Family's Date Night Challenge

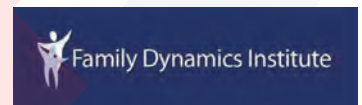
Focus on the Family's Date Night Challenge 90-min DVD provides a night of fun designed to strengthen marriages and an inexpensive opportunity to reach out to couples. To date, more than two thousand Date Night Challenge DVDs have been purchased by churches nationwide to power local, live events. The convenient format includes premier music and teaching, plus clean comedy for just \$99.

<http://www.datenightchallengeDVD.com>



Family Dynamics Institute

Family Dynamics Institute has built a reputation on providing workshops and classes that are impactful, interactive and experiential. Their marriage workshops are designed to allow couples to learn life skills and lessons through guided interaction with their spouse... couples work together to know themselves and each other at a deeper, more intimate level. Family Dynamics also provides workshops for Facilitator Training, for those who want to develop a marriage ministry themselves, as well as an intensive workshop for marriages in crisis, called A New Beginning. 800-650-9995. www.FamilyDynamics.net



The Colson Center

A Force for Effective, Intelligent, Strategic Christian Influence in Our Society.

<http://www.joincolson.com>



The Pinnacle Forum

The Pinnacle Forum has a mission to build a network of leaders committed to personal and cultural transformation centered on the values of Jesus. <http://pinnacleforum.com>



Hope for the Hurting Home

Hope for the Hurting Home seeks to change the global marriage culture by raising up an army of crisis marriage counselors who have a 90% success rate in saving troubled marriages across America and around the world. <http://hopeforthehurtinghome.com>



Let's Strengthen Marriage

Let's Strengthen Marriage is a national campaign to encourage many diverse groups to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and build a stronger marriage culture, which in turn helps curtail poverty and benefits children. <http://letsstrengthenmarriage.org>



Contact Us

To get personalized assistance for creating your own city campaign, or to receive a customized version with your city name and organization information on this Event Kit booklet, or to become a sponsor, please contact the NMW executive director, Sheila Weber, at Sheila@NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org

Newspaper Ad/Flyer

◀ You can add your local event dates and location in the open space in the bottom right corner, and either print page 13 as a flyer or poster, or place it in your local newspaper.



February 7-14

National Marriage Week USA™

Let's Strengthen Marriage

FOR LOCAL NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK INFORMATION

Contact: [NAME] at [EMAIL] or call [XXX.XXX.XXXX]

Local events listing for [Your City] can be found at [WEBSITE]

Join us for:

- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nam est leo, imperdiet et semper a, tristique ac turpis. Aliquam sed mi nisi, eget ornare magna.
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**ORGANIZATION
LOGO / PHOTO**

**www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org
sheila@NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org**