

Ashland Is United



Creating a Culture of Inclusivity and Acceptance

Celebrating Juneteenth



As a strong ally to the Black Lives Matter movement, Ashland is United advocates the importance of recognizing and celebrating Juneteenth. Please read about Juneteenth and join us in the Celebration of Freedom in America!

Juneteenth is the oldest, nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth also serves as an opportunity for African Americans to honor their culture and heritage.

Juneteenth History

As a pivotal date of significance in American history, Juneteenth celebrates the liberation of African Americans from slavery in the U.S. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army arrived in Texas to deliver the news that the Civil War had ended and all slaves were free.

The proclamation declaring the abolishment of slavery was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, in the nation's third year of an ongoing civil war. The Emancipation Proclamation declared that 'all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State [...] shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.' Granger's arrival at Texas was to enforce this decree, which had originally gone into effect two years earlier.

On June 19, in the city of Galveston, Granger publicly read General Order No. 3, which stated: 'The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.'

The news came as a shock to more than 250,000 slaves in Texas who were unaware of it.

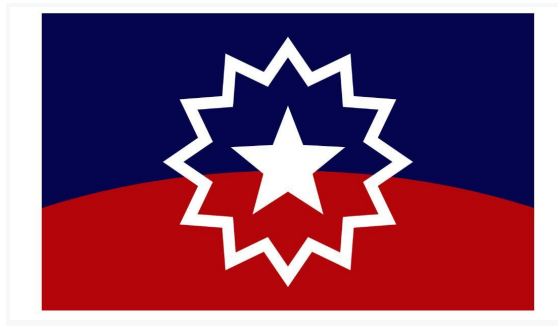
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How to Observe and Recognize Juneteenth



Fly the Juneteenth flag

Echoing the red, white, and blue of the U.S. flag, the Juneteenth flag signifies that slaves and their descendants are true Americans. The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for black Americans. A star in the middle represents Texas, with a larger outer star representing new freedom and a new people. Also used on this occasion is a red, green, and black Pan-African flag, created in 1920, after Jamaican activist Marcus Garvey called for a Black liberation flag.

Attend a Juneteenth celebration

Southern states celebrate with readings and oral histories of their ancestors, which is an honorable way to remember a somber period in American history. Celebrations also include barbecue cookouts, rodeos, concerts, and parades.

Savor Red Juneteenth Foods

Soda, punch, hibiscus tea, red velvet cake, red beans and rice, hot sauce, fruits (strawberry, watermelon); smoked sauce-covered barbecued meats

Watch a movie about slavery

Recent titles include "12 Years a Slave," "Glory," "Amistad" and "Django Unchained."



Celebrating Juneteenth

June 19, 1865

Texas Slaves Finally Gain Their Freedom

Even though they are officially made aware of the Emancipation Proclamation on this day, many slaves stay with their masters as paid hands.



August 28, 1963

'I Have a Dream'

Martin Luther King delivers one of history's most inspirational speeches in front of roughly 200,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial.



July 2, 1964

President Johnson Signs the Civil Rights Act

This act gives the federal government the power to enforce desegregation while prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin.



1980

Texas Declares Juneteenth a State Holiday

While Texas was the first state to observe Juneteenth as a state holiday, many others have since followed suit.



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On Being Brought from Africa to America

Phillis Wheatley - 1753-1784

'Twas mercy brought me from my *Pagan* land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand
That there's a God, that there's a *Saviour* too:
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.
Some view our sable race with scornful eye,
"Their colour is a diabolic die."
Remember, *Christians, Negroes*, black as *Cain*,
May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

This poem is in the public domain.