Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration that honors the end of slavery in the United States. It marks the day of June 19th, 1865, when federal troops arrived in Texas to take control of the state and guarantee that all slaves be freed. The troops' arrival came a full 2 ½ years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Slavery would not be abolished completely until the 13th Amendment, which was ratified six months later. Juneteenth is considered the longest-running African American holiday. Although Juneteenth is not a federal holiday, 47 out of 50 states recognize it as a state or ceremonial holiday. Nicknames for this holiday include Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, and Freedom Day.

Juneteenth honors those who were enslaved and recognizes and celebrates the contributions and achievements of African Americans. Juneteenth has long been celebrated in Texas, even before it became an official holiday. In 1968, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy proclaimed Juneteenth “Solidarity Day,” and in 1979 the Texas Legislature passed a bill declaring Juneteenth a state holiday. Another civil rights leader, former state Rep. Al Edwards of Houston, introduced a bill making Juneteenth a paid holiday in the state of Texas.

In 2000, the flag was revised to include the exact date slaves were told of their emancipation. The star located in the middle symbolizes the Lone Star State as well as the freedom of slaves in all 50 states. The burst signifies a new beginning for all African Americans, and the arc represents a new horizon that lies ahead for African Americans.

ORIGINS OF JUNETEENTH
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THE FLAG
The original Juneteenth Flag is a representation of the end of slavery in the U.S. This flag was created in 1997 by activist Ben Haith, the founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF).

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WHO WE CELEBRATE
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & ARTICLES WORTH EXPLORING

Juneteenth: Our Other Independence Day, by the Smithsonian Magazine
Black Joy — Not Corporate Acknowledgment — Is the Heart of Juneteenth
Learn more
Lincoln Presidential Library to display Emancipation Proclamation as part of Juneteenth celebration
Learn more
Opal Lee, “Grandmother of Juneteenth,” pushes to make Juneteenth a national holiday & re-launches book
Learn more

Black Literature for children and young adults
Apple Music creates Juneteenth playlist: Freedom Songs
Galveston, birthplace of Juneteenth, to recognize day as official city holiday
Learn more
WAYS TO SUPPORT
There are a variety of ways you can support Juneteenth celebrations and initiatives both locally and internationally.

WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE CELEBRATION

- Virtually
- In-person
- In the local community
- Nationally

IN-PERSON CELEBRATIONS
See what’s happening near you.

Learn more about local celebrations in the community and how you can get involved.

**Dallas Southern Pride’s Juneteenth Unity Weekend**
- Dallas Southern Pride invites you to join them at their annual Juneteenth Unity Weekend as they celebrate the birth of freedom. All programs and activities are free and open to the public!
  - Learn more

**Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Drive-Thru Event**
- The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and the Dallas Police Department Office of Community Affairs are inviting attendees to their drive-thru celebration. Guest can drive through the MLA parking lot and open their trunks to receive free food, household products, and informational resources.
  - Learn more

**Juneteenth Celebration March and Festival at Fair Park**
- Join the inaugural celebration with a 1.5-mile march from William Blair Jr. Park to Fair Park followed by a festival featuring a Negro League Baseball exhibit, a health & wellness expo, musical performances, and other activities. All programs and activities are free and open to the public!
  - Learn more

**The City of DeSoto’s Best Southwest Juneteenth Celebration**
- The City of DeSoto will host the Juneteenth Celebration and will join forces with Lancaster, Cedar Hill, and Duncanville. The community is inviting to bring lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy a family-friendly event.
  - Learn more

**Music City Mall Lewisville’s Juneteenth Festival**
- Calling All Queens Network presents a FREE Juneteenth Festival—Celebrating Freedom! Enjoy food, fashion show, vendors, kids activities and so much more!
  - Learn more

WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE CELEBRATION

**VIRTUAL CELEBRATIONS**

Educational Webinars/Topical Discussion Forums

**UT Southwestern’s African American Employee BRG presents “A Brief Discussion of the Historical Significance of Juneteenth,” featuring Dr. Ervin James III, Ph.D.**
- Register for the event here.

**2021 Juneteenth Celebration: Art and Activism**
- Northwestern University’s Center for Health Equity Transformation, in collaboration with The Office of Diversity & Inclusion, will discuss different forms of modern and contemporary African American art and how it honors experiences of Black people, celebrates the Black identity, and serves as a catalyst for activism.
  - Learn more

**Empowering Minority Entrepreneurs to Bridge the Racial Wealth Gap**
- Learn more

**A Virtual Discussion with Harvard professor and recent Pulitzer Prize winner Dr. Annette Gordon-Reed about her new book “On Juneteenth”**
- Learn more

**NAACP St. Petersburg presents - Juneteenth Celebration - “Why it Matters”**
- Learn more

**Juneteenth Celebrations & Festivals**

**Juneteenth Music Festival**
- Learn more

**Step Afrika! Juneteenth Virtual Celebration**
- Learn more

**2021 Juneteenth Virtual Celebration by the Amistad Center for Art & Culture**
- Learn more

QUESTIONS?

Contact us.

The Division of Diversity & Inclusion
Office of Institutional Equity & Access (DIREA)
DiversityInclusion@UTSouthwestern.edu

Visit our website [here](#).
Subscribe to our YouTube Channel [here](#).

We wish you a Happy Juneteenth!