



Juneteenth

FREEDOM DAY - JUNE 19

Learn more about the Juneteenth holiday, and celebrate with these activities at local library locations!

Visit metrolibrary.org/juneteenth for information on more library activities and resources.

June 19, 1865




What is Juneteenth?

June 19th. It's an important day to know. It is the day that celebrates the freedom of the last enslaved African Americans in the United States. They were freed on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas. This was over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, but African Americans in Texas had not yet heard the news that they were free. One reason was because the information was withheld by those who benefited from enslaved people. Plus, there were no telephones or computers, so information and news passed across the country slowly.

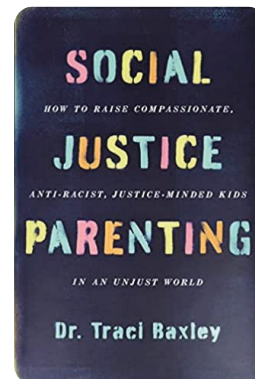
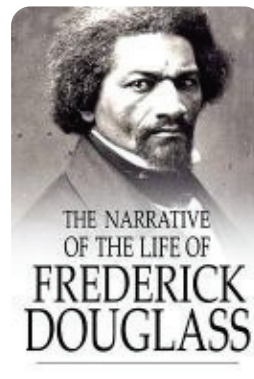
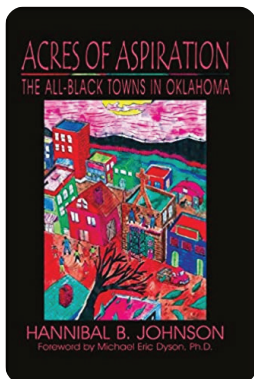
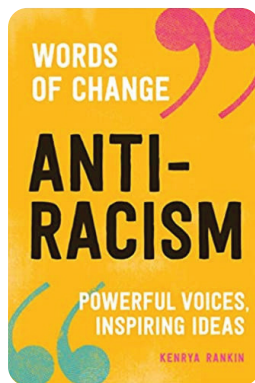
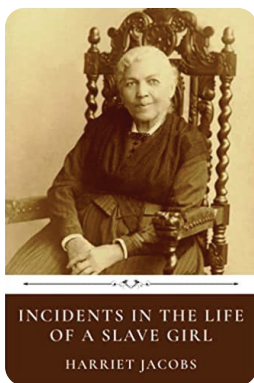
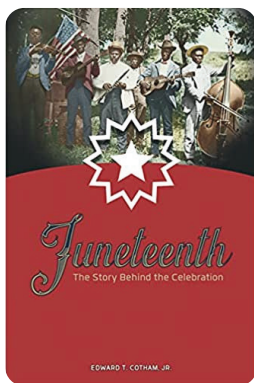
General's Announcement

General George Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 18, 1865. The following day he issued General Order No. 3 in which he announced that the slaves in Texas were now free.

'The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property; between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.'

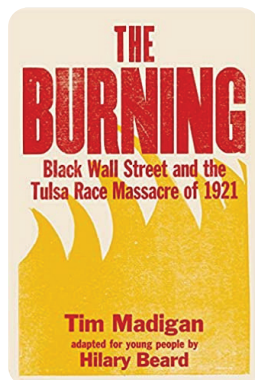
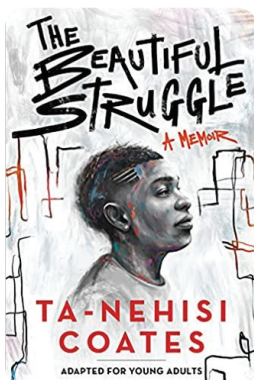
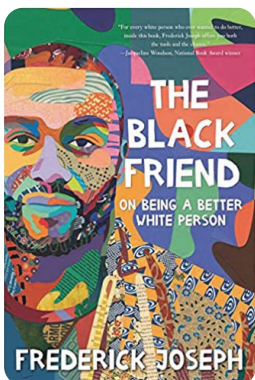
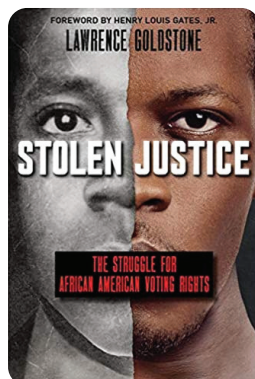
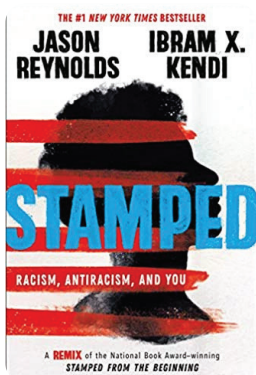


Resources for Adults



- *Juneteenth : the story behind the celebration* by Edward Cotham
- *Incidents in the life of a slave girl : written by herself* by Harriet Jacobs
- *Anti-racism : powerful voices, inspiring ideas* by Kenrya Rankin
- *Acres of aspiration: the all-Black towns in Oklahoma* by Hannibal B. Johnson
- *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass and other works* by Frederick Douglass
- *Social justice parenting : how to raise compassionate, anti-racist, justice-minded kids in an unjust world* by Traci Baxley

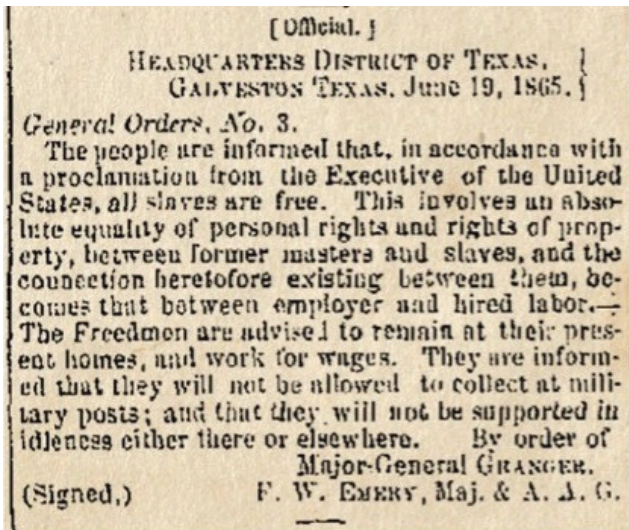
Resources for Teens



Naming of the Day

African Americans have celebrated the freedom granted by the Emancipation Proclamation since it went into effect on January 1, 1863. It has been known by many names:

- Manumission Day was an early name for the day using the word "manumission" which means liberation from slavery.
- Emancipation Day was celebrated on January 1st in the Carolinas.
- The celebration has been called Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day.
- The word Juneteenth combines June and nineteenth and it has become the official name and day to celebrate the holiday as many states, and now the federal government, have made it an official holiday.



General Granger's announcement was printed in the Galveston Tri-Weekly News on June 20, 1865. In June 2020, the original handwritten record was found at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Juneteenth Flag



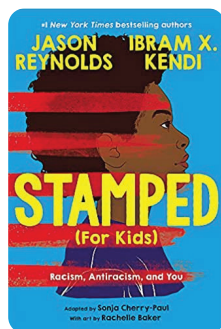
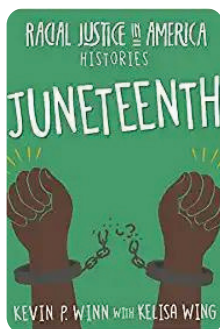
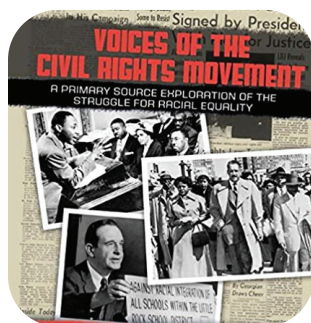
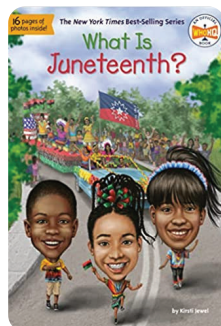
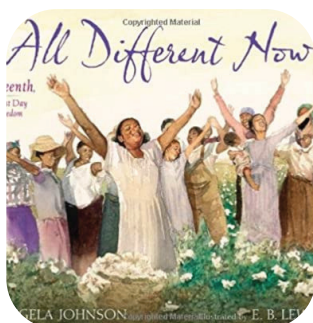
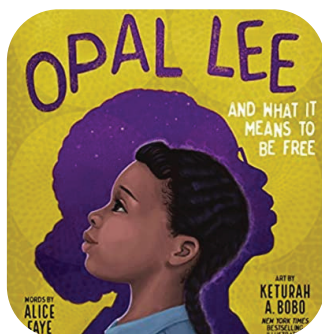
The colors of the Juneteenth flag - red, white, and blue - are symbolic of the American flag. It serves as a reminder that all enslaved Black people, and every one of their descendants, were and are Americans.

History of the Flag

The Juneteenth flag was created in 1977 by activist Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF), along with contributors Verlene Hines, Azim, and Eliot Des. In 2000, artist Lisa Jeanne Graf modified the flag to its present, modern-day design.

The NJCF described the flag thusly, "The Juneteenth flags represent the history, and freedom for American enslaved people and their descendants. The design of the Juneteenth flag depicts a bursting "new star", on the horizon. The star represents A NEW FREEDOM, A NEW PEOPLE, A NEW STAR."

Resources for Children



Sallie Tate's Emancipation

In the time of slavery, it is important to remember that a slave had no personal belongings. Everything belonged to their owner. Everything was issued to them, even clothing, and it was often made by the slaves. The clothing was quite simple. Few records remain, but those of a plantation owner in Mississippi show that slaves were given a set number of yards of cloth, usually between eight and thirteen yards, to make their clothing for the year. That cloth was rough and course and cheap and often called "Negro cloth". That helps explain the significance of the dress pictured. This dress belonged to a former slave named Sallie Tate. She was brought to Texas in 1853 by her owners. After word of the Emancipation Proclamation came to Texas, Sallie continued to live with her former owners, but as a paid servant. One of the first purchases she made with her wages was 10 yards of manufactured white cloth of better quality. From it she made this dress herself. It was fitted with decorative tucks, and had nice buttons and a full skirt, unlike what she would have had during slavery. This was one of her prized possessions that she kept until her death over thirty years later. The widow of her former owner, who she continued to work for as a domestic servant, donated this dress and her other possessions to a museum in San Antonio, Texas after Sallie Tate's death.



Source: <https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/sallie-tates-emancipation-dress/>



The Star

The white star in the center of the flag is doubly significant to the Juneteenth story. First, it represents Texas, the Lone Star state, where Union soldiers informed the United States' last remaining enslaved people in Galveston that they had been freed under the Emancipation Proclamation issued two years earlier! It also represents the freedom of African Americans across all 50 states!

The Burst


The bursting outline around the star is inspired by a nova. A nova is an astronomical event characterized by the appearance of a bright "new" star, so it was a perfect symbol to represent a new beginning for African Americans in the United States.

The Arc

With their newly earned freedom, African Americans hoped for new opportunities and a promising future. The curve that extends across the width of the flag is an expression of that hope: a new horizon.

The Date

In 2007, the date of Juneteenth, June 19, 1865, was added to the flag.



How is Juneteenth Celebrated?

Juneteenth celebrations have included a range of activities throughout their history. They continue to develop as time progresses. In the beginning, many of the celebrations, which started in Texas, had a spiritual aspect. Some took place at churches, and also included food and song. One thing is clear, they were mainly occasions to celebrate how African Americans have continued to fight against constant injustice and unfairness in the United States. Today, people celebrate the holiday in different ways. Families and friends gather for prayers and celebration. Poems are written and recited.

Speeches, music, and dancing take place. Many people celebrate with food, often barbecue. Aspects of teaching are also incorporated into celebrations. People read the Emancipation Proclamation and General Granger's announcement of freedom for all enslaved people in Texas. Modern celebrations may include parades, baseball and basketball games, storytelling, and music.

Text borrowed from the book "Juneteenth" 21st Century Skills Library: Racial Justice in America: Histories by Kevin P. Winn and Kelisa Wing.



Juneteenth parade in Oklahoma City, June 15, 1974. Oklahoma Historical Society.

https://gateway.okhistory.org/search?q=juneteenth&t=fulltext&fq=dc_type%3Aimage_photo%2A&display=grid Accessed 5/12/22

An International Holiday

Juneteenth is also celebrated in the state of Coahuila, Mexico by the Mascogos, descendants of the Black Seminoles who trace back to Florida when it was owned by Spain. The Seminole people developed over time as a mix of people from the other tribes in the area. Free blacks, runaway slaves, and their descendants settled into small communities in the same area as the Seminole. When the Seminole people were removed from Florida to Oklahoma, the Black Seminole were as well. Once in Oklahoma, the Black Seminoles were not always seen as free and were subject to enforced slavery from other tribes in the territory. The other tribes and the U.S. military gradually took away the freedoms that the Black Seminole had, primarily the right to bear arms and protect themselves. In 1849, a group of Black Seminoles staged an escape from Indian Territory. They arrived in Mexico, where slavery had been abolished, in July of 1850. For years, the Black Seminole had to guard against slave raiders who would attempt to return them to the United States and enslave them. After the Civil War and Emancipation, some of the Mascogos stayed in Mexico and celebrate what they call el Dia de los Negros, the Day of the Blacks on June 19. Many people who grew up there return yearly for this Juneteenth celebration.

Marker at the turn off to the town of Nacimiento in Coahuila, Mexico.

Sources <https://www.te.asmonthl.com/ein-te-an/meican-illa-e-juneteenth-celebration/> <https://www.te.asmonthl.com/arts-entertainment/annette-ordon-reed-on-juneteenth-review/> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Seminoles Accessed 5/18/2022





The Pan-African Flag



The Pan-African flag was created in 1920 with the support of Marcus Garvey, founder of the UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association), in response to a racially derogatory song and the realization that "every race has a flag but the

Black". Garvey continued, "show me the race or the nation without a flag, and I will show you a race of people without any pride."

The flag later became an African nationalist symbol for the worldwide liberation of people of African origin. As an emblem of Black pride, the flag became popular during the Black Liberation movement of the 1960s.

Today, variations of the flag are used in various countries and territories in Africa and the Americas to represent Pan-Africanist ideology.

The Symbolism

Red: The blood that unites all people of black African ancestry and shed for liberation.

Black: Black people whose existence as a nation, though not a nation-state, is affirmed by the flag.

Green: The abundant natural wealth of Africa

"Behind the Pan-African UNIA Flag," ICAEW, accessed March 31, 2022, <https://www.icaew.com/insights/diversity-and-inclusion/black-history-month/history-of-the-bhm-flag>.



*Juneteenth celebration in Austin,
Texas on June 19, 1900.*



<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy/juneteenth> Accessed 5/12/22.



Emancipation Park



Rev. Jack Yates and a group at Emancipation Park

<https://forwardtimes.com/emancipation-park-upgraded-jewel-houstons-third-ward/> Accessed 5/12/22

Celebrating Juneteenth has not always been easy or safe. Newly freed African Americans faced racism and resistance from others in their communities. In the years of Reconstruction after the Civil War, the Klu Klux Klan and other hate groups formed and inflicted terror on African Americans across the country, especially in the south. These groups did not want to see Juneteenth and emancipation celebrated. In response, members of the African American community banded together and were able to purchase land just for the purpose of celebrating Juneteenth. In Houston, four men gathered \$800 and purchased 10 acres of land to be used to celebrate Juneteenth. Jack Yates was a freedman and Baptist pastor; the others were members of his church and another in the African American community. This land has since become Emancipation Park and is known as the oldest park in the city of Houston and the state of Texas. During the time of Jim Crow, it was the only park that African Americans could use. There are other similar parks in towns across Texas.



Emancipation Park—Present Day



<https://www.houstoniamag.com/travel-and-outdoors/2020/06/emancipation-park-guided-audio-tour-2020>
Accessed 5/18/22

Celebrating Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a holiday traditionally celebrated with large meals with family and friends. This meal is often held outdoors with the main dish being some type of barbecue meats, cooked as a community effort commemorating the community built by African Americans to help one another through hardship. Meats can range from beef, to pork, to catfish, to lobster depending on what is easily available in the local area. Side dishes such as black-eyed peas and pork, or collard greens, both which are considered to bring good fortune, are common as are potato salad, yams, and cornbread. Additionally, red foods (red soda, watermelon, red velvet cake) are staples as the color red evokes the cultural memory of the bloodshed that occurred during the African diaspora.



Route 66

About three miles east of Luther, Oklahoma, the Threatt Filling Station was the only African American-owned filling station on Route 66. Situated between two sundown towns (all -white municipalities that excluded non-whites through discriminatory laws, intimidation, and/or violence), the Threatt Filling Station was a safe haven where African American travelers could refuel and shop or stop and rest for the night. In the 1970s, the station closed, but in 1995 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If you're interested in learning more about the Threatt Filling Station, you can listen to Metro Library Podcast's episode, "Black History Month: The Story of the Threatt Filling Station" at <https://tinyurl.com/metrotfs>.

Red to Celebrate

Red appears often in the foods traditionally enjoyed on Juneteenth. The why behind that fact seems to be a mixture of reasons. In oral tradition, adults would tell children red represented the blood shed during the years of slavery. Some historians trace it back to Africa where red drinks were used on special celebrations. Other historians point to many of the last people brought to Texas and enslaved in the 1800s. Most were from two people groups, the Kongo and the Yoruba, and for these cultures, red is a color that symbolizes spiritual power.

Oral tradition also includes a story of an African being lured to slavery by a red cloth. All these ideas and bits of history work together to explain the prominence of red in the foods, such as red velvet cake, barbecue, red punch, and watermelon, enjoyed at many Juneteenth celebrations.

Sources: <https://www.sheknows.com/food-and-recipes/articles/2275530/juneteenth-recipes/>
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/what-is-juneteenth> <https://afroculinaria.com/2011/02/04/terror-noire-african-american-foodways-in-slavery-texas/>

The Safe Havens and No-Go Zones for 20th-Century Black American Travelers



<https://lithub.com/the-safe-havens-and-no-go-zones-for-20th-century-black-american-travelers/> Accessed 5/12/22.

Recipe: Strawberry Watermelon Aqua Fresca

Red Drinks call to mind traditional West African drinks made from ruby red hibiscus flowers and red kola nut.

1 pint strawberries, hulled
1 lime, juiced
2 cups cold water
Sweetener of choice, optional

Instructions

1. Blend the strawberries, watermelon, water and lime juice until very smooth. Taste. If necessary, add a pinch of salt and a teaspoon or so of sugar, agave, or the stevia equivalent.
2. Strain through a fine mesh strainer into a pitcher. Pour into glasses, garnish with fruit if desired, and serve immediately.



From Unpeeled Journal, accessed 03/29/2023, <https://unpeeledjournal.com/juneteenth-food-ideas-recipes/>

Recipe: Baby Kale Salad with Buttermilk Dressing

In African American households, kale has traditionally been cooked long and low, with a piece of seasoning meat. Today, it is just as likely to turn up in a great-tasting salad like this one.

Croutons

1 cup cubed corn bread, in ½-inch cubes

A bowl of salad with a spoon

Description automatically generated with low confidenceButtermilk

Dressing

¾ cup buttermilk, preferably full fat

2 tablespoons mayonnaise

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 scallion, white& light green parts, thinly sliced

¼ cup snipped fresh chives

1 small garlic clove, chopped into a paste

½ teaspoon kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Salad

1 cup toasted corn kernels

1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil

1 pound baby kale

½ cup cooked black-eyed peas, preferably from fresh or frozen, not canned

1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes, halved





Instructions

To Make The Croutons:

Preheat the oven to 275°F. Spread the cornbread on a baking sheet and bake for about 20 minutes, until golden and crisp. Let fully cool.


To Make the Dressing:

Combine all the dressing ingredients into a bowl and whisk until well blended. Refrigerate until ready to use.

To Make the Salad:

Heat a medium cast-iron skillet over high heat. Add the olive oil and corn and cook, stirring, until the kernels are fragrant and begin to char, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a plate to cool. Combine the kale, cooled corn, black-eyed peas, and tomatoes in a large bowl. Add enough of the dressing to lightly coat the kale and other vegetables and toss to coat evenly. Transfer to a serving bowl, garnish with the croutons, and serve.

From the Sweet Home Café Cookbook: A Celebration of African American Cooking, in association with the National Museum of African American History and Culture, 2018, page 25





New Year's Eve Watch Party

This painting by William Tolman Carlton, called *Waiting for the Hour*, captures the moments before the Emancipation Proclamation took effect at midnight on Thursday, January 1, 1863. A group of slaves surround a crate with an older man at the center holding a large pocket watch as the group counts down the remaining time until New Year's Day. The original painting was a gift to President Abraham Lincoln in July 1864 and left the White House with First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln after his assassination. Its whereabouts are now unknown.

<https://www.whitehousehistory.org/photos/waiting-for-the-hour> Accessed 4/4/2023



My Country 'Tis of Thee

Although many states and our federal government now celebrate the end of slavery on June 19th (Juneteenth), South Carolinians and Georgians have held Emancipation Day programs on January 1st for more than 150 years. Not only is this New Year's Day, but it is also the day in 1863 when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and three million enslaved African Americans in the Confederate States were declared "then, henceforward, and forever free." The very first celebration occurred in Port Royal, Virginia. It began with prayers, recited poetry, hymns, and speeches. Several thousand slaves had traveled significant distances and were gathered, waiting for the moment they had so long dreamed of. After the Proclamation was read

aloud and “enthusiastically cheered,” Col. T.W. Higginson waved a silk regimental flag upon which was embroidered “the Year of the Jubilee has come.” Several voices softly began to sing “My country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,” then more and more joined as the beautiful song spread among the newly freed. Col. Higginson is reported as saying he could give no answer [to the reading of the Proclamation] “so appropriate and touching as had just been made. In all the singing he had heard from the slaves, that song he had never heard before- they never could have truly sung ‘My Country’ until that day.”

Informed by <https://www.scseagrant.org/emancipation-day-the-freed-people-of-port-royal/>;

[https://www.scencyclopedia.org/sce/entries/emancipation-day-celebrations/#:~:text=The%20tradition%20of%20marking%20the,Since%20then%2C%20African%20Americans%20in](https://www.scencyclopedia.org/sce/entries/emancipation-day-celebrations/#:~:text=The%20tradition%20of%20marking%20the,Since%20then%2C%20African%20Americans%20in;); <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation> Last accessed 4/4/2023



Find information on Metro Library's Juneteenth programs and more by scanning the QR Code or visiting metrolibrary.org/Juneteenth





Juneteenth

FREEDOM DAY - JUNE 19

EMANCIPATION
FREEDOM
MILLIONS!
THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

PROGRAMS AND TAKE-HOME KITS

Juneteenth Creative Writing Chapbook

June 1 - 30, All Day — *All Ages / Warr Acres*

Juneteenth Windsocks

June 1 - 18, All Day — *Teens, Adults / Almonte*

Thirteen All-Black Towns of Oklahoma Exhibit

June 1 - 30, All Day — *All Ages, Adults - Northwest*

What's The Tea?

June 4, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

All Ages, Kids, Teens, Adults / Capitol Hill

Juneteenth Community Art Project

June 5, 3:00pm - 4:00pm — *All Ages, Kids / Edmond*

Celebrate Juneteenth! Activity Take-Home Kit

June 6 - 18, All Day — *All Ages, Kids / Del City*

Juneteenth Southern Tea Cakes Take-Home Kit*

June 6 - 18, Noon - 6:00pm — *Adults / Del City*

Juneteenth: Discovering Historical Oklahoman

African American Voices*

June 10, 1:00pm - 2:00pm — *Adults / Downtown*

What's The Tea?

June 10, 10:00am

All Ages, Kids, Teens, Adults / Northwest

Juneteenth Take Home Kit

June 11 - 17, All Day

All Ages / Capitol Hill

Juneteenth Flag Take And Make For Ages 5+

June 12 - June 18, All Day

Kids, Teens, Adults / Edmond

Miss Juneteenth Film Screening

June 12 - 6:30pm — *Teens, Adults / Ralph Ellison*

Family Fun: Emancipation Day (Juneteenth) Windsock And Fans*

June 13 - 17 — *Kids, Teens, Adults / Wright*

Juneteenth Southern Tea Cakes Take-Home Kit*

June 13 - 18, All Day — *Adults / The Village*

Juneteenth Holiday Craft Take Home Kit

June 14 - 30, All Day / *Kids, Teens, Adults*

Choctaw, Harrah, Jones, Luther, Nicoma Park

What's The Tea?

June 14, 6:30 - 7:30pm

All Ages, Kids, Teens, Adults / Ralph Ellison

Discover Juneteenth! Craft Program

June 16, 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Kids, Teens, Adults / Choctaw

Chalk The Block With Kindness

June 17 - 18, All Day — *All Ages, Adults / Northwest*

Juneteenth Community Celebration

June 17, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

All Ages, Kids / Southern Oaks

The Poetry Of Juneteenth: A Celebration Of Black Poets In Oklahoma

June 18, 2:00pm - 4:00pm — *Teens, Adults / Bethany*

Juneteenth Blues Poetry Creative Writing Workshop*

June 18, 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Teens, Adults / Warr Acres

NW Chat & Sip Society Book Club - *River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer

June 26, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Adults / Northwest

*Registration required

Find information on these programs and more
by scanning the QR Code:

