Schulz Biography

Schulz & Peanuts Time Line

1920s

November 26, 1922 🎁 Charles Monroe Schulz was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the only child of Dena and Carl Schulz, a hard-working St. Paul barber 🎁 An uncle nicknamed him “Sparky” after Sparkplug, a horse in the Barney Google comic strip

1920s 🎁 His kindergarten teacher at Mattocks School in St. Paul told him, “Some day, Charles, you are going to be an artist”

Top of Page

1930s

1930s 🎁 As a boy, Schulz was interested in comics, especially Popeye and the characters created by Walt Disney

1934 🎁 The Schulz family was given a black and white dog that was the inspiration for Snoopy; his name was Spike

1937 🎁 Schulz’s first published drawing, a sketch of Spike, was included in the newspaper comics feature Believe it or Not by Robert Ripley

1939/40 🎁 Schulz enrolled in a correspondence cartoon course with Federal Schools (later known as Art Instruction Schools) during his senior year in high school

Top of Page

1940s

1940 🎁 Schulz graduated from high school 🎁 The drawings he contributed to the school yearbook were not included in the publication

1943 🎁 At age 20, Schulz was drafted into the Army. While in basic training his mother died of cancer 🎁 Schulz served as a machine-gun squad leader in Germany, France, and Austria. He later wrote, “The Army taught me all I needed to know about loneliness”

1945 🎁 Discharged from the Army, Schulz returned to St. Paul 🎁 Schulz began working for his alma mater Art Instruction Schools as an instructor

1947 🎁 Schulz’s career as a cartoonist began with the publication of his panel cartoon, Li’l Folks, in the local newspaper, the St. Paul Pioneer Press

1948–1950 🎁 Schulz sold 17 panel cartoons to The Saturday Evening Post

Top of Page
1950 🙏 After several rejections, Schulz sold his Li'l Folks strip to United Feature Syndicate 🙏 They renamed his strip Peanuts, a title he never liked

October 2, 1950 🙏 Peanuts debuted in seven newspapers 🙏 The syndicate paid Schulz $90 for his first month of strips

First Peanuts strip ~ October 2, 1950

1951 🙏 Schulz married Joyce Halverson 🙏 After a brief move to Colorado Springs, Colorado, the young family returned to Minneapolis

1952 🙏 The first Sunday Peanuts page was published; the strip was then featured in over 40 U.S. newspapers 🙏 The first book collection, Peanuts, was also published

1955 🙏 Kodak became the first product sponsor for Peanuts, using the characters in a camera handbook 🙏 Schulz won his first Reuben Award from the National Cartoonists Society

1958 🙏 Schulz left Minnesota and moved with his wife and five children to Sebastopol, California 🙏 Peanuts appeared in 355 U.S. and 40 foreign newspapers 🙏 Hungerford Plastics created the first plastic Peanuts figures, including Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus & Lucy 🙏 Yale University named Schulz "Cartoonist of the Year"

1960 🙏 Hallmark created the first Peanuts greeting cards 🙏 Peanuts art and animation was used in a popular Ford Falcon advertising campaign

1962 🙏 Determined Productions published Happiness is a Warm Puppy, which made it to the New York Times best-seller list 🙏 Peanuts was named "Best Humor Strip of the Year" by the National Cartoonists Society

1964 🙏 Schulz became the first cartoonist to be awarded two Reubens by the National Cartoonists Society

1965 🙏 Peanuts featured on cover of Time magazine 🙏 The first animated television special, A Charlie Brown Christmas, won a Peabody Award and an Emmy for outstanding children's programming

1966 🙏 Schulz' father, Carl, died while visiting in California 🙏 A fire later destroyed Schulz's Sebastopol studio

1967 🙏 The stage musical You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown opened off Broadway; it
has since become the most-produced musical in America

May 24, 1967 🌹 California Governor Ronald Reagan greeted the cartoonist at the State Capitol in observance of the legislature-proclaimed “Charles Schulz Day”

April 28, 1969 🌹 Grand Opening of the Redwood Empire Ice Arena in Santa Rosa, California, starring the 1968 Olympic Gold Medallist Peggy Fleming and the Vince Guaraldi trio

May 1969 🌹 Charlie Brown and Snoopy accompanied astronauts on Apollo X

1970s

1972 🌹 Charles and Joyce Schulz divorced

1973 🌹 Schulz and Jean Forsyth Clyde married 🌹 Schulz received Emmy Award for writing his tenth television special, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

1974 🌹 Schulz presided as the Grand Marshal of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California

1975 🌹 Peanuts celebrated 25 years 🌹 It was carried in approximately 1,480 U.S. and 175 foreign newspapers with 90,000,000 readers 🌹 The television special You’re a Good Sport, Charlie Brown won an Emmy

1978 🌹 The International Pavilion of Humor in Montreal named Schulz “Cartoonist of the Year”

1979 🌹 Happy Birthday, Charlie Brown published by Lee Mendelson and Schulz

1980s

1980 🌹 Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and Me published by Schulz and R. Smith Kiliper 🌹 Television special Life Is a Circus, Charlie Brown received an Emmy

January 1983 🌹 Snoopy’s Gallery & Gift Shop opened in Santa Rosa, California

1983 🌹 Television special What Have We Learned, Charlie Brown? won a Peabody Award 🌹 Camp Snoopy opened at Knott’s Berry Farm in California

1984 🌹 Peanuts qualified for a place in the Guinness Book of World Records after being sold to the 2,000th newspaper
1985 You Don’t Look 35, Charlie Brown published The Oakland Museum of California opened the anniversary exhibit, The Graphic Art of Charles Schulz

1986 Schulz inducted into Cartoonist Hall of Fame by the Museum of Cartoon Art

1989 Rheta Grimsley Johnson published the biography Good Grief: The Story of Charles M. Schulz

Top of Page

1990 The French government named Schulz “Commander of Arts and Letters,” and the Snoopy in Fashion exhibit opened at the Louvre This Is Your Childhood, Charlie Brown—Children in American Culture exhibit opened at The National Museum of History in Washington, D.C.

1992 Snoopy, The Masterpiece exhibit opened at the Montreal Museum of Fine Art Schulz awarded the “Order of Merit” from the Italian Minister of Culture

1995 The 45th anniversary of Peanuts was marked by exhibit Around the Moon and Home Again: A Tribute to the Art of Charles M. Schulz at the Space Center in Houston

June 28, 1996 Schulz got his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

October 16, 1997 Schulz and wife Jeannie announced they would give $1 million toward the construction of a D-Day memorial to be placed in Virginia World premiere of Peanuts Gallery by composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich held at Carnegie Hall

1999 Schulz’s Peanuts: A Golden Celebration published You're a Good Man Charlie Brown opened in a new production on Broadway Peanuts appeared in more than 2,600 newspapers worldwide, and over 20,000 products had been developed to date

December 14, 1999 Schulz announced his retirement due to health problems

Top of Page

2000s

January 3, 2000 Charles Schulz bade a fond farewell to all his readers in the final daily Peanuts newspaper strip
California lawmakers declared Sunday, February 13, as “Charles M. Schulz Day” to coincide with the final Peanuts Sunday strip.

Charles Schulz died Saturday evening in his home in Santa Rosa of complications from colon cancer; he was 77 years old.

The final Sunday Peanuts strip appeared in newspapers around the world.

Posthumous awarding of the Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Cartoonists Society.

Ground breaking of Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, across from Redwood Empire Ice Arena (Snoopy's Home Ice).

First Day of Issue of the U.S. Postal Service Peanuts stamp at Charles Schulz's Redwood Empire Ice Arena in Santa Rosa, California.

Posthumous awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal by the United States Congress to Schulz's family.

Grand Opening of the Schulz Museum!

---

Don't miss the Schulz Museum's Introductory Film in the Video Nook at the end of the Great Hall!

View the Introductory Film online!
(REQUIRES WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER)