



North Carolina African American Heritage Commission

# JUNETEENTH TOOLKIT

A Story of Liberation for All North Carolinians to Celebrate



The NC African American Heritage Commission continuously works to celebrate and share the art, history, and heritage of African Americans. It is our mission to preserve, protect and promote North Carolina's African American history, arts, and culture for all people.

This is a resource guide, that will assist you in celebrating the Juneteenth holiday. Also known as "Freedom Day," Juneteenth is a uniquely American holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement that slavery would be abolished in Texas. North Carolina joins in the celebration of this National holiday and commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the former Confederacy.

We encourage you to interact with this resource by clicking on corresponding links for items that have been curated to encourage awareness and enthusiasm for Juneteenth.





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# Juneteenth

## A Celebration of Freedom



### What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is an annual holiday, celebrated on June 19th, that commemorates the freedom of the enslaved in the United States. The name Juneteenth is a combination of the words "June" and "nineteenth." Also referred to as Emancipation Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is the oldest commemoration of its kind in the United States.

### Why do we celebrate Juneteenth?

Juneteenth has become not only a time to commemorate Black liberation from the institution of slavery, but also an acknowledgment of the resilience, solidarity, and culture of the Black community. Juneteenth allows us all to join together to celebrate the freedoms and lives that generations before have fought bravely to secure.



Image: Photograph titled, "Emancipation Day."

## The History

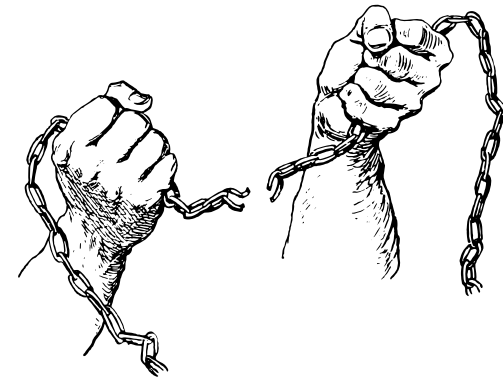
During the American Civil War (1861–1865), emancipation was implemented in different places at different times. Emancipation became a well-known cause of celebration across the United States.

Abraham Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, and it went into effect on January 1, 1863. The proclamation freed persons who were enslaved in "rebellious states."



It was not until June 18, 1865, two and a half years after the signing of the proclamation was issued, that the Union army arrived in Galveston, Texas.

The next day, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers issued General Order No. 3, which informed Texans that enslaved persons were free.



This news was met with celebration, but also defiance. Those who were formerly enslaved went to great lengths to claim and maintain their freedom in the days following the announcement.



Watch Now

Juneteenth has been celebrated annually since then, and is recognized as one of the longest-running holidays established by African Americans. The holiday spread throughout Texas, and spread to other states, honoring the end of slavery in the United State.

# North Carolina

## Liberation Story



Watch Now

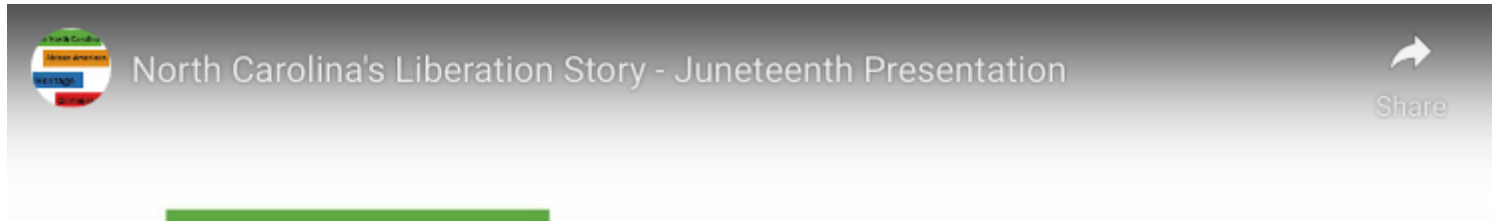


Juneteenth is embraced and celebrated by all races and ethnicities in honor, and commemoration of African American culture and achievements. Juneteenth has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1866.

North Carolina became the 26th state in 2007 to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth is about freedom, liberation, and celebration. It is a holiday for North Carolinians to come together to foster connections that will continue to empower and uplift the community.

# VIDEO FEATURE

North Carolina's Liberation Story



**The North Carolina**

**African American**

**Heritage**

**Commission**



Watch on  YouTube

Watch Now



# QUICK FACTS

## Liberation in North Carolina



### Quick facts about North Carolina's Liberation History

- In North Carolina, African Americans were liberated from slavery in diverse ways over time.
- On this day, we can honor formerly enslaved people who were able to achieve emancipation and claim their freedom.
- African Americans created new lives in freedmen's communities like Hotel de Afrique and Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony on the Outer Banks, and James City in New Bern.
- Enslaved African Americans navigated North Carolina's landscape, by land and by water, to liberate themselves from slavery during the Civil War Era.
- On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation provided a pathway to freedom for enslaved African Americans in communities like Beaufort, Elizabeth City, Plymouth, and New Bern.

- Emancipation celebrations in NC began occurring as early as January 1, 1864. Therefore, African Americans in North Carolina have a tradition of celebrating freedom even before Juneteenth.
- Other enslaved North Carolinians claimed their freedom in April 1865, and the months thereafter, after Confederate troops surrendered in Durham. U.S. Colored Troops witnessed this surrender.
- 6,000 African American men from North Carolina served in the Civil War as U.S. Colored Troops; they fought for liberation and played a major role in emancipating African Americans across the South.
- In North Carolina, we can use Juneteenth to explore how liberation and emancipation played out in our local communities; and to honor the rich communities and institutions that were created as a result—like Shaw University (Raleigh), Princeville (Edgecombe County), and St. Peter A.M.E. Zion Church (New Bern). This is an opportunity to celebrate rich local history!
- Some of our state's earliest Juneteenth festivals were established in Rocky Mount, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro. Stagville State Historic Site also has a long tradition of honoring and celebrating Emancipation.



# Speakers Bureau

## Juneteenth & African-American History



The NC AAHC is leading NC DNCR in the effort to create a Speakers Bureau centered on sharing North Carolina's liberation history. The esteemed experts below are willing to present lectures surrounding Juneteenth, African American history, and topics related to freedom-seeking. Additional information will be available on the NC AAHC website as we continue to share rich stories from our state's Juneteenth history in celebration of this national holiday.



**Stephanie Sterling**

East Carolina University



**Earl Ijames**

North Carolina Museum of History



**Leesa Jones**

Washington Waterfront  
Underground Railroad Museum



**Angela Thorpe**

NC African American Heritage Commission



**Bernard George**

Historian & Reenactor,  
USCT 35th Regiment



**Beverly Fields Burnette**

NC Association of Black Storytellers



**Chris Meekins**

NC DNCR Civil War Roster Project



**Adrienne Nirdé**

NC African American Heritage Commission

**Book a Speaker**

Follow the link above to book a  
speaker for your Juneteenth event!



## FAQ Speakers Bureau

### **Are the Speakers willing to be physically present for a speaking engagement?**

The NC AAHC will act as a liaison between the organization and the speaker. Speakers will provide a lecture for between 30 and 45 minutes. Whether the event is in-person or virtual, it is up to the discretion of the speaker to accept or deny the invitation.

### **How many engagements will the speakers accept?**

It is expected that each speaker on the Juneteenth Speakers Bureau will participate in a maximum of 3 events. We encourage organizations to submit invitations as soon as possible to improve the chances of booking an expert. We expect requests throughout May in preparation for June and the Juneteenth Holiday.

### **Are speakers accepting events occurring throughout the month, or just on the Juneteenth holiday?**

Speakers will consider events throughout June if the specified dates are aligned with their availability.

### **Is there an overarching theme for each speaker's presentation?**

Speakers will offer lectures on topics that align with their expertise and could encompass Juneteenth, African American history, and topics related to freedom-seeking. Details of each speaker's area of expertise will be available on the NC AAHC website.





**North Carolina African American  
Heritage Commission**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

*Let's Stay Connected!*

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

## OUR MISSION

The North Carolina General Assembly created the African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) in 2008, to work across the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, to achieve the mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting North Carolina's African American history, art, and culture, for all people.





# EVENT & PROGRAM

Submission Form



We are excited about the many Juneteenth celebrations within our great state! Be sure to share your Juneteenth event with us, as we may be able to provide planning, resource, or promotional support.

**Submission Form**

## PG 2

NC AAHC Website: <https://aahc.nc.gov>

NC AAHC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCarolinaAAHC/>

NC AAHC Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/northcarolinaaahc/>

NC AAHC Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZNFbRqKlsD5xq60iEDhNUQ>

## PG 6

The History of Juneteenth:  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLXv3692Lvg&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLXv3692Lvg&feature=emb_logo)

## PG 7

What's North Carolina's "Juneteenth History?" ■ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=-l7xT9ByDDE&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=-l7xT9ByDDE&feature=emb_logo)

## PG 8

North Carolina's Liberation Story:  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=305&v=NYMSpoCYld4&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=305&v=NYMSpoCYld4&feature=emb_logo)

## PG 12

**Book a Speaker:**  <https://form.jotform.com/221074273159151>

## PG 14

View Our Website:  <https://aahc.nc.gov>  
 Subscribe to our Youtube Channel:  <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZNFbRqKlsD5xg60iEDhNUQ>

## PG 15

Submission Form: <https://form.jotform.com/221074359567159>

