

Juneteenth Patch Program

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, is a monumental moment for African Americans in the United States. Even though President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, officially ending slavery in 1863, in-practice slavery remained in some parts of the country. When word that the Civil War was over and slavery was abolished finally made it to Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, celebrations among the newly free, Black community followed. This was the beginning of the annual tradition, Juneteenth.

Celebrations of Juneteenth include faith and community based events with prayer service, parades, food, athletic competitions, oral readings, reflections, dancing, and more!

This patch program is designed to help Girl Scouts understand the importance of the Juneteenth holiday.

Complete at least 2 activities under each category.

Discover

Learn about the Juneteenth holiday!

The practice of people owning other people is called slavery. Enslaved people have to work for their owners do whatever's asked of them.

- Read a first-hand account of an African slave.
 - Book: [Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl](#)
 - Book: [Before She Was Harriet](#)
- Learn about important black women activists throughout history. Use your knowledge to create a poster about a freedom fighter.
 - Where were they born/When were they born?
 - How did they fight against racism and inequality?
 - What is their legacy?
- Read a book or watch a video on the history of Juneteenth.
 - Daisy/Brownie Recommendation: [Juneteenth Jamboree](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford
 - Junior Recommendation: [All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom](#) by Angela Johnson



- C/S/A Recommendation: [Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom](#) by Charles A. Taylor
- Video: [What is Juneteenth?](#)
- Video: [What is Juneteenth and Why Do We Celebrate?](#)
- President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Discover the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation, and what it meant for slavery in the United States.
- The Juneteenth flag is a combination of red, white, and blue colors with a starburst shape in the middle. Dig deeper and discover the significance of each part of the flag.
 - [Juneteenth Flag is Full of Symbols](#)
- Create a timeline of relevant historical events starting from the first years of slavery, to the establishment of Juneteenth as a holiday in Texas, highlighting June 19, 1865 “Juneteenth.”
- Juneteenth celebrations include enjoying red foods and drinks. The custom of red foods and drinks at Juneteenth is a symbol of ingenuity and resilience in bondage. It is a reminder to honor ancestors who experienced blood shed throughout the institution of slavery. Discover which foods and drinks are staples to the Juneteenth holiday.
- Discover which state was the first state to declare Juneteenth a holiday. When did this declaration happen?

Connect

When girls collaborate with others and expand their horizons through activities and events, they make meaningful connections between what they have learned and their own lives and communities. Link your Juneteenth knowledge to celebrations and social justice movements in your community!

- Support a black-owned business in your community! Buying goods and services from a black-owned business in your community has many benefits, including closing the racial wealth gap, celebrating black culture, strengthening the local economy, and promoting racial visibility and representation.
- Color a Juneteenth Flag. Share your artwork with family and friends.
 - [Juneteenth Flag](#)
- Create a yard sign, decorate your doors or windows, or wear a button to encourage others to celebrate Juneteenth. By displaying your celebration publicly, you are bringing awareness to others.
- Visit an African American Museum.
 - [Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History](#)
 - [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#)
- The tradition of oral storytelling is powerful to the African American community, as most slaves could neither read nor write. Attend an oral history or reading virtually or in your community to experience the magic!
- Many of the foods eaten by African Americans during slavery have become cultural or “soul” foods to this day. Have a cookout or BBQ with foods associated with southern cuisine!
 - [What is Soul Food?](#)
 - [Juneteenth Food Recipes](#)
- Enjoy a traditional red beverage!
 - [Southern Strawberry Sweet Iced Tea Recipe](#)
 - [Red Soda](#)
- Join in on a Juneteenth celebration either virtually or in your community!
 - [Join USA Girl Scouts Overseas and Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan for a very special Juneteenth celebration, hosted by Telva](#)

McGruder, Board Chair of the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at General Motors (GM).

Take Action

Girl Scouts has a long history of encouraging girls to help make the world a better place. Using your newfound knowledge of the Juneteenth holiday, TAKE ACTION to show your support for freedom and racial justice.

- Read a picture book about Juneteenth to younger girls.
- Ask your school board or principal what your school is doing to recognize:
 - Juneteenth
 - MLK Day
 - Black History Month
 - Other important events in American history connected to racial equality
- Watch a Juneteenth speech. Write your own speech about what Freedom day means to you and share with family and friends.
- Contact a place in your community that is advocating for freedom and equality. Ask how you can support their mission.
 - [American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- Set some time aside during the day, whether at a mealtime or gathering of friends, to acknowledge Juneteenth and its history. Reflect on the struggles of Black Americans and make a pledge to use your own position of power to continue to make changes towards a diverse, equitable, and inclusive society.

Resources

- <https://kidskonnnect.com/history/juneteenth>
- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

Virtual Events

- [Juneteenth Music Festival](#)
- [Juneteenth Virtual 5k](#)
- [City of Cincinnati Juneteenth Virtual Festival](#)
- [Juneteenth Jubilee Stroll on the Historic Avenue of Fashion](#)