



CULTURAL/SOCIAL CALENDAR

September	<p>National Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month (from Sept. 16 to Oct. 16 of each year)</p> <p>This celebration honors the achievements and contributions of the Hispanic/Latino American communities, including people from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and the Iberian Peninsula. They have enriched our community through contributions in many professions and fields, including education, law, government, business, science, sports, and the arts. The hard work and determination of Hispanic/Latino Americans continue to inspire all those who dream of a better life for themselves and their families.</p>
November	<p>National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month</p> <p>Native Americans are central to the American story, being the first people to live on the land we all cherish and having profoundly shaped our country's character and our cultural heritage. They have played a vital role in our country's freedom and security, having served in all branches of America's armed forces and as leaders in every aspect of our society. And while we pay tribute to their achievements, we must also acknowledge the parts of our shared history that have been marred by violence and tragic mistreatment; for centuries, Native Americans faced cruelty, injustice, and broken promises. In 1990, November was designated "National American Indian Heritage Month," and in 2009, the President signed a bipartisan resolution that recognized the sad and painful chapters in our shared history, and remains dedicated to writing a new chapter in that history by strengthening our government-to-government relationship with tribal nations while enhancing tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination.</p>
December	<p>National Inclusive Schools Week (first week of Dec.)</p> <p>The week celebrates the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. The week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate children of all abilities.</p>
January	<p>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (born Jan. 15, 1929; federal holiday the third Monday of each Jan.)</p> <p>Dr. King was a prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement committed to equal rights for African-Americans in this country. He organizing boycotts, protest demonstrations, and marches for the right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other basic civil rights. At the height of his influence, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were passed, and he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, at the age of 35. While supporting black city workers striking for higher wages and better treatment in Memphis, TN, he was assassinated. In 1986, Congress established the Martin Luther King Day as a US holiday. In 1994, King Day of Service was built on the teachings of nonviolence and social justice to promote people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King envisioned.</p> <p>Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties & the Constitution (born Jan. 30, 1919; honored Jan. 30 of each year)</p> <p>Mr. Korematsu refused to comply with Civilian Exclusion Order 34, which imposed strict curfew regulations and required 120,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes to be incarcerated in American concentration camps during World War II. He fought against his arrest and conviction, because he believed they went against the basic freedoms guaranteed to him by the U.S. Constitution. The conviction was overturned in 1984, a decision that influenced the US government's passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which recognized that a grave injustice was done by forced relocation and incarceration of civilian Americans because of wartime prejudice.</p>

February	<p>Black History Month</p> <p>What started as Black History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter Woodson became Black History Month in 1976. The celebration allows us the opportunity to recognize that the history of African Americans in this country is part of our shared collective American story and to honor the many achievements and contributions of Black Americans in our nation's development and history. Black History Month seeks to bridge the gap wherein American history failed to accurately portray and record the achievements of Black Americans. Even as civil rights laws have given legal consequences to overt discriminatory practices and racial intolerance, only through education can attitudes be changed and ignorance eliminated, and so this month fosters in our students a greater understanding of their responsibilities in protecting and preserving the humanity of all people.</p>
March	<p>National Women's History Month</p> <p>The celebration honors American women of every race, class, and ethnic background. Women have played a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of our nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; a unique role throughout the history of the nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the nation; and a particularly important role in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our nation. American women have served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all.</p> <p>César Chávez's Day (born Mar. 31, 1927; honored Mar. 31 of each year)</p> <p>Born to migrant farm workers, Mr. Chávez left school after eighth grade to labor in the fields and vineyards to help support his family. After experiencing years of discrimination and unfair working conditions, he joined the Community Service Organization in 1952, but then left in 1962 to form, along with Dolores Huerta, the National Farm Workers' Union, which became the United Farm Workers (UFW). He led nonviolent boycotts and strikes to increase public awareness of the conditions under which farmworkers labored, and in 1977, the UFW won the sole right to organize farmworkers. Mr. Chávez influenced and inspired millions of Americans of all nationalities to seek social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised in our society.</p>
April	<p>Dolores Huerta Day (born Apr. 10, 1930; honored Apr. 10 of each year)</p> <p>Born in 1930, Ms. Huerta would become the most prominent Mexican-American female labor leader in the US. She began organizing in the 1950s, during which time she founded the Agricultural Workers Association (AWA), set up voter registration drives, and pressed local governments for barrio improvements. Ms. Huerta co-founded, with César Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), organizing field strikes and boycotts and leading farm worker campaigns for political candidates. She played a major role in the American civil rights movement, securing Aide for Dependent Families (AFDC) and disability insurance for farm workers in California in 1963. Ms. Huerta partnered with Gloria Steinem to challenge gender discrimination within the farm workers' movement. In 2002, she established the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which aims to create networks of healthy, organized communities pursuing social justice through systemic and structural transformation.</p>
May	<p>National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month</p> <p>The celebration honors the values and traditions of the Asian/Pacific-American community – love of family, entrepreneurship, excellence in education, and community service – and the contributions of these talented and hard-working citizens and their rich legacy of ingenuity, perseverance, and achievement. Many Asian/Pacific immigrants came to America to discover the promise of our nation and to realize their dreams. As entrepreneurs, artists, educators, public servants, scientists, and explorers, they challenge the minds of our next generation, expand commerce and innovation, probe the frontiers of space, and search for cures for the world's diseases.</p>