

Calendar of National Observances of Ethnic Heritage

Month	Topic	Commissioner Lead	Status/Notes
Dec 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities		<p>United Nations has established December 3 as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to promote an understanding of disability issues, mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities, and foster awareness of the importance of integrating persons with disabilities into every aspect of life.</p> <p>Resources: https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities</p>
Jan	National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month		<p>Declared by President Obama in 2012.</p> <p>Resources: https://www.state.gov/national-slavery-and-human-trafficking-prevention-month/#:~:text=January%20is%20National%20Slavery%20and,and%20how%20to%20spot%20it.</p>
February	African American Heritage Month,		<p>Est. by President Ford in 1976 as part of America's bicentennial.</p> <p>Resources: https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/african-american-history</p>
March	Women's Heritage Month International Women's Day is March 8 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month		<p>Celebrated in the US since 1987.</p> <p>Resources: http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/blog/march-is-developmental-disabilities-awareness-month/</p>
March	Irish-American Heritage Month		<p>First celebrated by proclamation of the President and Congress in 1991. In March to coincide with St. Patrick's Day.</p>
April	National Arab American Heritage Month		<p>Proclamation published by President Biden April 19, 2021, recognizing the holiday.</p> <p>Resources: https://www.thoughtco.com/celebrating-arab-american-heritage-month-2834493</p>

			<p>Congressional resolution: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/948/text</p> <p>White House letter on establishment: https://web.archive.org/web/20210426035447/https://www.arabamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/White-House.Message-from-President-Biden-to-Arab-America_Mailed-via-USPS-4.21.21.pdf</p>
April	National Deaf History Month March 13 – April 15		<p>National Deaf History Month is celebrated from March 13th through April 15th. Deaf History Month is celebrated at this time of year because of three main events in the history of deaf education.</p> <p>On April 15, 1817, America’s first public school for the deaf was opened.</p> <p>On April 8, 1864, Gallaudet University (the first institution of higher education for the deaf and hard of hearing) was officially founded.</p> <p>On March 13, 1988, Gallaudet University hired its first deaf president.</p> <p>Resources: https://www.aclib.us/kids/blog/deaf-history-month-march-13th-april-15th#:~:text=National%20Deaf%20History%20Month%20is,for%20the%20deaf%20was%20opened. https://diversity.fsu.edu/article/deaf-history-month</p>
April	Autism Awareness Month		<p>American Autism Society is advocating for a change to “Autism Acceptance Month.”</p> <p>Resources: https://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/ https://www.autismacceptance.org/</p>
May	Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month		<p>Recognized in the US since 1979. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.</p> <p>Resources: https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/</p>
May	Haitian Heritage Month		<p>Since 1998, several governors, members of state senates and houses of representatives, mayors and city councilors have issued annual citations and</p>

			<p>proclamations, recognizing the Haitian Heritage Month celebration in their states or cities.</p> <p>Resources: http://www.hauinc.org/</p>
May	Jewish American Heritage Month, proclaimed by President Bush in 2006.		<p>Resources: https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/about/</p>
May	Older Americans Month		<p>Est. in 1963; recognized each year by presidential proclamation. 2021 Theme: Communities of Strength.</p> <p>Resources: https://acl.gov/oam/2021/older-americans-month-2021 #OlderAmericansMonth</p>
June	LGBTQ+ Pride Month June 28, 2022 will be Pride Day		<p>First recognized by President Clinton in 1999; 2009-2016 recognized by President Obama; 2019 recognized by President Trump.</p> <p>Resources: https://nationaltoday.com/pride-month/ https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/pride-month-2021/</p>
June	Juneteenth – Sunday June 19, 2022		<p>Juneteenth celebrates the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas on 19 June 1865.</p> <p>Resources: https://www.registerguard.com/story/opinion/columns/2021/06/25/don-kahle-how-best-celebrate-juneteenth-2022-and-beyond/5322765001/</p>
July			
August			
September	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15 – Oct 1)		<p>Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua all received their independence on September 15; Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept 16 and Sept 18.</p> <p>Resources: https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/ https://www.history.com/topics/hispanic-history/hispanic-heritage-month</p>
Oct	LGBTQ+ Heritage Month National Coming Out Day is 11 Oct		<p>First celebrated in 1994; timed to acknowledge the first and second marches on Washington in 1979 and 1987.</p> <p>Resources: https://lgbthistorymonth.com/</p>

			https://nationaltoday.com/lgbtq-history-month/
Oct	National Italian American Heritage Month		Recognized each year by presidential proclamation in recognition of the many achievements and contributions made to American culture by persons of Italian heritage.
Oct	National Disability Employment Awareness Month		Various programs throughout the month headed by The Office of Disability Employment Policy emphasize specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and eliminated. Resources: https://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/celebrate-ndeam/ https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam
Oct	Filipino American History Month		Nov 2009 Congress passed resolution H. RES. 780 officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month. Resources: https://emilylawsin.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/fa-history-month.pdf https://www.kcet.org/socal-focus/filipino-american-history-425-years-and-counting
Nov	National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.		In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994. Resources: https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/ https://www.ncai.org/initiatives/native-american-heritage-month#:~:text=November%20is%20Native%20American%20Heritage,important%20contributions%20of%20Native%20people. https://www.indianaffairs.gov/as-ia/opa/national-native-american-heritage-month