

JUNE TEENTH

NORTH CAROLINA
CELEBRATE FREEDOM
2023 TOOLKIT

The North Carolina

African American

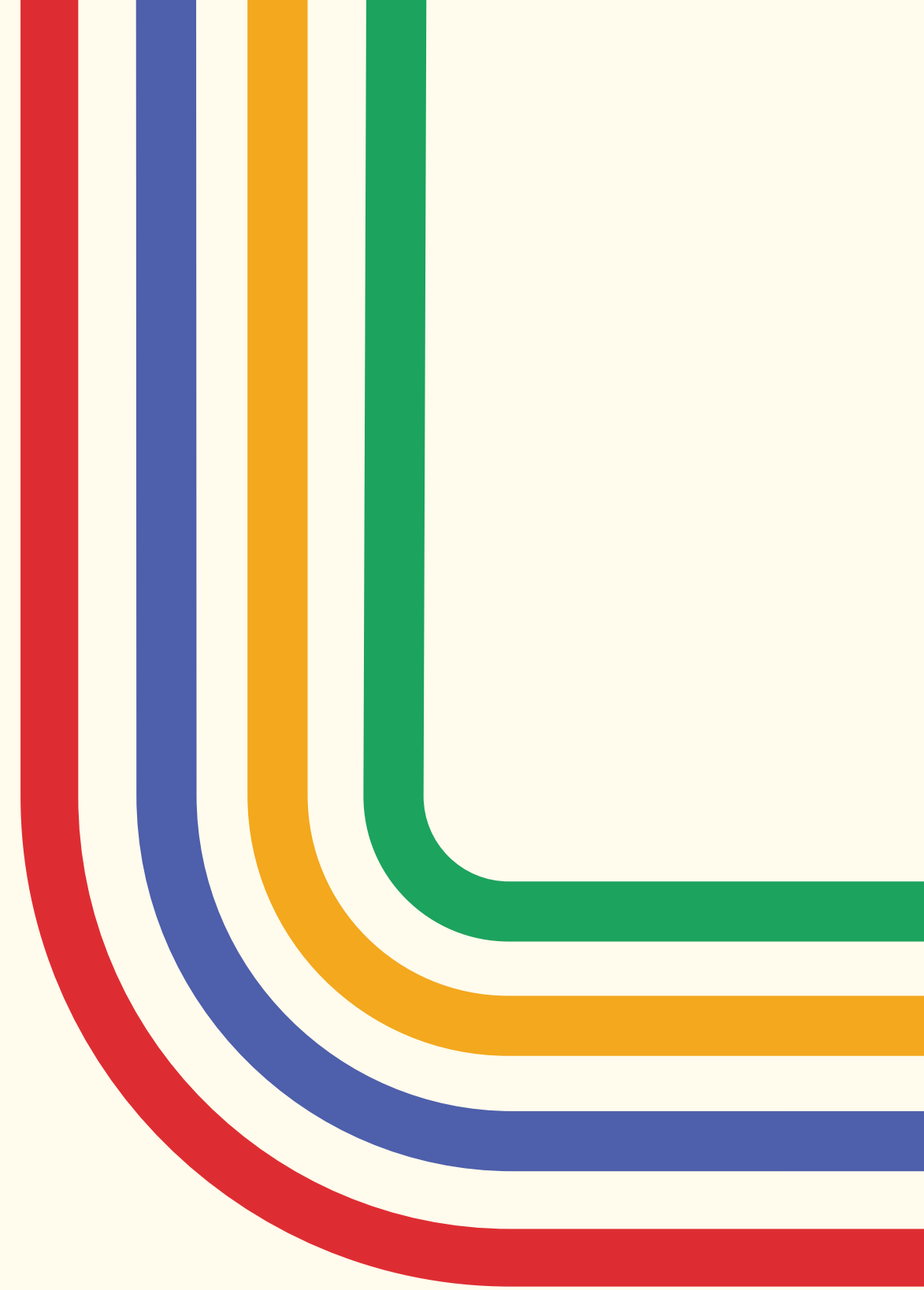
Heritage

Commission

The NC African American Heritage Commission (NC AAHC) works continuously 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?

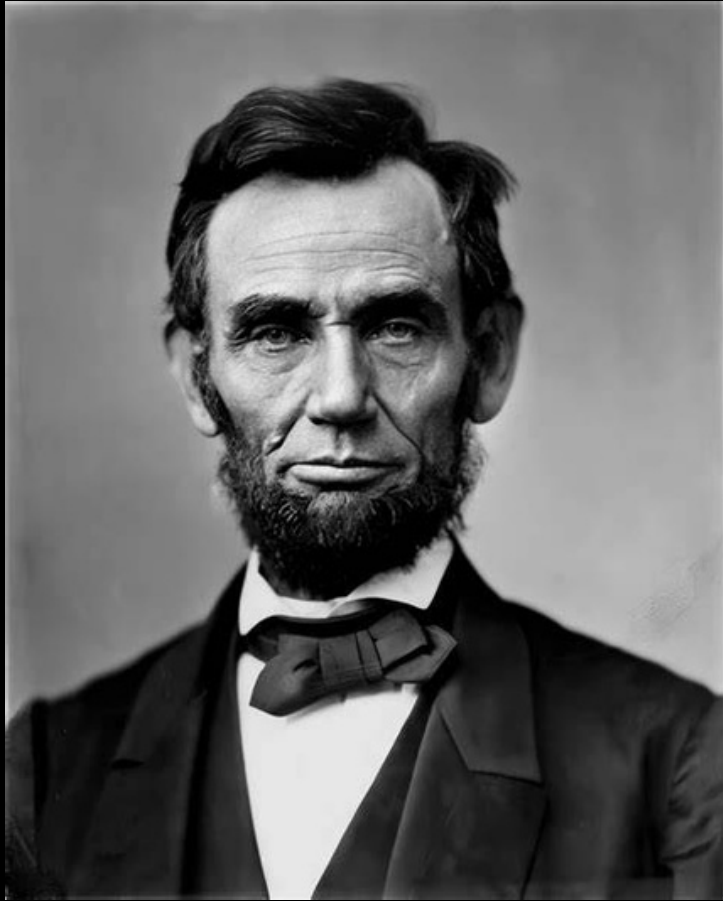
Juneteenth has become not only a time to commemorate Black liberation from the institution of slavery, but also an acknowledgment of resilience, solidarity, and culture of the Black community. Juneteenth allows us all to join together to celebrate the freedoms and lives that generations before have fought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

The History of JUNETEENTH



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.



The 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.

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 States.



What does Juneteenth mean to you?

Video feature

Take a listen to NC AAHC
Commission Chair Dr. Valerie Ann
Johnson and NCAAHC
Commission Staff!



Watch Now!

Interested in learning more?

Video feature

Take a listen to Historically Black
College and University (HBCU)
students from across the state of
North Carolina!



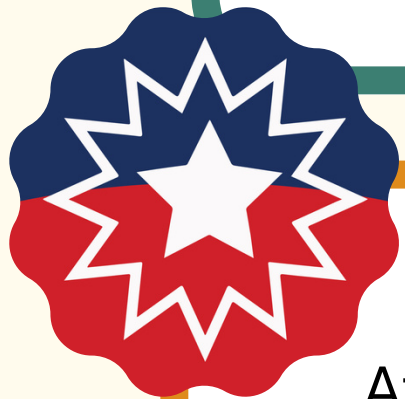
Watch Now!

QUICK FACTS

Liberation in North Carolina



On this day, we can honor formerly enslaved people who were able to achieve emancipation and claim their freedom.



African American created new lives in freedmen's communities like Hotel de Afrique and Roanoke Island Freedman's Colony on the Outer Banks and James City in New Bern.



In North Carolina, African Americans were liberated from slavery in diverse ways over time.



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.



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.



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, and St. Peter A.M.E. Zion Church.



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 listed 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.





Beverly Fields Burnette

NC Association of Black
Storytellers



Carolyn Evans

Independent Educator



Chris Meekins

NC DNCR Civil War Roster
Project



Leesa Jones

Washington Waterfront
Underground Railroad
Museum



Adrienne Nirdé
North Carolina African
American Heritage
Commission



Rodney Dawson
North Carolina African
American Heritage
Commission



Vincentt Sutton
North Carolina 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 engagements?

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

How many engagements will the speakers accept?

It is expected that each speaker on the Juneteenth Speakers Bureau will participate in a maximum of 2 events. We encourage organizations to submit invitations as soon as possible to improve the chances of booking an expert.

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.

Community Calendar

Calendar

Looking for ways to celebrate in community? Take a look at our Community Calendar and find out about celebrations taking place across the state!

Submission
Form

Be sure to share your Juneteenth event with us, as we may be able to provide planning, resource, or promotional support.

The North Carolina

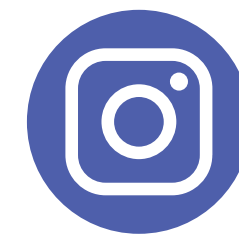
African American

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Our Mission

The North Carolina General Assembly created the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission (NC 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 African American history, art, and culture, for all people.



Let's stay connected!