

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

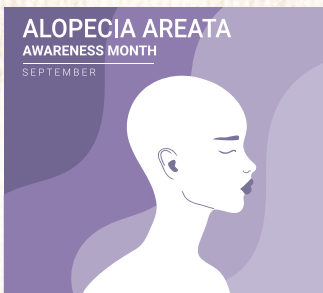
Advancing Equitable Opportunities



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September 2025 Cultural Heritage Highlights

Disclaimer: The Cultural Heritage Highlights is intended as a resource to encourage the recognition, exploration, and celebration of a wide range of cultural observances in schools and communities. Each monthly edition features selected observances that reflect both longstanding and emerging cultural traditions. While every effort is made to include diverse and meaningful content, the list is not exhaustive and should not be viewed as an intentional exclusion of any celebration. Educators and community members are encouraged to use this resource as a starting point for deeper learning, inclusive dialogue, and the continued honoring of all cultural identities throughout the year. Suggestions for upcoming highlights are welcomed and can be sent to ESBOCESdei@esboces.org.



Alopecia Awareness Month

Alopecia areata is a common autoimmune disease, causing sudden hair loss on the scalp, face, and sometimes other areas of the body. There are different levels of alopecia areata severity. *Who gets it?* People of all ages, genders, and racial and ethnic groups are affected by the alopecia areata. The hair loss often first appears during childhood but how and when is different for everyone.

Learn more:

[About the National Alopecia Areata Foundation™](#)



Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM) is recognized every September by childhood cancer organizations around the world. Cancer is a leading cause of death for children and adolescents worldwide, with approximately 400,000 children diagnosed each year, according to the World Health Organization.

Learn more:

[About Childhood Cancer](#)



National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is annually celebrated from September 15 to October 15 in the United States for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. During Hispanic Heritage Month, many cities will host concerts, parades, runs, festivals, art exhibits, and more in celebration. You can also celebrate by watching award shows that honor the many accomplishments of Latinas and Latinos and their contributions to our nation's history.

Learn more:

[About Hispanic Heritage Month](#)



National Suicide Prevention Month

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) recognizes the entire month of September as National Suicide Prevention Month: a moment in time in which we rally the public to create awareness of this leading cause of death, and inspire more and more people to learn how they can play a role in their communities in helping to save lives. Within the month, September 7- 13 is recognized as National Suicide Prevention Week with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10.

Learn more:

[About National Suicide Prevention Month](#)
[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)



International Week of the Deaf (September 22 – September 28)

The theme for Deaf Awareness Week 2025 is “No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights.” International Week of the Deaf, recognized during the last week of September, draws attention to the accomplishments of people who are deaf and also promotes their rights. By promoting human rights and access to sign language, the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is improving the lives of millions of deaf people who face inequality every day. The organization collaborates with deaf leaders and policymakers to implement human rights mechanisms, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The WFD also takes direct action by providing human rights training and representing deaf people’s interests on a global scale. September 23, the International Day of Sign Language, is a notable day within the International Week of the Deaf. It commemorates the date that the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in 1951.

Learn more:

[About the World Federation of the Deaf \(WFD\)](#)



September 1– Labor Day

Labor Day celebrates the women and men who campaigned tirelessly for workers’ rights in the labor movement of the late 19th century. Their hard-fought wins are the reason for many of the rights we enjoy and take for granted today, such as a 40-hour work week, safe work conditions, paid time off, and sick leave. Those workers saw that there could be no freedom and liberty in this country without economic freedom for the working class. The holiday honors the source of this nation’s strength—American workers, unions, and labor leaders.

Learn more:

[From PBS: Labor Day | All About the Holidays](#)

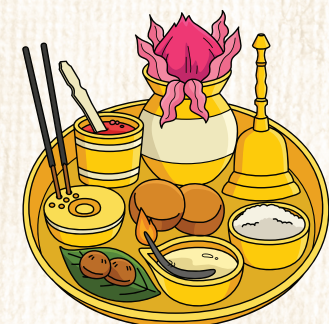


September 4-5 – Mawlid

The Mawlid is an annual festival commemorating the birthday of the Islamic prophet Muhammad on the traditional date of 12 Rabi’ al-Awwal, the third month of the Islamic calendar. Central to the traditions of some Sunnis, Mawlid is also celebrated by Shia Muslims.

Learn more:

[All about Mawlid from Britannica](#)
[The Prophet’s Birthday](#)



September 6-September 20 – Pitru Paksha

Pitru Paksha (PIT-ru puk-shuh) is a Hindu 16 lunar day period dedicated to pay homage to their ancestors who have left their physical bodies by offering respect and honoring their lives. This period is also referred to as Shraddha (shr-A-dh). Shraddha translates to food offering and is one of the integral parts of the period. It is discouraged to carry out any events such as housewarming, engagement, marriage, etc. during Pitru Paksh. Instead, Hindus use this time to remember and reflect.

Learn more:

[About Pitru Paksha](#)



September 11–Enkutatash (Ethiopian and Eritrean New Year)

Enkutatash (Ge'ez: inik'ut'at'ashi) is a public holiday in coincidence with the New Year in Ethiopia and Eritrea. It occurs on Meskerem 1 on the Ethiopian calendar, which is September 11(or, during a leap year, September 12) according to the Gregorian calendar. Ethiopians wear vibrant new clothes and gather with loved ones to celebrate Enkutatash. The day begins with a colorful and joyful procession, where people young and old take to the streets, singing, dancing, and distributing flowers.

Learn more:

[About Ethiopian New Year](#)



September 11–Patriot Day

Patriot Day, not to be confused by Patriots' Day that celebrates the Revolution, is a United States national observance that honors the memory of those who were killed in the September 11 attacks, a total of 2,977.

Learn more:

[Patriot Day in the USA 2025](#)



September 16–El Grito De Dolores/Cry of Dolores

September 16 is Mexican Independence Day. This fiesta friendly holiday celebrates Mexico's Declaration of Independence from Spain in 1810, and it's filled with national pride, colorful parades, mariachi concerts, and food.

Learn more:

[Today in History: Cry of Dolores](#)



September 17–Celebrate the Ratification of the U. S. Constitution

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all Americans to observe this important day in our nation's history by attending local events in your area. Celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, parades and demonstrations of our love for the United State of America and the Blessings of Freedom Our Founding Fathers secured for us.

Learn more:

[The Founding Fathers / Constitution Day events](#)



September 20 – HeForShe Movement

This movement was started by the UN with the goal of promoting gender equality. HeForShe is an invitation for men and people of all genders to stand in solidarity with women to create a bold, visible, and united force for gender equality. The men of HeForShe aren't on the sidelines. They're working with women and with each other to build businesses, raise families, and give back to their communities.

Learn more:

[HeForShe](#)



September 21–International Day of Peace

2025 Global Peace Day Theme: Act Now for a Peaceful World.

Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

Learn more:

[What is the International Day of Peace?](#)



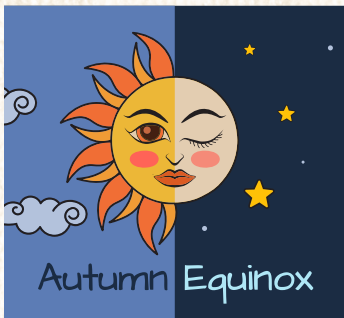
September 22–American Business Women’s Day

American Business Women’s Day is celebrated on September 22 every year. It is a special day dedicated to celebrating the achievements and contributions of women in the business world. This date marks the founding of the American Business Women’s Association in 1949, a key organization that supports women’s professional growth and achievements.

Learn more:

[Five Women to Know for American Business Women’s Day](#)

[Proclamation 5532–American Business Women’s Day, 1986](#)



September 22–Fall/Autumnal Equinox

As nature transitions, daylight and darkness find balance, marking a moment of cosmic equilibrium and changing landscapes with vibrant hues. This equinox, one of two times during the year when the length of day and night are equal, is celebrated in various cultures and traditions around the world. It marks the transition from summer to autumn, and is recognized by some for emphasizing balance, gratitude, and reflection.

Learn more:

[Fall Equinox history, celebration, facts](#)

[Autumnal Equinox Celebration Ideas, Rituals, and Traditions](#)



September 22–September 24 – Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah, literally the “head of the year,” is the Jewish New Year. It is a time of introspection and atonement. The central theme and practice not only of Rosh Hashanah, but of the entire fall holiday season, is teshuvah — a word commonly translated as “repentance,” but which more literally means “return.” Rosh Hashanah — and the holiday that follows it by ten days, Yom Kippur — are intensely focused on teshuvah. Many Jews see this as a time to make amends or apologize to those they have wronged in the past year and resolve to do better in the year about to begin.

Learn more:

[Rosh Hashanah | All About the Holidays on PBS](#)



September 23–Bi Visibility Day

Bisexuality Day unites the bisexual community, their friends, and their supporters. It also raises awareness and provides an opportunity to educate the public about bisexuality. The day aims to counteract prejudice of bisexuals by both the straight and greater LGBT+ communities.

Learn more:

[Origins and significance of Bi Visibility Day](#)



September 27–Meskel

An Ethiopian Orthodox and Eritrean Orthodox religious holiday that is celebrated on September 27 or September 28 on leap years. Meskel commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by Queen Helena in the fourth century, and is one of the most important festivals for the laity and ordained. This gained popularity in the Ethiopian Orthodox church due to the belief that a part of the true cross was brought to Ethiopia in the 15th century and is kept at the mountain fortress Amba Geshen.

Learn more:

[Meskel around the world in 2025](#)



September 27–National Public Lands Day

Since 1994, this annual event is recognized on the fourth Saturday of September and has been the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort. Last year, over 130 national parks hosted events with 7,600 volunteers donating an impressive 41,500 hours of service. National Public Lands Day is organized annually and led by the National Environmental Education Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service and other federal agencies. All national parks that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone in celebration of National Public Lands Day.

Learn more:

[National Park Service: National Public Lands Day](#)

