



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.

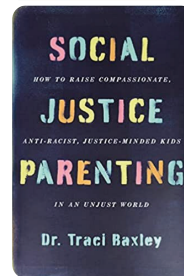
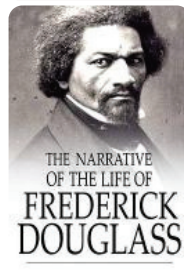
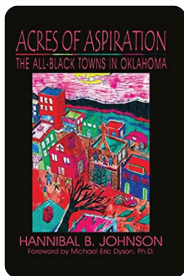
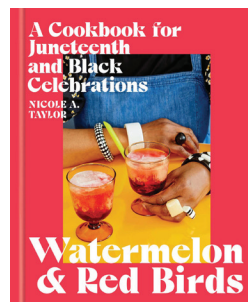
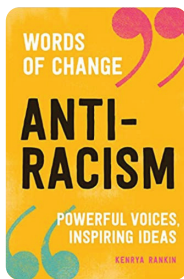
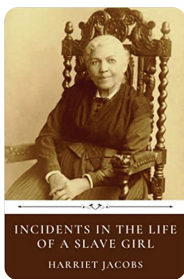
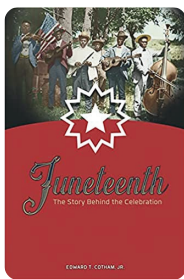
General's Announcement

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.'

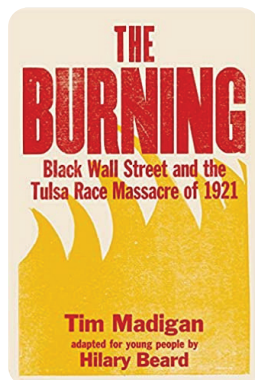
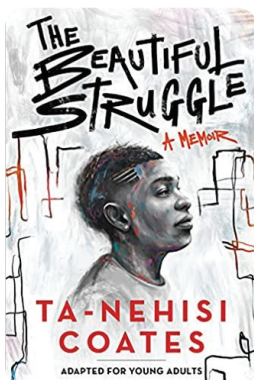
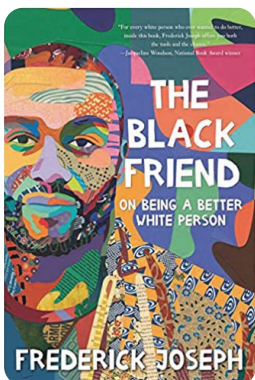
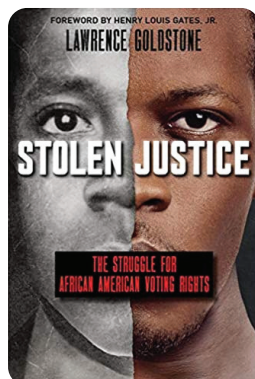
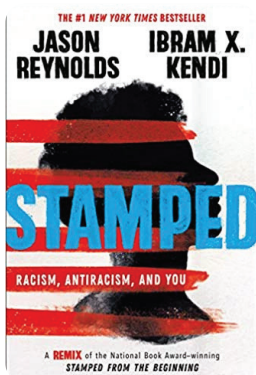


Resources for Adults



- *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
- *Watermelon & Red Birds : a Cookbook for Juneteenth and Black Celebrations* by Nicole A. Taylor

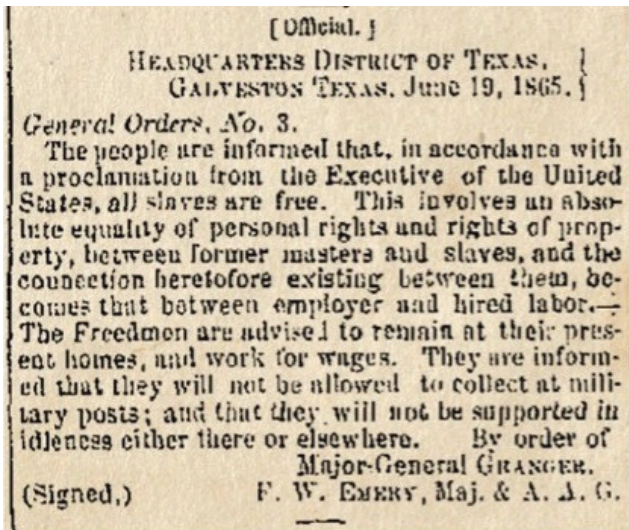
Resources for Teens



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



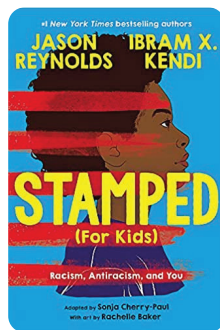
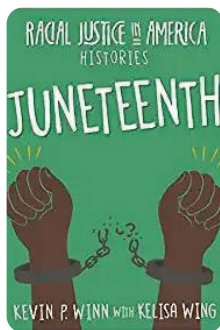
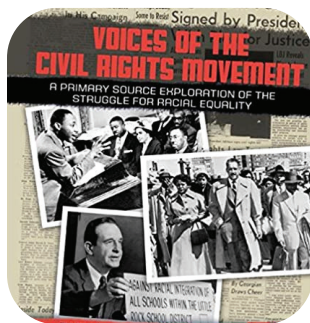
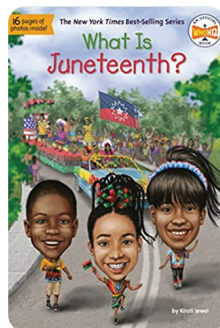
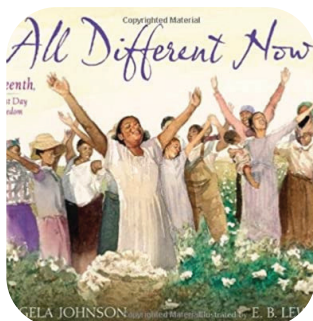
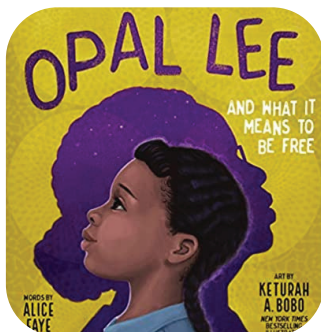
The colors of the Juneteenth flag - red, white, and blue - are symbolic of the American flag. It serves as a reminder that all enslaved Black people, and every one of their descendants, were and are Americans.

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.

Homemade Strawberry Soda

Bubbly, sweet & fresh strawberry soda made with simple ingredients!
Loaded with authentic strawberry flavor and natural color.

Ingredients

- 1 pound strawberries rinsed, hilled and diced
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar (may use less if desired)
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 2-3 teaspoons lemon juice
- Club soda, chilled

Instructions

1. Place the strawberries, water, and sugar in a large saucepan. Stir.
2. Bring to a simmer over medium heat.
3. When strawberries are soft, mash them with a potato masher.
4. Let strawberries continue to simmer gently until the juices begin to reduce, thicken and become syrupy. (Reduce heat if needed.)
5. Strain mixture through a mesh strainer, using a rubber spatula to press out the excess syrup. Discard the pulp. (You should have about 1 1/4 cups of syrup.)
6. Let syrup mixture cool and then place in the refrigerator until chilled.
7. To make a glass of soda, pour 8 oz of cold club soda into a cup. Stir in the chilled strawberry syrup by the tablespoon, to your taste.



Notes

Place leftover syrup in a jar and store in the refrigerator.
This recipe makes about 1 1/4 cups of strawberry soda syrup.
Serving size depends on how many tablespoons of syrup you use

Used with permission from www.divascancook.com.

Southern Baked Macaroni and Cheese

This southern baked macaroni and cheese is full of soul and flavor. Smoked cheddar is the secret to this truly addictive, baked macaroni and cheese!

Ingredients

- 3 cups elbow macaroni, uncooked
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup Colby & Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- 6-8 oz Velveeta, shredded
- 1 cup sharp cheddar, shredded
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup smoked cheddar, shredded (a must!)
- paprika (optional)



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cook macaroni until just al dente or a little under al dente. Be careful not to overcook.
3. Drain pasta and set aside.
4. In a large bowl, add milk, heavy cream, Colby & Monterey Jack, Velveeta, & sharp cheddar cheese.
5. Stir to combine.
6. Taste the milk mixture and add salt & pepper to taste. (Use other seasonings like onion powder, paprika, etc to avoid a bland baked macaroni & cheese.)
7. When you are content with the taste, add the eggs.
8. Stir until well combined.
9. Butter a 9x9 inch baking dish.
10. Add macaroni to the baking dish.
11. Pour cheese mixture over the macaroni.
12. Make sure the cheese is distributed well. Stir gently as needed.
13. Top with smoked cheddar cheese. Sprinkle with paprika and/or black pepper if desired.
14. Bake for 35-45 minutes. Do not overbake. It may be a bit jiggly when you take it out of the oven, but will firm up as it cools a bit.
15. Let cool for about 10-15 minutes or until fully set. Enjoy!

Used with permission from www.divascancook.com.



Peach & Molasses Sauce

(Makes one cup)

This sauce is so amazing on chicken thighs and chicken breasts. It's special enough for your Juneteenth celebration, but it's so delicious, it's on my weekly rotation. Almost any fruit jam works, too, if peach isn't your thing.

Instructions

1. In a small saucepan, combine the peach jam, water, molasses, and vinegar and bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally to combine.
2. Once boiling, reduce the heat to medium-low and whisk in the tomato paste, soy sauce, coriander, ground mustard, and salt.
3. Simmer for 6 to 8 minutes, until thickened; the sauce should be reduced to about 1 cup.
4. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days.

Ingredients

- 1 cup peach jam
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup unsulfured molasses
- 2 tblsp apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 2 tblsp soy sauce
- 2 tblsp coriander seeds, crushed
- 2 tblsp ground mustard
- 1 tsp salt

Taylor, Nicole A. Watermelon & Red Birds: A Cookbook for Juneteenth and Black Celebrations. Simon & Schuster, 2022.

Fresh Strawberry Cobbler

This sauce is so amazing on chicken thighs and chicken breasts. It's special enough for your Juneteenth celebration, but it's so delicious, it's on my weekly rotation. Almost any fruit jam works, too, if peach isn't your thing.

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 1.8 liter casserole dish and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, add strawberries and sugar, tossing until syrupy. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar.
4. Add in milk, vanilla extract, and melted butter.
5. Stir gently just until combined. (A few lumps are preferred, so don't over stir, or your crust will be dense instead of fluffy.)
6. Pour batter evenly into prepared dish.
7. Using a slotted spoon, spoon strawberries evenly on top of the batter, leaving extra syrup in the bowl. Do NOT stir.
8. Bake for 35-40 minutes on the middle rack or until golden brown. (May need to adjust time if using a different size dish.)
9. Remove from oven and let cobbler rest for a few minutes.

Ingredients

Strawberry Mixture

- 3 cups fresh ripe strawberries hulled and diced
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup granulated sugar

Cobbler Crust

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup whole milk warm

Used with permission from www.divascancook.com.



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

Join Metropolitan Library System in celebrating the Juneteenth holiday with these activities at local library locations! Visit metrolibrary.org/Juneteenth for info on more library activities and resources.

**All Metro Library locations are closed
June 19 in celebration of Juneteenth.**

Juneteenth Display: Culture Recorded

June 1 - 18, All Day — *All Ages | Almonte Library*

Juneteenth Celebration Craft!

June 1 - 18, All Day — *All Ages | Capitol Hill Library*

Juneteenth Creative Writing Chapbook

June 1 - 30, All Day — *Teens, Adults
Warr Acres Library*

Take-Home Tuesday: Juneteenth Watermelon Ginger Beer*

June 4 from Noon - 9 p.m. — *Adults | Del City Library*

Juneteenth Gardening*

June 6 at 6 p.m. — *Adults | Almonte Library*
June 12 at 6 p.m. — *Adults | Midwest City Library*
June 15 at 10 a.m. — *Adults | Northwest Library*

Take-Home Kit: Juneteenth

June 10 - 17, All Day — *Kids, Teens, Adults
Ralph Ellison Library*

Juneteenth Freedom Day Windsock Take-Home Kit

June 10 - 30, All Day — *Kids | Warr Acres Library*

Juneteenth Family Story Time

June 10 at 6 p.m. — *Birth-PreK, Kids
Ralph Ellison Library*

Juneteenth Window Suncatcher Kit*

June 11 - 18, All Day — *Kids / Downtown Library*

Emancipation Day (Juneteenth) Family Fun Take-Home Kit: Pinwheels And Bunting*

June 11 - 15, All Day — *Kids, Teens, Adults / Wright Library*

Celebrate Juneteenth! Activity Booklet Take-Home Kit

June 11, Noon - 9 p.m. — *All Ages | Del City Library*

Mindful Skills for Relaxation Special Event - Juneteenth Jewelry*

June 11, 6:30 p.m. — *Teens, Adults | Warr Acres Library*

Juneteenth Movie Night

June 13, 6 p.m. — *Teens, Adults | Southern Oaks*

History Of Juneteenth With Phillip Tolbert*

June 15 at 1 p.m. — *Adults | Southern Oaks Library*

Celebrate Juneteenth*

June 15 at 2 p.m. — *All Ages | Southern Oaks Library*

Juneteenth On The East

June 15 from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. — *All Ages
Ralph Ellison Library*

Juneteenth Candle Pouring Party*

June 16 at 4 p.m. — *Teens, Adults | Warr Acres Library*

Movie Screening "Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom" in conjunction with The Urban Poets

June 24 at 6 p.m. — *Teens, Adults | Ralph Ellison Library*

BIPOC Book Club - "Kindred" by Octavia Butler*

June 26 at 6 p.m. — *Adults | Capitol Hill Library*

*Registration required



metrolibrary.org | (405) 231-8650

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

