COMMUNITY & BELONGING 25-26

Below is a yearlong inclusion calendar for **2025-2026**, which notes religious holidays, cultural celebrations, heritage months, global themes of diversity and more. Please note this is **not** an exhaustive list of all the celebrations and holidays from around the world. Please contact the Office of Community & Belonging (C&B) if you would like something included: **sbeatodavis@wma.us**

AUGUST

National Civility Month

26 Women's Equality Day

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SEPTEMBER

Latine Heritage & History Month

1 Labor Day

15 National Hispanic Heritage Month Begins

23 International Day of Sign Language

22-Oct 2 Navaratri (Hindu)

23-25 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)

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OCTOBER

Mental Health Awareness Month

1-2 Yom Kippur (Jewish)
2 Navratri (Hindu)
6-13 Sukkot (Jewish)
10 World Suicide Prevention Day
11 National Coming Out Day
11 U.S. Patriot Day (Commemorating 9/11)
13 Indigenous People's Day/Italian Heritage Day
14-15 Simchat Torah (Jewish)
17 Spirit Day (LGBTQ+)
19 International Pronouns Day
20-21 Diwali (Hindu)
31 Halloween

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NOVEMBER

Indigenous Peoples History & Heritage Month

1-2 Día de los Muertos and All Saints Day
11 Veteran's Day
19 International Men's Day (highlighting struggles with violence, abuse and mental health)
20 Transgender Day of Remembrance
27 Thanksgiving (in the U.S.)
28 Native American Heritage Day
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DECEMBER

Religious Diversity Month

1-24 Advent
3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
6 Saint Nicholas Day (Christian)
8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist, Japan)
10 International Human Rights Day
14-22 Hanukkah
16-24 Las Posadas (Christian, Latin America)
21 Winter Solstice
21-Jan 1 Yule (Pagan)
24 Christmas Eve/Nochebuena (Christian)
25 Christmas (Christian)
26-Jan 1 Kwanzaa
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JANUARY

Neurodiversity Pride Month

7 Bodhi Day (Buddhist, East Asia)
7 Three Kings Day/Orthodox Christmas
14 Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
18 World Religion Day
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
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FEBRUARY

Black Heritage & History Month

1 National Freedom Day (commemorating the signing of the 13th Amendment)
1-2 Tu Bishvat (Jewish)
2 Groundhog Day
12 Lantern/Shangyuan Festival
14 Valentine's Day
15 Maha Shivarati (Hindu)
16 President's Day
17 Lunar New Year
17 Mardi Gras
17-March 18 Ramadan (Muslim)
18 Ash Wednesday (Christian)
18-Apr 2 Lent (Christian)
20 World Day of Social Justice
21 International Mother Language Day
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MARCH

National Disabilities Awareness Month
Women's History Month

2-3 Purim (Jewish)
3 Holi (Hindu)
3 Māgha Pūjā (Buddhist - Thailand)
4 Mardi Gras International
8 International Women's Day
17 St. Patrick's Day
21 Nowruz (Persian New Year)
21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN 1966)
29 Palm Sunday
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APRIL

Arab American Heritage & History Month

1-9 Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
3 Good Friday (Christian)
5 Easter (Christian)
11 Day of Silence (LGBTQ)
13 Vaisakhi (Hindu and Sikh)
13-14 Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
13-15 South and Southeast Asian Solar New Year
19-20 Eid al-Fitr (Muslim)
22 Earth Day
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MAY

Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Month
Jewish American Heritage & History Month

5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week
6 Teacher Appreciation Day
6 National Nurse Day
21-23 Shavuot (Jewish)
25 Memorial Day
26-27 Eid al-Adha (Muslim)
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COMMUNITY & BELONGING 25-26

AUGUST

National Civility Month

Women's Equality Day	On August 26th, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was adopted which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex.

SEPTEMBER

Latine Heritage & History Month

Labor Day	A celebration to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the contributions of laborers to the development of the United States.
National Hispanic Heritage Month	Celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. (The Library of Congress, 2022)
Mid-Autumn Festival	Also known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, is a harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunisolar calendar.
Chuseok	Also known as Korean Thanksgiving Day, is one of the most important and festive holidays of the year. On this day, a full harvest moon appeared in the sky and families gathered to enjoy time together and give thanks to their ancestors for the plentiful harvest. (asiasociety.org)

International Day of Sign Language	This day marks the birth of an advocacy organization, which has as one of its main goals, the preservation of sign languages and Deaf culture as pre-requisites to the realization of the human rights of deaf people. (United Nations, 2022)

OCTOBER

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

LGBTIA+ Month	October was selected because it coincides with National Coming Out Day on October 11 and because it is the month of the first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1979. (American Psychological Association 2014)
Global Diversity Awareness Month	A reminder of the positive impact a diverse culture of people can have on society as a whole.
National Hispanic Heritage Month	Celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. (The Library of Congress, 2022)
Rosh Hashanah	(Sundown to sundown) Jewish New Year.
World Mental Health Day	An international day for global mental health education, awareness, and advocacy against social stigma. (World Health Organization)
National Coming Out	For many LGBTQIA+ individuals, coming out can be a significant and sometimes challenging experience. National Coming Out Day is

Day	a day of celebration and awareness for the LGBTQIA+ community, friends and allies.
Yom Kippur	The Day of Atonement, is a 25-hour solemn fast day, during which Jewish people pray, seek forgiveness, and a fresh start both with God. (Chabad.org, 2019)
Indigenous People's Day	Indigenous Peoples' Day recognizes the Indigenous communities that have lived in the Americas for thousands of years. (NYTimes, 2022)
Sukkot	(Sundown to sundown): A seven-day Jewish fall harvest meant to bring families, friends, and communities together. The holiday also commemorates the 40 years that Jews spent in the desert after escaping slavery in Egypt.
International Pronouns Day	To raise awareness and educate people about respecting personal pronouns.
Spirit Day (LGBTQ+)	Wear purple on this day to support LGBTQ youth and speak out against bullying.
Halloween (All Hallows' Eve)	The evening before All Saints' Day became a holy, or hallowed, eve and thus Halloween. (CNN)
Diwali	(Hindu, Jain, Sikh 5-day festival of light): "festival of lights" celebrates the triumph of light over dark, good over evil, and the blessings of victory, freedom, and enlightenment.

NOVEMBER

Indigenous Peoples History & Heritage Month

National Native American Heritage Month	What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose. (The Library of Congress)
Día de los Muertos	A two-day holiday that reunites the living and dead. Families create *ofrendas* (offerings) to honor their departed family members who have passed. (https://dayofthedead.holiday/)
Veterans Day	For honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.
International Men's Day	A global awareness day for many issues that men face, including parental alienation, abuse, homelessness, suicide, and violence, celebrated annually on November 19. (Internationalmensday.com)
International Trans Day of Remembrance	(TDOR) An annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. (glaad.org)
Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) / Native American Heritage Day	We celebrate Indigenous peoples past and present and rededicate ourselves to honoring Tribal sovereignty, promoting Tribal self-determination, and upholding the United States' solemn trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations. (United States Census Bureau, 2022)

DECEMBER

Religious Diversity Month

COMMUNITY & BELONGING 25-26

Advent	The period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.
International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society (United Nations)
Bodhi Day	(Buddhist holiday) The day that Siddhartha Gautama achieved enlightenment through meditation.
International Human Rights Day	The world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (United Nations).
Hanukkah	(Sundown to sundown) Hanukkah (Chanukah) is a holiday that honors and celebrates one of the first recorded fights for religious freedom and the success of this fight.
Kwanzaa	To honor the ancestors, affirm the bonds between them, and to celebrate African and African American culture.

JANUARY

Neurodiversity Pride Month

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Is an official day of service and celebrates the civil rights leader's life and legacy. (AmeriCorps)
International Holocaust	To honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism.

Remembrance Day	
Lunar New Year	A celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. (National Museum of Asian Arts)

FEBRUARY

Black Heritage & History Month

National Freedom Day	Marks the anniversary of the signing of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which officially abolished slavery nationwide.
Lantern Festival	Also called Shangyuan Festival, is a traditional Chinese festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunisolar Chinese calendar, during the full moon.
Valentine's Day	Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine,is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine, and through later folk traditions it has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world
President's Day	The birthday of U.S. President George Washington (February 22) was first celebrated as a federal holiday in the United States in the 1880s. In 1968 the holiday was adapted to also honor the birth of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and moved to the third Monday in February.

Random Acts of Kindness Day	A chance to demonstrate community, belonging, inclusivity, care, and show support. Do something kind randomly today!
Ramadan	A period of fasting and spiritual growth and is one of the five "pillars of Islam" – the others being the declaration of faith, daily prayer, alms-giving and the pilgrimage to Mecca. (PBS.com)

MARCH

Women's History Month

National Disability Awareness Month

Mardi Gras	The Carnival celebration, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany.
International Women's Day	The purpose of the day is to uphold women's achievements, recognize challenges, and focus greater attention on women's rights and gender. (United Nations)
Holi	(Sundown to sundown) Is celebrated as a way to welcome in spring, and also is seen as a new beginning where people can release all their inhibitions and start fresh.
St. Patrick's Day	The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and, by extension, celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish.
International Day of Happiness	Aims to make people around the world realize the importance of happiness in their lives. (United Nations General Assembly)

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	(UN 1966) Focuses on the urgency of combating racism and racial discrimination 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). (United Nations)

APRIL

Arab American Heritage & History Month

Day of Silence (LGBTQ)	An annual day of action organized by GLSEN to spread awareness about the effects of the bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning students. (Glsen.org)
Earth Day	Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally, including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.
Good Friday	A Christian holy day observing the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.
Easter	Also known as Resurrection Sunday, is the principal festival of the Christian church, which celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion.
Eid al-Fitr	Breaking the Ramadan Fast.

May

COMMUNITY & BELONGING 25-26

AANHPI (Asian American Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander) Heritage & History Month
Jewish American Heritage & History Month

National Nurses Week	National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6th and ends on May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday.
Teacher Appreciation Day	National Teacher Appreciation Day is on the Tuesday of the first week in May as a reminder to show appreciation for teachers everywhere.

