

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

DAYS OF OBSERVANCE 2026

This calendar is in addition to the already existing City of Norwich calendar and is also part of Norwich Public Schools Cultural calendar.

This calendar acknowledges and observes the following days as city's efforts to promote, support & embrace cultural diversity and helps increase understanding among our Norwich citizens about various nationalities which lives, contribute and conduct business in our city.

1. *January 1: Haiti Independence Day - On January 1st, 1804 Haiti got its independence. This day celebrates establishment of the country that was the first free black nation in the world.*
1. *January 5: Gurburab "Guru Gobind Singh" Ji- Birth Anniversary of Sikhs 10th Guru (Enlightener) who gave Sikh Community separate identity and initiated Sikhs first time. He embraced concept of Saint Soldier and gave message to recognize all Human Race as one.*
2. *January 19: Dr. MLK Jr's Birthday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. King's birthday is January 15th. The holiday is similar to holidays set under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968.*
3. *Month of February: Black History Month - Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of black people in U.S. history.*
4. *Feb 17: Chinese New Year 2026 (Year of the Horse) - Chinese New Year is the Chinese festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar.*
5. *Feb 18th: Tibetan New Year - The holiday is a new year's festival, celebrated on the first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar.*
6. *Feb 25 - March 1st - Ayyam-i-Há -It is a Bahá'í Festival: Ayyam-i-Ha, or the Intercalary Days, is a period dedicated to socializing, being hospitable, giving generously to the poor and needy, and preparing for the upcoming month of fasting.*
7. *Feb 27: Dominican Republic Independence Day - On February 27th, 1844 the Dominican Republic got their autonomy from Haiti.*
8. *March 1: St. David's Day - A Christian feast day celebrated annually on March 1st in honor of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales ("Dewi Sant" in Welsh).*

9. *March 4: Holi - Indian festival of color celebrated in various parts of India. Hindus, Jains, Newar Buddhists and other secular non-Hindus observe this festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil.*

10. *March 4: Holla Mahalla - Festival of Color Celebrated by Sikhs in Punjab and all around the world. Sikhs 10th Guru, Guru Gobind Singh started this festival as a day for **Sikhs** to practice their military exercises and hold mock battles.*

11. *March 11: Sikh Flag "Nishan Sahib" Day - March 11th 1783 was Recognized In Connecticut by various town and by State and Federal leaders as "Sikh Flag ("Nishan Sahib") Day" to Celebrate Sikhs Victory on Delhi when Sikh Flag was Hoisted on Red Fort by Sikh Army. Sikh Flag Stands tall as a voice against any oppression and makes the statement that Sikhs welcome diversity.*

12. *March 14: Sikh Nation New Year - This day has been recognized by the Governor of Connecticut to recognize the distinct identity of Sikhs. According to the Mool Nanakshai Sikh Calendar which starts from year 1469 (Year Guru Nanak was Born). March 14th refers to the start of the first month of Sikh Calendar known as "Chet".*

13. *March 17: St. Patrick's Day - This day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilís, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks.*

14. *Month of April: Arab American Heritage Month - Celebrating the Arab American heritage and culture and paying tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans.*

15. *April 13th - Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) -On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.*

16. *April 14: Lao New Year - In Lao, it is called 'Songkran' or 'Pii Mai', which means 'new year'. It is based on the traditional solar new year.*

17. *April 14: National Sikh Day(Vaisakhi) - Vaisakhi (also known as Baisakhi), the celebration of the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated) and the birth of the Khalsa. This Day has been Recognized by the State of Connecticut and by the United States Senate as National Sikh Day.*

18. *April 16th: Israel Independence Day - This is the national day of Israel, commemorating the Israeli Declaration of Independence in 1948.*

19. *April 29: Sikh Declaration of Independence Day - On April 29th, 1986 Sikh Nation called for Sarbat Khalsa which is the Gathering of Sikhs world wide in Amritsar where the decision was made that Sikhs will no longer be enslaved and will get their homeland "Punjab" free from Indian State. This*

day is commemorated by Sikhs all around the globe to spread messages of equality, bravery, social justice, freedom and peace.

20. *Month of May: Asian Heritage Month - The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7th, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10th, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. This month also celebrates the Asian American heritage and culture and pays tribute to the contributions of Asian Americans.*
21. *Month of May : Jewish American History Month - Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) is an annual recognition and celebration of Jewish American achievements in and contributions to the United States of America during the month of May. President George W. Bush first proclaimed the month on April 20, 2006,*
22. *May 5: Cinco de Mayo - A Mexican holiday commemorating the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). This day celebrates Mexican culture and heritage, including parades and mariachi music performances.*
23. *May 18: Haitian Flag Day - Haitians around the world celebrate National Flag Day, expressing their national pride, honoring the forefathers of the Nation, and replenishing their resolve for Haiti's future in the face of their ancestors' tremendous and unique accomplishment.*
24. *May 25: African Day - African Day (formerly African Freedom Day and African Liberation Day) is the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organization of African Unity on May 25th, 1963. It is celebrated in various countries on the African continent, as well as around the world.*
25. *June 1: Sikh Memorial Day - This Day has been recognized by the Governor of the State of Connecticut to honor lives of those who died during June of 1984 during the attack on Darbar Sahib, the Sikhs Holiest Site by the Indian Government. This day is commemorated by Sikhs all around the globe to spread the message of unity, bravery, social justice, freedom and peace.*
26. *June 12: Philippine Independence Day - It is an annual national holiday in the Philippines observed on June 12th commemorating the declaration of Philippine independence from Spain in 1898.*
27. *June 17: Islamic New Year (Al Hijri) - Hijri New Year, the day that marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year.*
28. *June 19: Juneteenth - Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration dating back to 1865. This represents the ending of slavery in the United States.*
29. *July 4th - United States Independence Day - Independence Day (colloquially the Fourth of July or July 4) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and*

were now united, free, and independent states.[1] The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.

30. July 5: Cape Verdean Independence Day - *Independence Day is a public holiday in Cape Verde, observed on July 5th each year. This is the National Day of Cape Verde and commemorates the country's independence from Portugal on this day in 1975.*
31. July 9: Argentina Independence Day - *On July 9th, 1816, they declared the country independent under the name of the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata. Several years of hard fighting followed before the Spanish royalists were defeated in northern Argentina.*
32. July 21 : Sikh Veteran Day - *The Sikh community worldwide has honored the sixth Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji's vision of Miri and Piri, which symbolizing importance of both worldly (political) and spiritual authority. Sikhs pay observance to Sikh veterans of WW1, WW2, Battle of Saragarhi, Battle of Amritsar and other historical battles for righteousness.*
33. July 25: Puerto Rico Constitution Day - *Law #1 of August 4th, 1952 of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico established a full state holiday on July 25th of every year, to be known as Puerto Rico Constitution Day. The holiday commemorates the day the Constitution of Puerto Rico, approved on July 3th, 1952, was signed into law by Governor Luis Muñoz Marín the same year.*
34. July 28: Peruvian Independence Day - *Known as 'Fiestas Patrias', this holiday is always celebrated on July 28th and marks Peru's declaration of independence from Spain in 1821.*
35. Aug 14: Pakistan Independence Day - *This day is annually held on August 14th, celebrates the country's independence from the British rule on that date in 1947. This day is an occasion to promote patriotism and national unity.*
36. Aug 15: India Independence Day - *On Aug 15th, 1947 India became independent from British Rule. Transfer of Power took place and India and Pakistan were established. This day is also known as the Division of Punjab Day as the State of Punjab which is in between both countries was divided into two parts. One part was given to Pakistan and the other part is still occupied by India.*
37. Aug 17: Pan African Flag Day - *The Pan African flag also known as the Afro-American flag, Black Liberation flag, UNIA flag and various other names - is a tri-color flag consisting of three equal horizontal bands of (from top down) red, black and green.*
38. Sept 7: Brazil Independence Day - *The Independence Day of Brazil, commonly called Sete de Setembro, is a national holiday observed in Brazil on September 7th of every year. The date celebrates Brazil's Declaration of Independence from the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves on September 7th 1822.*
39. Sept 15: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua Independence Day - *The Act of Independence of Central America. Five Central American countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador,*

Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua - dissolved their ties to Spain and gained their independence on Sept. 15th, 1821.

40. *Sept 16: Mexico 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, food and more sabrosa food.*
41. *Sept 18: Chile Independence Day - This public holiday is always celebrated in Chile on September 18th and marks the date when the Chilean people declared independence from Spain in 1810. It is Chile's National Day and along with Christmas, this period is the most important holiday time in the year in Chile.*
42. *October 1: China National Day - Officially the National Day of the People's Republic of China, is a public holiday in China celebrated annually on October 1st as the national day of the People's Republic of China, commemorating the formal establishment of the People's Republic of China on October 1st, 1949.*
43. *October 1: Italian American Heritage Day - This Day marks recognizing the contributions and achievements of Italian Americans. Over 26 million Americans of Italian descent currently reside in the U.S. making up America's seventh largest ethnic group.*
44. *October 12: Indigenous People Day - Observed on the 2nd Monday in October. Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October, and is an official city and state holiday in various localities.*
45. *Month of November: Native American Heritage Month - On August 3rd, 1990, the President of the United States George H. W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month, thereafter commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month.*
46. *November 1: Sikh Genocide Remembrance Day - This day is recognized by the State of Connecticut in memory of the thousand men, women and children who were killed by the Indian Government in November 1984 a genocidal campaign all over India. This day is commemorated by the Sikh Community to give a message of equality, love, tolerance and social justice.*
47. *November 8 : Diwali - Festival of Lights - Diwali is celebrated by the Hindus and Jain. A one day festival of lights celebrating new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and lightness over darkness. This day is also celebrated by Sikhs as Bandi Chor Divas (Religious Significant for Sikh Community).*
48. *November 11: The birth of Bahá'u'lláh - Bahá'u'lláh is the founder of the Bahá'í religion. Bahá'ís usually observe the holy day with community gatherings where prayers are shared and the birth of Bahá'u'lláh is celebrated.*

49. *November 11: Poland Independence Day - A national day in Poland celebrated on November 11th to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of Poland's sovereignty as the Second Polish Republic in 1918 from the German Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires.*
50. *December 4-12 : Hanukkah/Chanukah - A Jewish holiday celebrated around the world for eight days and nights. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or the Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus, approximately 2,200 years ago.*
51. *December 25: Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world.*
52. *December 26-January 1: Kwanzaa - An African American holiday started by Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate universal African American heritage.*