2023 List of Holidays

CORE Members – Please start from April and select one holiday between April and December, specifically one that is not well known, or one that you personally don’t know a lot about. We will use the criteria that we approved in Feb to develop a 1-2 page document on a particular holiday. Thank you!

January

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| 1  New Year’s Day  Emancipation Proclamation: President Lincoln declared all individuals held in slavery free on this day in 1863 | 4  Louis Braille’s birthday: he was a French educator who created a reading and writing system known as “braille” for the visually impaired | 6  Feast of the Epiphany: this Christian feast day celebrates the star leading the three wise men to baby Jesus closing the Christmas season | 7  Orthodox Christmas | 14  Orthodox  New Year |
| 15  Makar Sankranti: Hindu festival dedicated to the god of the sun, Surya | 16  Martin Luther King Jr. Day:  celebrates one of the best-known civil rights activists, MLK Jr.  Civil Rights Day  16-20 Unity Week | 17  National Day of Racial Healing | 22  Lunar New Year: this festival marks the start of the new year in the lunar calendar used in East Asia, Southeast Asia and elsewhere | 27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust a United Nations holiday that remembers the approximately 6 million Jews murdered during World War II |

February: Black History Month

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| 1  National Freedom Day | 4  Rosa Parks Day | 5  Tu Bishvat/Tu B’shevat (Jewish)  (2/5-6) | 11  Tammy Baldwin’s Birthday: the birthday of the first openly LGBT woman elected to both houses of Congress | 12  Lincoln’s birthday | 14  Statehood Day  Valentine’s Day  Frederick Douglass’ birthday (observed): |
| 15  Nirvana Day: Buddha’s death after reaching nirvana  Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday | 18  Maha Shivarati (Muslim)  Isra and Mi’raj (Muslim) | 20  President’s Day | 22  Ash Wednesday (Christian) | 25  African and American Scientist and Inventor Day |  |

March: Women’s History Month

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| 2  National Read Across America Day | 6-7  Purim celebrates the saving of Jewish people from Haman (Jewish) | 8  International Women’s Day: Highlighting the political, social, cultural, and economic achievements of women  Holi is the festival of sharing and love, or festival of colors (Hindu), winter harvest and onset of spring | 10  Harriet Tubman’s birthday (observed): American abolitionist who is well-known for her key role in the Underground Railroad | 17  St. Patrick’s Day: feast day of a Catholic saint who inspires cultural and [religious celebrations](https://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2023/) around the world |
| 21  International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | 22  Ramadan - start of Islam’s sacred month, during this time Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dawn until dusk  (3/22-4/21) | 29  National Vietnam War Veterans Day |  |  |

April

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| 2  Palm Sunday  World Autism Awareness Day  JILLIAN  Ramadan  (3/22-4/21) | 5  Passover: Jewish festival that celebrates the freeing of Israeli slaves (4/5-13) | 7  Good Friday (Christian) | 9  Easter, the most important Christian holiday, which celebrates Jesus’ resurrection | 15  Orthodox Good Friday |
| 16  Orthodox Easter | 17  Patriots Day (NE holiday)  Laylat al-Qadr  “Night of power” in the Islamic faith, the holiest night of Ramandan.  Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) (4/17-18) | 22  Earth Day: applauds the planet we live on and all it does for us; is observed by more than 192 nations. | 25  Yom HaAtzmaut  (Day of independence)  (4/25-16) | 28  Arbor Day is marked by planting trees, caring for them to sustain & protect natural resources |

May: Mental Health Awareness Month / Older Americans Month/ Jewish American Heritage Month/ Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month/ Military Appreciation Month

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| 1  Loyalty Day, celebrate our shared American spirit and the sacrifices fellow citizens have made, the congress | 2  National Teacher Day | 4  National Day of Prayer | 5  Cinco de Mayo | 6  National Nurses Day |
| 14  Mother’s Day | 17  International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia: this event seeks to raise awareness for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. | 20  Armed Forces Day | 28  Pentecost (Christian)  Colchester Memorial Day Parade | 29  Memorial Day |

June: LGBT Pride Month / Caribbean American Heritage Month

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| 2  Indian Citizenship Act of 1924: This act granted Native Americans born in the U.S. citizenship. However, they were not given the right to vote until 1957 | 12  Loving Day: This day is the anniversary of the court decision that legalizes interracial marriage | 14  Flag Day | 18  Father’s Day | 19  Juneteenth |
| 26  The Hajj: This day begins the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims must take once in their lives  (6/26-7/1) | 27  Helen Keller’s Birthday: An individual who was both blind and deaf. She was a leading humanitarian in the 20th century as well as one of the co-founders of the ACLU |  |  |  |

July

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| 1  National Postal Worker Day  Battle of Gettysburg | 2  Civil Rights Act  Thurgood Marshall’s birthday | 4  Independence Day | 6  Dalai Lama’s birthday | 16  National Ice cream day |
| 18  Nelson Mandela’s birthday | 26  Americans with Disabilities Act: This law protects people with disabilities from being discriminated against | 30  Al-Hijri: the start of the Muslim New Year — beginning the prior evening |  |  |

August

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| 4  Barack Obama’s birthday, the first black President of the US | 9  International Day of the World’s Indigenous People: This day was created by the UN to celebrate the culture of indigenous people on a global scale | 15  Feast of the Assumption: This Roman Catholic feast day marks the entry of the mother Mary into Heaven (body and soul)  JEFF | 18  Lord Krishna’s Birthday: This day is the birthday of one of the most popular deities in the Hindu faith. Lord Krishna is also known as Janmashtami, and his birthday is celebrated with a festival | 26  Women’s Equality Day: This day marks the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the US.  SHAWN |

September: National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15) / National Recovery Month

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| 4  Labor Day | 6  Arbaeen Islam Holiday is the largest Muslim pilgrimage  NANCY | 10  Grandparents Day | 11  Patriot’s Day | 13  National Celiac Disease Awareness Day |
| 15  World Lymphoma Awareness Day  Hispanic Heritage Month starts  (9/15-10/15)  International Day of Democracy  Rosh Hashana Begins  (9/15-17)  National POW / MIA Recognition Day | 17  Constitution Day | 20  HeForShe: This movement was started by the UN with the goal of promoting gender equality | 21  International Day of Peace | 22  National Good Neighbor Day |
| 25  Eid-e-Zahra  Yom Kippur (holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism) | 26  National Voter Register Day |  |  |  |

October: Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15) / Global Diversity Awareness Month / National Disability Employment Awareness Month / LGBT History Month / Breast Cancer Awareness Month / National Polish American Heritage Month

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| 1  Hispanic Heritage Month starts  (9/15-10/15)  International Day of Older Persons | 2  Gandhi Jayanti (Hindu) | 6  World Cerebral Palsy Day | 10  World Mental Health Day  Indigenous People’s Day | 11  National Coming Out Day |
| 13  Colchester’s 325th birthday | 17  Spirit Day: This day is for the [LGBTQ](https://www.diversityresources.com/2019-diversity-calendar-archived/) youth and what their community can do to support them.  International Pronoun Day | 24  United Nations Day | 25  International Dwarfism Awareness Day | 31  Halloween |

November: National American Heritage Month / Movember

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| 1  All Saints’ Day | 2  All Souls Day | 7  Election Day | 11  Veterans Day | 12  Diwali |
| 13  World Kindness Day | 16  International Day of Tolerance  Dutch American Heritage | 20  Transgender Day of Remembrance | 23  Thanksgiving | 24  American Indian Heritage Day |
| 28  Giving Tuesday |  |  |  |  |

December

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| 1  World AIDS Day | 2  International Day for the Abolition of Slavery  National Mutt Day | 3  International Day of Persons with Disabilities: This United Nations holiday raises awareness for the rights of individuals with disabilities. | 5  International Volunteer Day | 7  Pearl Harbor Day  Hanukkah  (12/7/15) |
| 10  International Human Rights Day  International Animal Rights Day | 15  Bill of Rights Day | 16  Las Posadas: A religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of the U.S. during the Christmas season (12/16-24) | 17  National Wreath Across America Day | 20  International Human Solidarity Day |
| 25  Christmas | 26  Kwanzaa  (12/26-1/1/24) | 31  New Year’s Eve |  |  |