

# JUNETEENTH

Freedom Day

June 19

## What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. This 155 year celebration is also known as Freedom Day, Emancipation Day and Independence Day.

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

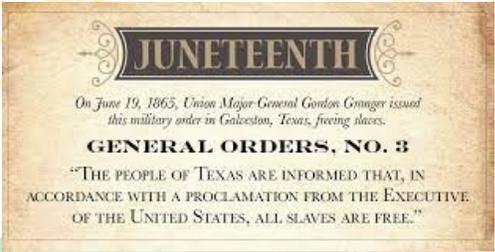
Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.



## DID YOU KNOW?

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation September 22, 1862, and it took effect January 1, 1863, freeing slaves in all states that had seceded and joined the Confederacy. But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control.

As a result, enslaved people in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, would not be free until two years later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced the "General Order, No. 3," which was an executive decree that stated the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth" (combination of the words "June" and "nineteenth"), by the newly freed people in Texas.



## Emancipation Proclamation Quiz

<https://www.archivesfoundation.org/emancipation-proclamation-quiz/>

## Why Does Juneteenth Have a Flag?



The Juneteenth flag is a symbolic representation of the end of slavery in the United States. Designed by activist Ben Haith, founder of the [National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation](#) (NJCF) in 1997.

### Here's what each element of the flag represents:

#### The Star

The star at the center of the flag has a dual meaning. Firstly, it represents Texas, "the Lone Star State," where the last remaining enslaved people learned that they were free. The star also acts as a metaphor for all African Americans, in each of the 50 states.

#### The Date

The "June 19, 1865" date was added in 2006 to commemorate the exact day enslaved people in Galveston learned about the Emancipation Proclamation.

#### The Nova

A cloud burst or nova encircles the star. This represents a new beginning for the African Americans of Galveston and throughout the United States.

#### The Arc

The arc that divides the flag laterally is another symbol of hope. The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon and reveals the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for black Americans.

#### The colors

The red, white, and blue color scheme is the same as the American flag. This serves as a reminder that enslaved people and their descendants were and are Americans.

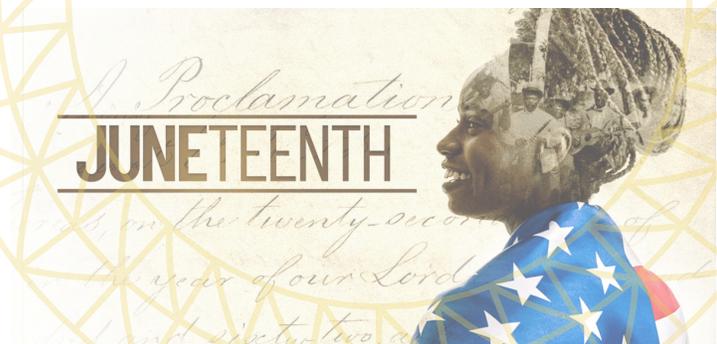
## Mr. Juneteenth



Al Edwards, a civil rights activist, former Houston legislator also known as "Mr. Juneteenth" helped Texas become the first state in the country to make the abolition of slavery an official holiday. It was more than 100 years before any state formally honored the day's importance. In 1980, Texas became the first state to officially make Juneteenth a holiday. Since then, at least 45 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation recognizing it as a holiday or observance.



<https://youtu.be/GNEPwww56DY>



# WANT TO LEARN MORE



Kelly E. Navies, Oral Historian for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, talks about the history and significance of Juneteenth. She also shares her family's tradition of celebrating of the holiday.

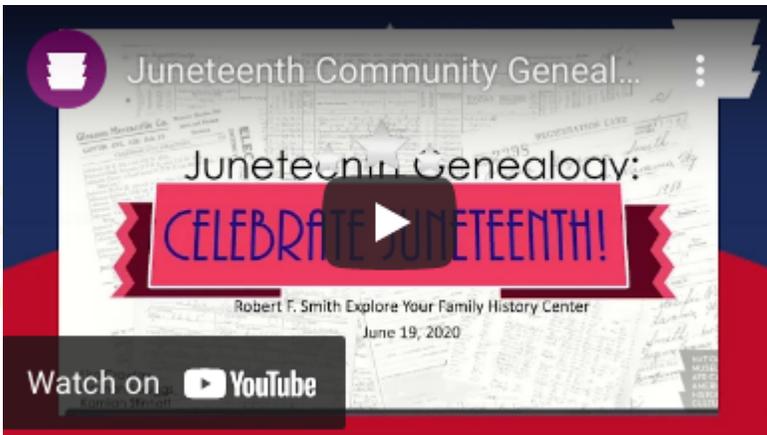
<https://youtu.be/A4oBqL68fRg>



## Slavery's history in America: Routes show how slave trade grew

A twist of fate brought the first recorded enslaved Africans to Virginia in 1619. We trace the origins <https://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/1619-african-slavery-history-maps-routes-interactive-graphic/>

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"Juneteenth Community Genealogy: Finding Enslaved Ancestors"

Presented by the Robert F. Smith Explore Your Family History Center

<https://youtu.be/OW0mvVI67CE>



Learn more about African-American history and culture, at websites such as [Juneteenth.com](http://Juneteenth.com) and [NationalJuneteenth.com](http://NationalJuneteenth.com). There's a curated list of scholarly articles on Juneteenth at [Daily.JSTOR.org](http://Daily.JSTOR.org).

# Join the Celebration



**This year's Juneteenth celebration, scheduled from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, will be an in-person affair focused around maintaining healthy communities in the aftermath of a worldwide pandemic.**



<https://g.co/kgs/ACvFgt>



**2021 Old Sacramento Waterfront Juneteenth Freedom Celebration**  
<https://g.co/kgs/y4yvkT>

## Art Exhibit and Juneteenth Celebration



<https://g.co/kgs/hR6oHT>



Take our Capitol Corridor Train to 2021 Juneteenth Celebrations  
<https://g.co/kgs/NSqjKR>



**2021 CA State Capitol Juneteenth, From Slavery To Freedom Celebration**  
<https://g.co/kgs/N7pBzz>

**Searching for more events, click the link below**

[https://www.google.com/search?q=juneteenth+2021+events&ibp=htl;events&rciv=evn&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEWiP7basuZvxAhUK6J4KHws\\_B44Q8eoFKAJ6BAGFEA8#htvrt=events&htidocid=L2F1dGhvcml0eS9ob3Jpem9uL2NsdXN0ZXJlZl9ldmVudC8yMDIxLT A2LTA0fDU4MDE1MTEzMDEzNjg3NjQ5NjM%3D&fpstate=tldetail](https://www.google.com/search?q=juneteenth+2021+events&ibp=htl;events&rciv=evn&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEWiP7basuZvxAhUK6J4KHws_B44Q8eoFKAJ6BAGFEA8#htvrt=events&htidocid=L2F1dGhvcml0eS9ob3Jpem9uL2NsdXN0ZXJlZl9ldmVudC8yMDIxLT A2LTA0fDU4MDE1MTEzMDEzNjg3NjQ5NjM%3D&fpstate=tldetail)