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MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU

BY LISA MILDON (HTTPS://COFFEEHOUSEWRITERS.COM/AUTHOR/LISA-MILDON/) / ② MAY 4, 2020 / ③ 156 / ♀ 0

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Star Wars fans rejoice! May 4th is Star Wars Day. The internationally recognized day of celebrating all things *Star Wars* is here. Some may wonder what this day is all about and how it originated. Let's take a closer look at this geeky holiday.

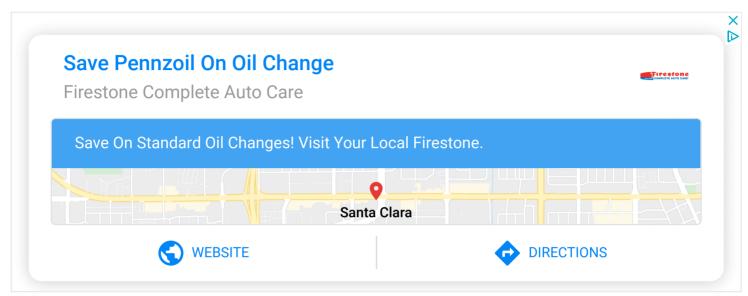
Most everyone knows that the epic saga first premiered in 1977 with the fourth part of George Lucas' *Star Wars* story known as *Star Wars: Episode IV–A New Hope*. The movie became an instant hit, generating interest and the release of parts five and six, and eventually one through three. The original story concluded with *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* this past year.

The *Star Wars* franchise resulted in a rabid fan base and became a cult classic. With groundbreaking franchise merchandising (something that was virtually not done back in the day), *Star Wars* endeared itself to many nerds, geeks, and sci-fi fans. This devoted following, still going strong some 40 years later, birthed fan clubs, clever cosplayers, and eventually, its own holiday.

Oddly enough, the phrase, 'May the fourth be with you' wasn't first coined by a *Star Wars* fan. Back in 1979, Margaret Thatcher's political party used this phrase after she won her election in celebration. The phrase just caught on and spread like wildfire.

As for the actual Star Wars Day, the first celebration took place back in 2001 at the Toronto Underground Cinema. Here, the day was full of festivities such as a costume contest, a movie marathon, and other *Star Wars* related fun.

The day didn't really take off until the release of newer episodes in 2015 and Disney's massive marketing campaign. With the release of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, a whole new generation of fans arose, stoking the fires and rekindling the celebration of May 4th. Fans across the world now spend this day revisiting their favorite movies (or all of them), cosplaying, and doing many other *Star Wars* related activities. However, this year, the festivities may be more subdued because of COVID-19. Luckily, Disney is coming to our rescue.



In a time of self-isolation and social distancing, Disney has decided to celebrate this unofficial holiday by releasing *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* on its streaming channel, Disney+ (https://www.disneyplus.com/). What better way to celebrate our favorite Star Wars Day than by snuggling down on the couch, grabbing some popcorn, and watching the last chapter to the original *Star Wars* saga.

May the Force and the Fourth be with you.



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Lisa is an offbeat geeky girl who is a weaver of words and killer story creator. She has extensive editing\writing experience in non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and technical writing. In 2018, she graduated Summa Cum Laude at SNHU in Creative Writing and English. Lisa loves PC gaming, science fiction, and is obsessed with traveling. A self-professed Whovian, she aspires to write for the TV series. With her husband, they have 3 rescues, 2 adorable Rat Terriers, and 1 fat cat.

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Thank you so much Jill (https://coffeehousewriters.com/the-crooked-crone/#comment-3924)

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