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# **SBLSD CULTURAL & RELIGIOUS CALENDAR**

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**OFFICE OF  
EQUITY  
2024-2025**

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# KNOW VALUE AND SUPPORT ALL STUDENTS



Recognizing cultural and religious observances holds immense importance for the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District as it plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of community, inclusivity, and respect for diverse backgrounds. By acknowledging and honoring the cultural and religious traditions of students, families, and staff members, the district creates an environment where everyone feels valued and understood. Recognizing these observances not only promotes cultural awareness and appreciation but also enhances the educational experience by encouraging cross-cultural understanding and dialogue. By actively engaging in cultural and religious recognition, the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District fosters a strong and supportive community that embraces diversity, celebrates differences, and cultivates an inclusive environment for all.

# OBSERVANCES

Religious observations, national holidays, and international holidays hold significant importance as they serve to celebrate and honor the diverse beliefs, values, and traditions that shape our world. Religious observations provide opportunities for individuals to practice their faith, connect with their spiritual communities, and find solace in their beliefs. These occasions foster a sense of belonging, offer moments of reflection and worship, and contribute to the preservation of cultural and religious heritage. National holidays mark significant events in a country's history, promoting unity, and a shared national identity. They provide opportunities for citizens to come together, reflect on shared values, and honor the accomplishments and struggles that have shaped their nation.



International holidays raise global awareness, promote solidarity, and emphasize the importance of global cooperation. These observances encourage cross-cultural understanding, respect for diversity, and the promotion of human rights on a global scale. By recognizing and celebrating religious observations, national holidays, and international holidays, societies foster inclusivity, strengthen social bonds, and promote a sense of shared humanity.

# CULTURE

Culture plays a significant role in schools and communities as it shapes the identity, values, and behaviors of individuals within a society. In schools, culture influences teaching methods, curriculum choices, and educational policies. Recognizing and embracing diverse cultures in educational settings promotes inclusivity, fosters mutual respect, and enhances the learning experience for all students. Cultural awareness helps create a supportive environment where students feel valued and understood, allowing them to thrive academically and socially. Celebrating cultural events, traditions, and practices strengthens community bonds and promotes intercultural understanding. By acknowledging the significance of culture, schools and communities can foster an enriching and inclusive environment that respects and appreciates the diverse backgrounds and experiences of its members.

# OUR *COMMITMENT* TO EQUITY





# DISCLAIMER

While the list provided includes several major religions, it is important to note that it may not encompass all the religions practiced worldwide. The diversity of human beliefs and spiritual practices is vast and constantly evolving. New religious movements, indigenous faiths, and regional traditions continue to emerge and gain recognition. As our understanding of global religious diversity deepens, it becomes clear that there are numerous belief systems that have yet to be fully explored and documented. The list of religions is ever-expanding, and in the future, we will continue to learn about and incorporate additional religions into our understanding of the world's spiritual landscape.

# RELIGIONS

## Buddhist

Buddhism is a spiritual tradition that originated in ancient India around the 6th century BCE. It emphasizes personal spiritual development, mindfulness, and the attainment of enlightenment. Buddhists seek to follow the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, also known as the Buddha.

## Catholic

Catholicism is one of the largest branches of Christianity and is led by the Pope in Rome. It traces its origins back to Jesus Christ and the Apostles. Catholicism emphasizes sacraments, the authority of the Church, and devotion to the Virgin Mary and saints. It has a hierarchical structure with bishops and priests.

## Eastern Orthodox

Eastern Orthodox Christianity is another major branch of Christianity, with its roots in the Eastern Roman Empire. It places a strong emphasis on liturgy, mysticism, and tradition. The Eastern Orthodox Church is headed by various patriarchs and follows a similar sacramental theology to Catholicism.

## Hindu

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world and originated in the Indian subcontinent. It encompasses a diverse set of beliefs and practices, but central themes include the concepts of dharma (moral and ethical duties), karma (the law of cause and effect), and moksha (liberation from the cycle of rebirth). Hinduism has numerous deities and a variety of rituals.

## Islam

Islam is a monotheistic religion founded in the 7th century CE by the Prophet Muhammad in the Arabian Peninsula. Muslims follow the teachings of the Qur'an, which they believe to be the word of God as revealed to Muhammad. Islam emphasizes the Five Pillars of Islam, including the declaration of faith, prayer, fasting, charity, and pilgrimage to Mecca.

## Jewish

Judaism is one of the oldest monotheistic religions, originating in the ancient Middle East. It is based on the Torah, the sacred text of the Jewish people, and encompasses a rich heritage of religious laws, customs, and traditions. Central themes include the belief in one God, the covenant with Abraham, and the importance of ethical living.

## LDS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as Mormonism, is a Christian denomination that originated in the United States in the 19th century. It follows the teachings of Joseph Smith, who claimed to have received revelations from God. Mormons believe in the Book of Mormon as another sacred scripture alongside the Bible and emphasize family values, missionary work, and modern-day prophets.

## Protestants

Protestantism is a branch of Christianity that originated in the 16th century as a result of the Protestant Reformation. It encompasses various denominations and emphasizes the authority of the Bible, salvation by faith alone, and the priesthood of all believers. Protestant worship practices can vary, but many churches emphasize preaching and congregational participation.

# KEY

Day of Highest Impact on Observers: \*\*\*

Dates marked with 3 stars on the calendar represent significant cultural or religious events, which can hold great importance for observers. These occasions may have the highest impact on individuals, as they may involve customs, traditions, or practices that are deeply rooted in their faith or cultural heritage. During such events, it is essential to anticipate the possibility of some students being absent from school due to their participation in these observances. Additionally, some individuals may choose to observe fasting depending on the event, further impacting their attendance or engagement in school activities. Recognizing and respecting these events allows for a more inclusive and understanding educational environment. Although we have identified some dates, SBLSD is committed to learning about other cultural or religious events that may have a high impact on observers. Please reach out to share your knowledge on any events that we should consider.

# September 2024

Date	Observance	Description
September 2***	Labor Day	Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.
September 5	International Day of Charity	Recognizes the role of charity in alleviating human suffering, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa.
September 7***	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)	Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.
September 8	International Literacy Day	Call to action for universal literacy.
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) was established in 2003 in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and is a significant advocacy and communication based event aimed at reaching national organisations, governments and the general public, giving a singular message that suicide can be prevented.
September 15 - 16	Mawlid Al-Nabi / Milad Al-Nabi (Islamic-Sunni)	The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims
September 15 - October 15	National Hispanic Heritage Month	Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
September 17	Constitution Day and Citizenship Day	Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.
September 22	Autumnal Equinox (Mabon)	Marks the first day of the season of fall. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when it's fall in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously spring in the Southern Hemisphere.
September 23	Bi Visibility Day	Seeks to draw attention to public policy and concerns and foster respect for bi+ individuals and communities.



# September 2024

Date	Observance	Description
September 25***	Yom Kippur (Jewish)	The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.
September 30	Orange Shirt Day	The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, originally and still colloquially known as Orange Shirt Day, is a Canadian holiday to recognize the legacy of the Canadian Indian residential school system. Although Canadian, it is widely recognized by Native Nations located in the US.
September 30 - October 6	Sukkot (Jewish)	The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

# October 2024

Date	Observance	Description
October	National Bullying Prevention Month	A campaign to unite communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention.
October	National Disability Employment Awareness Month	Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
October	LGBT History Month	Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.
October	Filipino American History Month	The celebration of Filipino American History Month in October commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States, which occurred on October 18, 1587, when "Luzones Indios" came ashore from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza and landed at what is now Morro Bay, California. In 2009, U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino American History Month in the United States.
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	Marked on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence, a U.N. commemoration promoting the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding.
October 2 - 4***	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)	Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.
October 3 - 12	Navaratri (Hindu)	Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.
October 5	World Teacher's Day	Held annually to commemorate teacher organizations worldwide.
October 7	Mawlid Al-Nabi / Milad Al-Nabi (Islamic-Shi'a)	The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi'a Muslims.

# October 2024

Date	Observance	Description
October 11	Coming Out Day	Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.
October 11 - 12***	Yom Kippur (Jewish)	The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.
October 14	Indigenous People's Day / Native American Day	Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.
October 16 - 23	Sukkot (Jewish)	The week-long "Feast of Booths" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
October 23 - 25	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)	"The Eighth [Day] of Assembly" observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.
October 24 - 25	Simchat Torah (Jewish)	Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Hebrew Bible) and its beginning anew.
October 24	Dussehra / Dassera (Hindu)	Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as Durga Puja, which celebrates the goddess Durga.
October 24	United Nations Day	Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.
October 31	Halloween	The eve of All Saints' Day.
October 31	Reformation Day (Christian)	Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.
October 31 - November 1	Samhain	Samhain, Sauin or Oíche Shamhna is a Gaelic festival on 1 November marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter or "darker half" of the year.

# November 2024

Date	Observance	Description
November	National Adoption Month	Adoptees, birth families, adoptive families and adoption professionals reflect on, educate and celebrate adoption practices.
November	National American Indian Heritage Month	Celebrates the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the U.S.
November 1	All Saints' Day (Western Christian)	Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Orthodox Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
November 1	Bandi-Chhor Diwas (Sikh)	A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.
November 1***	Diwali (Hindu)	Also called Deepavali, "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)	Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as Día de los Muertos between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
November 5	Election Day	A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.
November 9 - 10	Kristallnacht	Also known as the Night of the Broken Glass, commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
November 11***	Veterans' Day	Honors military veterans and the U.S. Armed Services.
November 15	Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday (Sikh)	A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.

# November 2024

Date	Observance	Description
November 16	International Day of Tolerance	Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.
November 18 - 22	American Education Week	Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.
November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
November 28	Thanksgiving Day	Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in the autumn of 1621. It is considered by some to be a "national day of mourning," in recognition of the conquest of Native Americans by colonists.



# December 2024

Date	Observance	Description
December 1	World AIDS Day	International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
December 1	Advent (Western Christian)	Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Orthodox Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.
December 3	International Day of Person with Disabilities	Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
December 8	Bodhi (Buddhist)	Also known as Rohatsu, commemorates the day that the Buddha, Siddharta Gautama, experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi). Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
December 10	Human Rights Day	On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
December 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe (Christian)	Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.
December 15	Bill of Rights Day	Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
December 21	Winter Solstice (Yule)	Marks the first day of the season of winter. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the shortest of the year with the sun shining closest to the Southern Hemisphere and the farthest from the Northern Hemisphere.

# December 2024

Date	Observance	Description
December 24***	Christmas Eve (Christian)	Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.
December 25***	Christmas (Christian)	Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
December 25 - January 2,***	Hanukkah (Jewish)	Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, also known as Chanukah, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.
December 26 - January 1***	Kwanzaa	A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.
December 29	Wounded Knee Day	On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.
December 31	New Year's Eve	In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, the last day of the year, is on December 31. In many countries, New Year's Eve is celebrated at evening social gatherings, where many people dance, eat, drink. etc.

# January 2025

Date	Observance	Description
January 1	New Year's Day	The first day of the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
January 4	World Braille Day	World Braille Day seeks to raise awareness about the importance of braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.
January 6	Epiphany (Christian)	This date is also known as Befana Day; commemorates the revelation of God through Jesus Christ and marks the time the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem and presented gifts to the baby Jesus.
January 7	Eastern Orthodox Christian Christmas	Christmas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah whose message and self-sacrifice began the Christian religion.
January 14	Orthodox New Year	Orthodox New Year is celebrated as the first day of the new year as per the Julian calendar. It is a celebration of the year to come and is often referred to as Old New Year.
January 19	World Religion Day	World Religion Day is an observance that was initiated in 1950 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, which is celebrated worldwide on the third Sunday in January each year.
January 20***	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	On November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the King Holiday Bill into law, designating the third Monday in January a federal holiday in observance of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The legislation to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day was first introduced just four days after his assassination on April 4, 1968. Still, it would take 15 years of persistence by civil rights activists for the holiday to be approved by the federal government and an additional 17 years for it to be recognized in all 50 states. Today, it is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer and improve their communities.

# January 2025

Date	Observance	Description
January 20	Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday	Guru Gobind Singh is an inspirational figure in the history of Sikhism because of his ancestors, as well as the steps he took for Sikhs in his lifetime.
January 26- 27	Lailat al Miraj (Muslim)	Commemorates Prophet Muhammad's ascension to heaven.
January 27	UN Holocaust Memorial Day / The International Day of Commemoration	It is a memorial day commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one-third of the Jewish people, as well as countless members of other minorities, by Nazi Germany.
January 29***	Lunar New Year	Also known as the Spring Festival, an important festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

# February 2025

Date	Observance	Description
February	Black History Month / African American History Month	Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
February 1	National Freedom Day	Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
February 1	Imbolc	Welcomes the first wave of spring. According to tradition, the Imbolc festival is also the day where the pagan goddess Brigid is honored.
February 4	World Cancer Day	World Cancer Day aims to save lives by raising awareness and educating the population about cancer.
February 12	Magha Puja (Buddhist)	Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.
February 12 -13	Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)	New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.
February 14	Valentines Day	Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)	Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.
February 15	Susan B. Anthony Day	A commemorative holiday to celebrate the birth of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906) and women's suffrage in the United States.
February 17***	President's Day	Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	U.N. day to recognize efforts to achieve fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.



# February 2025

Date	Observance	Description
February 28 - March 30***	Ramadan (Islam)	Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

# March 2025

Date	Observance	Description
March	National Women's History Month	Honors women as significant agents of historical change.
March	Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month	Seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	Zero Discrimination Day is to celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity and free from discrimination.
March 4	Shrove Tuesday (Western Christian)	A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide.
March 5	Ash Wednesday (Western Christian)	The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
March 8	International Women's Day	Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.
March 13 - 14	Purim (Jewish)	The “Feast of Lots” marks the saving of the Jewish people of ancient Persia from extermination.
March 14 - 16	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)	An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.
March 17	St. Patrick's Day (Christian)	Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.
March 20	Vernal Equinox (Ostara)	Marks the first day of the season of spring. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when it's spring in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously fall in the Southern Hemisphere.

# March 2025

Date	Observance	Description
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.
March 27	Laylat al-Qadr (Islamic)	Commemorates the night that the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is known as the "Night of Power." Often set on the 27th day of Ramadan, Sunnis may observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th and Shī'ite (Shiite) observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd day of Ramadan.
March 29 - 30***	Eid al-Fitr (Islamic)	The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.
March 29	Good Friday (Western Christian)	Commemorates the day that Jesus was crucified.
March 31	Cesar Chavez Day	Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927– 1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	This day aims to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of transgender and non-conforming people

# April 2025

Date	Observance	Description
April	Arab American Heritage Month	Celebrates the Arab American heritage and culture and pays tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans.
April	Genocide Awareness Month	A month that marks important anniversaries for past and contemporary genocides. Throughout the month, individuals, communities and organizations join together to remember and honor victims and survivors of mass atrocities.
April	National Poetry Month	Introduced in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States.
April 6	Rama Navami (Hindu)	Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.
April 12	National Day of Silence	Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.
April 12 - 20***	Passover (Jewish)	The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
April 13	Palm Sunday (Western Christian)	Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus Christ's last arrival into Jerusalem before his crucifixion.
April 13	Theravada New Year (Buddhist)	In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.
April 14	Vaisakhi (Sikh)	The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.
April 17	Holy Thursday (Western Christian)	Commemorates the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples before he was arrested and crucified.

# April 2025

Date	Observance	Description
April 18	Good Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)	Commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the Friday before Pascha. Known as Good Friday in Western Christianity.
April 20***	Easter (Western Christian)	Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
April 22	Earth Day	The first Earth Day was observed on April 22, 1970, when 20 million people across America celebrated by filling their local streets, parks and auditoriums to demand a healthy, sustainable environment.
April 23 - 25	Yom Hashoah (Jewish)	"Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
April 24	Armenian Martyrs' Day	Memorializes the genocide of approximately 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.



# May 2025

Date	Observance	Description
May	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month / Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.
May	Jewish American Heritage Month	Recognizes the history of Jewish contributions to American culture, acknowledging the diverse achievements of American Jews.
May 1	International Worker's Day / May Day	Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers' strike for an eight-hour work day.
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.
May 5	Cinco De Mayo	In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.
May 11	Mother's Day	Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers and mother figures.
May 12	Visakha Puja (Buddhist)	Also known as Vesak or Buddha Day, it marks the birth, spiritual awakening and death (nirvana) of the historical Buddha. (This date may vary based on region or sect.)
May 15 - 16	Lag BaOmer (Jewish)	Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity	Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.

# May 2025

Date	Observance	Description
May 26***	Memorial Day	A federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces.
May 29	Ascension Day (Western Christian)	Also known as Holy Thursday, celebrated 40 days after Easter, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

# June 2025

Date	Observance	Description
June	2SLGBTQ+ Pride Month	Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States.
June 1 - 3	Shavuot (Jewish)	The "Feast of Weeks" celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.
June 5	World Environment Day	The United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.
June 6 - 7	Eid al-Adha (Islamic)	Commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).
June 8	Pentecost (Western Christian)	Also known as Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus Christ. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.
June 12	Anne Frank Day	Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family's experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of Gentile friends.
June 12	Loving Day	Observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision Loving v. Virginia which struck down the miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states barring interracial marriage.
June 13	Ascension (Eastern Orthodox Christian)	Also known as Holy Ascension, celebrated 40 days after Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven.
June 14	Flag Day	Anniversary of the adoption of the United States flag by Congress in 1777.
June 15	Father's Day	Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers and father figures

# June 2025

Date	Observance	Description
June 19	Juneteenth	Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African American freedom and achievement.
June 20	Summer Solstice (Litha)	Marks the first day of the season of summer. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the longest of the year with the sun shining the farthest from the Southern Hemisphere and the closest to the Northern Hemisphere.
June 20	World Refugee Day	Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

# SOURCES

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<a href="https://www.k12.wa.us/">https://www.k12.wa.us/</a>
<a href="https://www.isd411.org/">https://www.isd411.org/</a>
<a href="https://www.nsd.org/">https://www.nsd.org/</a>
<a href="https://www.iasp.info/WSPD/about/">https://www.iasp.info/WSPD/about/</a>
<a href="http://fanhs-national.org/filam/about/">http://fanhs-national.org/filam/about/</a>
<a href="https://councilofpresidents.org/">https://councilofpresidents.org/</a>
<a href="https://nacdd.org/">https://nacdd.org/</a>