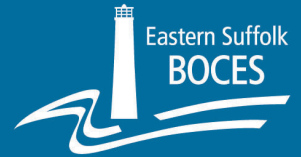


# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



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## January 2025 Cultural Heritage Highlights



### Mental Wellness Month

It seems appropriate that January is Mental Wellness Month. After all, what better way to start the new year (and recover from the non-stop hustle and bustle of the holiday season) than with a reminder to recharge your mental health?

Learn more:

[Information about Mental Wellness Month](#)

[Ways to Celebrate Mental Wellness Month](#)



### Poverty Awareness Month

Poverty Awareness Month is a month-long initiative to raise awareness and call attention to the growth of poverty in America. Did you know, that the U.S. ranks second highest in poverty rates among its peer countries? The official criterion for assessing poverty in the U. S. was established in the 1960's and has stayed largely unchanged since then.

Learn more:

[Information about Poverty Awareness Month](#)



### January 1- New Year's Day

In some countries, January 1 starts the New Year according to the Gregorian calendar, which is the calendar in use today. In 45 B.C., New Year's Day was celebrated on January 1 for the first time in history when the Julian calendar took effect (thanks to Julius Caesar's reforms). Today's Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII to correct some slight inaccuracies, but continues to start the year in January.

Learn more:

[Learn about 14 New Year's Traditions from Cultures Around the World](#)

[Watch a video about New Year's Day](#)



### January 1- Global Family Day

Observed every year on January 1, Global Family Day is celebrated to start the new year with a message of peace and unity among people. As people around the world welcome the year 2025 with great fervor, it also comes with the hope that Global Family Day will establish the idea of global unity and harmony.

Learn more:

[Find out more about Global Family Day from National Today](#)





### January 4- World Braille Day

We celebrate World Braille Day every year on January 4; because, it's Louis Braille's birthday. He's the inventor of Braille! Louis was born in 1809 in France and became blind after a childhood accident. But he quickly mastered his new way of living. When Louis was only 15 years old, he created a reading and writing system based on Charles Barbier's night writing system. We know Louis' system today as Braille. Braille is essential in the context of education, freedom of expression and opinion, as well as social inclusion.

Learn more:

[Information about Braille](#)

[A Day in the Life of a Braille Transcriber](#)



### January 6- Three Kings Day

In Mexico and many other Latin American countries, the Three Wise Men are the bearers of gifts and they leave presents in or near the shoes of small children. The holiday is also known by the name Epiphany and dates back to the 4th century. A grand feast would be held on this day to honor the occasion of Jesus' baptism and to pay homage to the Three Wise Men.

Learn more:

[Watch a video about Three Kings Day](#)

[Know the meaning of Three Kings Day](#)



### January 7- Coptic Orthodox Christmas

Orthodox communities in Europe, Africa and the Middle East - which make up more than 12% of all Christians - celebrate the big day weeks after most of the Western world. It's because they use a different calendar, called the Julian calendar, to work out what day Christmas should be.

Learn more:

[Information about Coptic Orthodox Christmas](#)

[What is different about Coptic Christmas](#)



### January 20- Inauguration Day

Inauguration Day occurs every four years on January 20 (or January 21 if January 20 falls on a Sunday). The inauguration ceremony takes place at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC. The next presidential inauguration is scheduled to be on January 20, 2025.

Learn more:

[USA Inauguration Day](#)

[NPS Inauguration Day Schedule of Events](#)



### January 20- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a tireless advocate for racial equality, working classes, and the oppressed around the world. Commonly called Martin Luther King, Jr. Day or MLK Day, the third Monday of January is a federal holiday to honor his life and legacy. Places where he made history and of the greater Civil Rights Movement he influenced, are preserved in many national parks and local communities around the country.

Find volunteer opportunities inspired by this day of service or visit a park to learn more about the history of Dr. King and the pursuit of civil rights in America.

Learn more:

[King Holiday 2025](#)

[YSA MLK Day of Service](#)





## January 24- International Day of Education

In December 2018, January 24 was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day of Education, to celebrate education and reflect on the importance of learning for development and peace. Imparting education is not limited to institutions; each of us has a duty to promote quality education. What most of us likely take for granted, allowing access to education can lift many out of poverty and pave the path for a promising future.

Learn more:

[United Nations International Day of Education](#)

[UN Secretary Message- International Day of Education](#)



## January 27- International Holocaust Remembrance Day

"For a Better Future" is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025.

Elie Wiesel, author of "Night" and human rights advocate said, "What is abnormal is that I am normal. That I survived the Holocaust and went on. That is what is abnormal." The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27—the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau—as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Learn more:

[United States International Holocaust Remembrance Day Museum](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Day 2025](#)



## January 29- Lunar New Year/Chinese New Year

The Lunar New Year in 2025 welcomes the [Year of the Snake](#), according to the Chinese lunar calendar. Celebrated by millions around the world, this is a time for cultural traditions, family reunions, and hopes for good fortune in the coming year.

Learn more:

[What is Lunar New Year](#)

[Chinese New Year Calendar and Horoscope](#)

