

RESOURCE GUIDE

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth (also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day or Emancipation Day) is a day to honor and celebrate liberation and resilience.

It was on June 19, 1865 that *all* Americans became free from slavery (despite the Emancipation Proclamation occurring two years prior). In June 2021, Juneteenth National Independence Day was established as a Federal Holiday, the first federal holiday to be established since Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 1983.

Today, the holiday is about celebrating Black culture, history and life and bringing people together to honor all those who fought for the rights and privileges we hold today. Juneteenth gives us the opportunity to support, appreciate and educate through a host of activities. To follow are some suggestions for how to celebrate Juneteenth this year.

JOIN AN EVENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Juneteenth is a day filled with parties, parades and street fairs. Cities like [Annapolis](#), [Atlanta](#), [Chicago](#), [Detroit](#), [Kansas City](#), [Los Angeles](#), [Minneapolis](#), [New York](#), [Philadelphia](#), [San Antonio](#), [St. Louis](#), [Washington, DC](#) already have information on how to join the festivities. Check your local news outlets and community websites for events in your area.

HOST YOUR OWN CELEBRATION

If there are no events in your area, or you'd prefer to avoid large crowds, think about hosting at home instead. Display a [Juneteenth yard sign](#) to welcome guests and show your support. Gather family and friends to view [Juneteenth: A Global Celebration for Freedom](#), airing Monday, June 19 at 8pm ET on CNN and OWN.

If you're inspired to cook, check out [24 Jubilatory Juneteenth Recipes](#) featuring traditional drinks, main courses, sides, and desserts. Most Juneteenth meals include something red (think tomatoes, red beans, strawberry soda or cherry lemonade) to represent the resilience of the enslaved. If cooking isn't your thing, consider ordering from a Black-owned restaurant instead. Apps like [EatOkra](#) can help you find and bookmark Black-owned restaurants in major cities and metropolitan areas.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Our National Conversation (ONC) is a non-partisan, solutions-focused organization that seeks to engage citizens from all walks of life in civil and inclusive conversations. On Monday, June 19 at 7pm EST, ONC will be hosting a virtual speaker series to discuss the history of Juneteenth and its significance in contemporary society. Admission is free; reserve your spot [here](#).

SUPPORT BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

Treat yourself and support black-owned businesses on Juneteenth and beyond. The [US Chamber of Commerce](#) offers a list of black-owned small business directories, such as the [Black Business Green Book](#)—an online directory searchable by state or retail category. [Good Housekeeping](#) weighs in on 50+ black-owned businesses to shop now and forever, and [Etsy](#) showcases one-of-a-kind creations from Black sellers in its community.

EXPLORE A MUSEUM OR EXHIBIT DEDICATED TO BLACK CULTURE

Immerse yourself in Black art and culture at the [Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History](#) in Detroit, MI, the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) in Washington, D.C., the [National Civil Rights Museum](#) in Memphis, or the [Northwest African American Museum](#) in Seattle, to name a few. These museums have virtual components, and online exhibits also abound, such as the New York Public Library's [Digital Schomburg](#), the National Women's History Museum's [We Who Believe in Freedom: Black Feminist DC](#), and Google's [Black History and Culture](#).

VOLUNTEER IN VOTER REGISTRATION

The ability to cast a ballot that will be counted is a fundamental freedom that protects our essential rights as Americans. As we celebrate freedom on Juneteenth, consider getting involved with organizations like [Rock the Vote](#), [HeadCount](#), and [Fair Fight](#) that need volunteers to spread awareness about voting rights and the importance of voting at a local, state and national level.

REFLECT ON A JUNETEENTH POEM

Celebrate Juneteenth by reading a beautiful poem written by PATTERN poet [Amena Brown](#) to commemorate the U.S. emancipation of enslaved peoples.

JUNETEENTH

We carry libation in our cheekbones
We fold the stories of our ancestors
 Into song
 Into science
 Into fashion
 Into food
 Into innovation
We follow the recipe in the legacy of our people
 & it is there we nourish ourselves

We gather
 Here
 Together
To bring ourselves to a table where love is always
 served
Let's come home to each other
 We are our own harvest
 We are our own healing place

We gather
 Here
 Together
 To heal
To remind ourselves of a freedom song
To sing for those who may not feel like singing
To sing for those who are no longer here to sing
 To honor the freedom we have
 & fight for the freedom we have yet to see

We rest and we protest
We pick beans & pop gum
 We pontificate
 We fix grandma a plate

Our joy is our resistance
 Our beauty is our glory
 Our courage is our resilience
Our freedom is written in the follicles of our hair
 In each other
We have strength for the journey

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However you choose to honor Juneteenth, we hope all of our celebrations are safe and meaningful.