



Juneteenth - June 19, 2026

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, marks the official end of slavery in the United States. It commemorates the day in 1865 when Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the emancipation of enslaved African Americans—more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Though slavery had been legally abolished, many enslaved people in Texas had not been informed or freed until this date. Juneteenth is a powerful reminder of the delayed justice African Americans have faced and a celebration of Black freedom, resilience, and culture. It offers a moment to reflect on the legacy of slavery, the ongoing struggle for racial equity, and the achievements of Black communities across generations. In 2021, Juneteenth became a U.S. federal holiday, further solidifying its importance in the nation's history and consciousness.

HOW CAN WE CELEBRATE?

- **Support Black-owned businesses.** Find a directory at www.naamnw.org/naam-black-business-directory
- Attend local **parades, festivals, or community gatherings**
- **Reflect and discuss** the meaning of freedom, systemic racism, and how to build a more just society
- Visit the **Northwest African American Museum** in Seattle
- **Read books, watch documentaries, or attend talks** focused on Black history and the legacy of slavery



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