In 2019 The Tooth Fairy Paid $3.70 A Tooth, Down 43 Cents From 2018

February 28th, National Tooth Fairy Day encourages us to take look back on the history of one of dental care’s little helpers. It’s one way our children develop good dental hygiene.

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- Like toothpaste, today that advertises fruity flavors and sparkles to get kids excited to brush their teeth, in 1925 it was probably quite a bit more difficult considering the pastes were mostly peroxide and baking soda. One advertisement was for a Fairy Wand Tooth Whitener. This product promised to brush away cigarette and coffee stains. The ad was aimed at both children and adults.
- Then in 1927, Esther Watkins Arnold printed an eight-page playlet for children called The Tooth Fairy. It was the same year Sir Arthur Conan Doyle “proved” his claim that fairies and gnomes are real and “verified” with pictures of two little girls surrounded by fairies. The world was ripe with imagination and primed to have a tooth fairy about to come collect the lost teeth of little boys and girls and leave a coin or two behind.
- She (or he) started leaving nickels and dimes under the pillows of sleeping children. Over the years there have been variations on the theme.
- In 1942, in an article written by columnist Bob Balfe in the Palm Beach Post, his children received War Stamps to put in their books when they lost a tooth. It was a popular alternative during a time when giving to the war effort was a motivating factor.
- Today, the tooth fairy jingles much less than ever. The average payout for a lost tooth ranges from $3 to $4 and can go even higher if Dad is on duty or if the tooth is lost late at night with no time for a parent to run to an ATM.
- When compared to Santa Claus, who dates back to ancient history, the Tooth Fairy only dates back to the early 1900s. She was first mentioned in an article in the Chicago Daily Tribune’s “Household Hints” column from September 1908.
The Tooth Fairy collects about 300,000 teeth from children all over the world every night. It’s believed that the Tooth Fairy uses these teeth to build the fairy community where she lives. Here in America, the Tooth Fairy is most commonly a tiny creature sporting a crown, a wand, and a poofy gown. However, in Spain, France, and Belgium the Tooth Fairy is a small mouse who collects lost teeth in exchange for a small gift.

Tooth Fairy paid less for Teeth in 2019, than 2018. In 2019, Delta Dentals survey results showed that the average cash gift amount for a tooth dropped to $3.70 per tooth, which is about 43 cents less than it was in 2018. However, 37 percent of parents admit to leaving five dollars or more for a single tooth.

Using the Tooth Fairy poll, we were able to break down the survey responses by region. As it turns out, kids on the west coast enjoy higher cash rewards for teeth, while those in the midwest region actually receive the smallest cash gift, only getting around $2.97 per tooth. The full breakdown looks like this:

- Western region – $4.19 per tooth
- Southern region – $3.91 per tooth
- Northeast region – $3.75 per tooth
- Midwest region – $2.97 per tooth

The current average rate for a lost tooth in 2019 is $3.70. If you think that figure is a steep price to pay for a small tooth, consider that this amount is actually down from previous years. In 2018, the tooth fairy paid $4.13 for each tooth, and in 2017, the tooth fairy had an all-time high price of $4.66 a tooth.

In the 13th century, Islamic scholar Ibn Abi el-Hadid referenced the Middle Eastern tradition of throwing a baby tooth into the sky (or “to the sun”) and praying for a better tooth to replace it.

Throwing teeth is a common practice: In Turkey, Mexico, and Greece, children traditionally toss their baby teeth onto the roof of their house.

In India, Korea, Vietnam, and the Philippines, lower teeth are thrown upward but teeth from the upper jaw are thrown to the floor, to encourage the new adult teeth to grow straight.

Traditions aren’t always sunny, though—Norwegian and Finnish children are warned of Hammaspeikko, the “tooth troll” who comes for children who don’t brush.

Sources

National Day Calendar

Cherrywood Dental

Buckeye Pediatric Dentistry Ohio

Delta Dental Wa

Mental Floss

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