

2016-2017

Appreciation Days

September 2016

Grandparents Day – September 11, 2016

October 2016

National Bullying Prevention Month

National School Lunch Week – October 10-14, 2016

National Character Counts Week – October 17-21, 2016

Red Ribbon Week – October 23-31, 2016

National School Bus Safety Week – October 17-21, 2016

November 2016

National Native American Heritage Month

Veteran's Day – November 11, 2016

American Education Week – November 14-18, 2016

National Parental Involvement Day - November 16, 2016

Substitute Educators Day – November 18, 2016

National Family Week – November 20-26, 2016

Thanksgiving – November 24, 2016

December 2016

Hanukkah December 24-January 1

Christmas – December 25, 2016

Kwanza – December 26 – January 1

January 2017

School Board Appreciation Month

New Year's Day – January 1, 2017

Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday Observance – January 16, 2017

February 2017

National FCCLA Week – February 5-11, 2017

National School Counseling Week – February 6-10, 2017

Take Your Family to School Week – February 13-17, 2017

Love the Bus/School Bus Driver's Appreciation Week – February 13-17, 2017

March 2017

School Social Workers Appreciation Week – March 6-10, 2017

National School Breakfast Week – March 6-10, 2017

April 2017

National Library Week – April 9-15, 2017

Good Friday, April 14, 2017

Easter – April 16, 2017

National Student Leadership Week – April 16-22, 2017

Public School Volunteer Week – April 17-21, 2017

Administrative Professionals Day (Secretaries) April 26, 2017

May 2017

National Teacher Appreciation Week – May 1-5, 2017

School Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week – May 1-5, 2017

School Lunch Hero Day – May 5, 2017

National School Nurses Day – May 10, 2017

Custodial Appreciation Week – May 8-12, 2017

Mother's Day – May 14, 2017

National Educational Bosses' Week – May 21-27, 2017

Memorial Day – May 29, 2017

June 2017

Flag Day – June 14, 2017

Father's Day – June 18, 2017

DIRECTORY OF SPECIAL DAYS, WEEKS, AND MONTHS

This directory is an alphabetical listing of the holidays and special observances listed chronologically in the Special Days, Weeks, and Months section of this publication, beginning on page 1. The directory provides a convenient way for readers to locate a specific observance from January 2016–June 2017. The section that follows includes a summary of the significance of each holiday or observance and, where available, the name and address of the sponsoring organization that can furnish further information.

2016

Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®
(Camp Fire USA) March 15

Administrative Professionals
Day April 27
Week April 24-30

African American History Month,
National Feb. 1-29

African Child, International
Day of June 16

Agriculture
Day March 15
Week March 13-19

AIDS Day, World..... Dec. 1

All Saints Day Nov. 1

Anthony, Susan B...... Feb. 15

Appleseed, Johnny..... March 11

April Fools' Day April 1

Arbor Day, National..... April 29

Armed Forces Day..... May 21

Armenian Genocide April 24

Arts in Education Week,
National Sept. 11-17

Asalha Puja Day July 19

Ascension May 5

Ascension of the Baha'u'llah May 29

Ash Wednesday Feb. 10

Asian American and Pacific Islander
Heritage Month..... May 1-31

Assumption Aug. 15

Autism Awareness Month,
National April 1-30

Autumn, First Day of..... Sept. 22

Bahá'í New Year's Day..... March 21

Baisakhi..... April 13

Banneker, Benjamin Oct. 9

Barbosa, José Celso..... July 27

Barton, Clara..... Dec. 25

Bastille Day July 14

Be Kind to Animals Week May 1-7

Better Hearing and Speech
Month May 1-31

Bike to School Day, National May 4

Bill of Rights Day..... Dec. 15

Biological Diversity,
International Day for May 22

Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í) Oct. 20

Black Newspaper in United States,
First March 16

Boston Tea Party Dec. 16

Buddha's Birthday April 8

Bullying Prevention Month,
National Oct. 1-31

Camp Fire Birthday March 17

Canada Day July 1

Canadian Thanksgiving..... Oct. 10

Caribbean-American Heritage Month,
National June 1-30

Character Counts Week,
National Oct. 17-21

Child Health Day..... Oct. 3

Child Workers' Strike July 3

Children's Book Day,
International..... April 2

Children's Book Week,
National May 2-8

Children's Dental Health Month,
National Feb. 1-29

Children's Eye Health and Safety
Month Aug. 1-31

Chinese New Year Feb. 8

Christian Observances, Nondenom.
All Saints Day Nov. 1
Ash Wednesday Feb. 10
Christmas Dec. 25
Easter March 27
Epiphany Jan. 6
Good Friday March 25
Lent Feb. 10-March 26
Pentecost May 15

Christmas..... Dec. 25

Christmas (Orthodox)..... Jan. 7

Cinco de Mayo..... May 5

Citizenship Day Sept. 17

Coin Week, National..... April 17-23

Columbus/Discoverers' Day Oct. 10

Constitution Day, Puerto Rico .. July 25

Constitution Week..... Sept. 17-23

Continental Congress, First Sept. 5

Crime Prevention Month Oct. 1-31

Curie, Marie..... Nov. 7

Czech Heritage Month..... Oct. 1-31

Dance Day, International..... April 29

Davis, Jefferson June 3

Daylight Saving Time..... March 13

Declaration of the Báb May 23

Dewey, John..... Oct. 20

Día del Trabajo..... May 1

Dickinson, Emily Dec. 10

Discoverers'/Columbus Day Oct. 10

Douglass, Frederick Feb. 20

DuBois, W.E.B...... Feb. 23

Earhart, Amelia..... July 2

Earth Day April 22

Easter March 27

Easter (Orthodox) May 1

Edison, Thomas Alva..... Feb. 11

Education Support Professionals
Day Nov. 16

Education Week,
American Nov. 14-18

Educational Bosses' Week,
National May 15-21

Educational Office Professionals
Career Awareness Week Oct. 9-15

Eid al-Adha Sept. 13

Eid-al-Fitr July 6

Einstein, Albert March 14

Election Day Nov. 8

Elimination of Racial Discrimination,
Day for March 21

Emancipation Proclamation Jan. 1

Emerson, Ralph Waldo..... May 25

Environment Day, World June 5

Environmental Education Week,
National April 17-23

Epiphany..... Jan. 6

Family Week, National..... Nov. 20-26

Father's Day June 19

FCCLA Week, National Feb. 7-13

FFA Week, National..... Feb. 20-27

Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15

Fireworks Safety Month June-July

Flag Day..... June 14

Food Allergy Action Month .. May 1-31

Food Day, World..... Oct. 16

Foreign Language Week,
National March 7-13

Frank, Anne June 12

Franklin, Benjamin,
Kite Experiment of June 15

Freedom Day, National Feb. 1

Gandhi, Mahatma..... Oct. 2

German-American Day Oct. 6

Gettysburg Address Nov. 19

Girl Scout Week..... March 6-12

Good Friday..... March 25

Good Neighbor Day, National	Sept. 28	Lent (Orthodox)	March 14-April 30	Parental Involvement Day, National	Nov. 17
Grandparents Day, National.....	Sept. 11	Library Card Sign-up Month	Sept. 1-30	Paryushana Parva.....	Aug. 28
Great American Cleanup.....	March 1-May 31	Library Week, National	April 10-16	Passover Concluding Days.....	April 29-30
Great Chicago Fire	Oct. 8	Library Workers Day, National	April 12	First Days	April 22-23
Great Outdoors Month	June 1-30	Lincoln, Abraham	Feb. 12	Patriot Day.....	Sept. 11
Groundhog Day	Feb. 2	Lindbergh Flight	May 20-21	Patriot's Day.....	April 18
Halloween.....	Oct. 31	Literacy Day, International.....	Sept. 8	Peace Corps Anniversary	March 1
Hanukkah	Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Little League Baseball Week, National	June 13-19	Peace, International Day of	Sept. 21
Health Day, World.....	April 7	Loyalty Day.....	May 1	Pearl Harbor Day	Dec. 7
Henry, Patrick, Speech of.....	March 23	Magha Puja.....	March 23	Pentecost.....	May 15
Hiroshima, Bombing of	Aug. 6	Magna Carta Day.....	June 15	Physical Education and Sport Week, National	May 1-7
Hispanic Heritage Month, National	Sept. 15-Oct. 15	Mahavir Jayanti.....	April 19	Physical Fitness and Sports Month, National	May 1-31
History Day Contest, National	June 12-16	Make a Difference Day.....	Oct. 22	Pioneer Day	July 24
Holocaust Remembrance Day .	May 4-5	Mann, Horace.....	May 4	Poetry Month, National	April 1-30
Human Rights Day	Dec. 10	Mardi Gras.....	Feb. 9	Poison Prevention Week, National	March 20-26
Immaculate Conception, Feast of.....	Dec. 8	Mayflower Day.....	Sept. 16	Polish American Heritage Month	Oct. 1-31
Independence Day	July 4	McAuliffe, Christa.....	Jan. 28	Preservation Month.....	May 1-31
Irish American Heritage Month	March 1-31	Memorial Day.....	May 30	Presidents' Day.....	Feb. 15
Islamic Holy Days Eid al-Adha.....	Sept. 13	Metric Week, National	Oct. 9-15	Press Freedom Day, World.....	May 3
Eid-al-Fitr	July 6	Mexican Constitutions	Feb. 5	Principals Month, National...	Oct. 1-31
Ramadan, First Day of.....	June 6	Mexican Independence Days	Sept. 15-16	PTA Founders Day, National	Feb. 17
Italian American Heritage and Culture Month	Oct. 1-31	Mexican Revolution	Nov. 20	Public School Volunteer Week	April 18-22
Janmashtami, Krishna	Aug. 25	Middle Level Education Month, National	March 1-31	Puerto Rico Constitution Day....	July 25
Japanese New Year.....	Jan. 1-3	Montgomery Bus Boycott	Dec. 1	Pulaski, Casimir Birthday of	March 4
Jefferson, Thomas.....	April 13	Mormon Church, Founding of...	April 6	Memorial Day	Oct. 11
Jewish Holidays Hanukkah	Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Mother's Day.....	May 8	Race Unity Day.....	June 12
Passover, Concluding Days.....	April 29-30	Music in Our Schools Month	March 1-31	Racial Integration of American Universities Enforced.....	Sept. 30
Passover, First Days.....	April 22-23	Music Week, National.....	May 1-8	Ramadan, First Day of	June 6
Rosh Hashanah.....	Oct. 2-4	National Anthem Adoption .	March 3	Read Across America, NEA	March 2
Shavuot	June 11-13	Native American Heritage Month, National	Nov. 1-30	Red Cross Day, World.....	May 8
Shemini Atzeret	Oct. 23-24	Native American U.S. Senator, First	Jan. 23	Red Cross Month, American	March 1-31
Simchat Torah	Oct. 24-25	Navaratri, first day of.....	Oct. 1	Red Ribbon Week	Oct. 23-31
Sukkot.....	Oct. 16-23	Naw-Rúz.....	March 21	Religion Day, World.....	Jan. 17
Yom Hashoah	May 4-5	New Year, Chinese.....	Feb. 8	Republic Day (Italy)	June 2
Yom Kippur.....	Oct. 11-12	New Year's Day.....	Jan. 1	Revere, Paul, Ride of	April 18
Juneteenth.....	June 19	No Tobacco Day, World.....	May 31	Roman Catholic Holy Days of Obligation	
Keller, Helen.....	June 27	Nonviolence, International Day of.....	Oct. 2	Ascension.....	May 5
King Jr., Martin Luther	Jan. 18	Nutrition Month®, National	March 1-31	Assumption	Aug. 15
Korean Independence Movement Day	March 1	Obon	Aug. 13-15	Christmas	Dec. 25
Kwanzaa	Dec. 26-Jan. 1	Orthodox (Eastern or Greek) Holy Days		Easter.....	March 27
Labor Day.....	Sept. 5	Christmas	Jan. 7	Immaculate Conception	Dec. 8
Law Day.....	May 1	Easter.....	May 1	Solemnity of Mary.....	Jan. 1
Lee, Robert E.	Jan. 19	Epiphany	Jan. 6	Rosh Hashanah	Oct. 2-4
Lent	Feb. 10-March 26	Lent	March 14-April 30	Sahib, Guru Nanak Dev	Nov. 14

School Bus Safety Week,
National Oct. 17-21

School Counseling Week,
National Feb. 1-5

School Desegregation Order
Enforced Sept. 24

School Desegregation Ruling.....May 17

School Library Month..... April 1-30

School Lunch Hero Day.....May 6

School Lunch Week,
National Oct. 10-14

School Nurse Day, NationalMay 11

Seneca Falls Convention.....July 19

Shakespeare, William.....April 23

Shavuot..... June 11-13

Shemini Atzeret..... Oct. 23-24

Simchat Torah Oct. 24-25

Social Work Month..... March 1-31

Solemnity of MaryJan. 1

Space Milestones
Apollo-Soyuz Joint Space
ProjectJuly 15

First American Man in Space..May 5

First American Woman
in SpaceJune 18

First Humans on the Moon ...July 20

First Man in Space.....April 12

First Woman in Space.....June 16

Spring, First Day of..... March 20

St. Patrick's Day March 17

St. Valentine's Day..... Feb. 14

Standard Time..... Nov. 6

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady..... Nov. 12

Student Leadership Week,
NationalApril 17-23

Substitute Educators Day..... Nov. 18

Sukkot..... Oct. 16-23

Summer, First Day of.....June 20

**Take Our Daughters And Sons To
Work Day™..... April 28**

Take Your Family to School
Week Feb. 15-19

Teacher Appreciation Week,
National May 2-6

Teacher Day, National.....May 3

Thanksgiving, Canadian.....Oct. 10

Thanksgiving Day Nov. 24

Titanic, Sinking ofApril 15

Transcontinental Railroad
CompletionMay 10

Treaty of Paris.....Sept. 3

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF
Month Oct. 1-31

Tubman, Harriet March 10

Twain, Mark..... Nov. 30

United Nations Day.....Oct. 24

Valentine's DayFeb. 14

VE DayMay 8

Veterans Day..... Nov. 11

Victoria Day.....May 23

VJ Day Aug. 14

Volunteer Week, National .. April 10-16

Volunteer Week
(Public School)April 18-22

Walk to School Day,

InternationalOct. 5

Washington, George..... Feb. 22

White, E.B.July 11

Winter, First Day of Dec. 21

Woman Congressperson,
FirstMarch 4

Women's Day, International ... March 8

Women's Equality Day Aug. 26

Women's History Month... March 1-31

World Religion DayJan. 17

World Water Day March 22

Wounded Knee Massacre Dec. 29

Wright Brothers' Flight..... Dec. 17

Wright, RichardSept. 4

Yom Hashoah..... May 4-5

Yom Kippur Oct. 11-12

Young Child, Week of April 10-16

Youth Art Month March 1-31

Zakrzewska, Marie.....Sept. 6

2017

Absolutely Incredible Kid

Day®..... March 16

Administrative Professionals
Day April 26

WeekApril 23-29

African American History Month,
National Feb. 1-28

African Child,
International Day of.....June 16

Anthony, Susan B..... Feb. 15

Appleseed, Johnny..... March 11

April Fools' DayApril 1

Arbor Day, National.....April 28

Armed Forces Day.....May 20

Armenian GenocideApril 24

AscensionMay 25

Ascension of the Baha'u'llahMay 29

Ash Wednesday March 1

Asian American and Pacific Islander
Heritage Month..... May 1-31

Autism Awareness Month,
NationalApril 1-30

Bahá'í New Year's Day..... March 21

Baisakhi.....April 14

Be Kind to Animals Week May 7-13

Better Hearing and Speech
Month May 1-31

Bike to School Day, National ...May 10

Biological Diversity,
International Day for.....May 22

Black Newspaper in United States,
FirstMarch 16

Buddha's BirthdayApril 8

Camp Fire Birthday March 17

Caribbean-American Heritage
Month, National..... June 1-30

Children's Book Day,
International.....April 2

Children's Dental Health Month,
National Feb. 1-28

Chinese New YearJan. 28

Christian Observances, Nondenom.
Ash Wednesday.....March 1

Easter.....April 16

EpiphanyJan. 6

Good FridayApril 14

Lent..... March 1-April 15

PentecostJune 4

Christmas (Orthodox)Jan. 7

Cinco de Mayo.....May 5

Coin Week, National..... April 16-22

Dance Day, International..... April 29

Davis, JeffersonJune 3

Daylight Saving Time..... March 12

Declaration of the BabMay 23

Día del Trabajo.....May 1

Douglass, Frederick Feb. 20

DuBois, W.E.B..... Feb. 23

Earth Day April 22

EasterApril 16

Easter (Orthodox)April 16

Edison, Thomas Alva..... Feb. 11

Educational Bosses' Week,
National May 21-27

Eid-al-FitrJune 25

Einstein, Albert March 14

Elimination of Racial Discrimination,
Day forMarch 21

Emancipation ProclamationJan. 1

Emerson, Ralph Waldo.....May 25

Environment Day, WorldJune 5

Epiphany.....Jan. 6

Father's Day June 18

FCCLA Week, National Feb. 5-11

FFA Week, NationalFeb. 18-25

Fireworks Safety Month June-July

Flag Day.....June 14

Food Allergy Action Month .. May 1-31

Foreign Language Week,
National March 6-12

Frank, AnneJune 12
 Franklin, Benjamin,
 Kite Experiment ofJune 15
 Freedom Day, NationalFeb. 1

Girl Scout Week.....March 12-18
 Good FridayApril 14
 Great American
 Cleanup..... March 1-May 31
 Great Outdoors Month June 1-30
 Groundhog Day Feb. 2

Health Day, World..... April 7
 Henry, Patrick, Speech of March 23
 History Day Contest,
 National June 11-15
 Holocaust Remembrance
 DayApril 23-24

Irish American Heritage
 Month March 1-31
 Islamic Holy Days
 Eid-al-FitrJune 25
 Ramadan, First Day of..... May 27

Japanese New YearJan. 1-3
 Jefferson, Thomas.....April 13
 Jewish Holidays
 Passover, Concluding
 DaysApril 17-18
 Passover, First Days.....April 10-11
 ShavuotMay 30-June 1
 Yom HashoahApril 23-24
 JuneteenthJune 19

Keller, Helen..... June 27
 King Jr., Martin LutherJan. 16
 Korean Independence Movement
 DayMarch 1

Law Day May 1
 Lee, Robert E.Jan. 19
 Lent March 1-April 15
 Lent (Orthodox) Feb. 27-April 15
 Library Week, National April 9-15
 Library Workers Day, National. April 11
 Lincoln, Abraham Feb. 12
 Lindbergh Flight May 20-21
 Little League Baseball Week,
 National June 12-18
 Loyalty Day.....May 1

Magha Puja..... March 12
 Magna Carta DayJune 15
 Mahavir Jayanti.....April 9
 Mann, HoraceMay 4
 Mardi Gras Feb. 28
 McAuliffe, Christa.....Jan. 28
 Memorial DayMay 29
 Mexican Constitutions Feb. 5

Middle Level Education Month,
 National March 1-31
 Mormon Church, Founding of...April 6
 Mother's Day.....May 14
 Music in Our Schools
 Month March 1-31
 Music Week, National May 7-14

National Anthem Adoption . March 3
 Native American U.S. Senator,
 FirstJan. 23
 Naw-Rúz..... March 21
 New Year, Chinese.....Jan. 28
 New Year's Day.....Jan. 1
 No Tobacco Day, WorldMay 31
 Nutrition Month®,
 National March 1-31

Orthodox (Eastern or Greek)
Holy Days
 ChristmasJan. 7
 Easter.....April 16
 EpiphanyJan. 6
 Lent..... Feb. 27-April 15

Passover
 Concluding Days.....April 17-18
 First DaysApril 10-11
 Patriot's DayApril 17
 Peace Corps Anniversary March 1
 PentecostJune 4
 Physical Education and Sport Week,
 National May 1-7
 Physical Fitness and Sports Month,
 National May 1-31
 Poetry Month, National April 1-30
 Poison Prevention Week,
 National March 19-25
 Preservation Month May 1-31
 Presidents' Day..... Feb. 20
 Press Freedom Day, World.....May 3
 PTA Founders Day, National Feb. 17
 Public School Volunteer
 WeekApril 17-21
 Pulaski, Casimir March 4

Race Unity Day..... June 11
 Ramadan, First Day ofMay 27
 Read Across America, NEA March 2
 Red Cross Day, WorldMay 8
 Red Cross Month,
 American March 1-31
 Religion Day, World.....Jan. 15
 Republic Day (Italy)June 2
 Revere, Paul, Ride ofApril 18

Roman Catholic Holy Days of
 Obligation
 Ascension.....May 25
 Easter.....April 16
 Solemnity of Mary.....Jan. 1

School Breakfast Week,
 National March 6-10
 School Counseling Week,
 National Feb. 6-10
 School Desegregation Ruling.....May 17
 School Library Month..... April 1-30
 School Lunch Hero Day.....May 5
 School Nurse Day, NationalMay 10
 Shakespeare, William.....April 23
 Shavuot May 30-June 1
 Social Work Month March 1-31
 Solemnity of MaryJan. 1
 Space Milestones
 First American Man in Space..May 5
 First American Woman
 in SpaceJune 18
 First Man in Space.....April 12
 First Woman in Space.....June 16
 Spring, First Day of..... March 20
 St. Patrick's Day March 17
 St. Valentine's Day..... Feb. 14
 Student Leadership Week,
 NationalApril 16-22
 Summer, First Day ofJune 21

**Take Our Daughters And Sons To
 Work Day™..... April 27**
 Take Your Family to School
 WeekFeb. 13-17
 Teacher Appreciation Week,
 National May 1-5
 Teacher Day, NationalMay 2
 Titanic, Sinking ofApril 15
 Transcontinental Railroad
 CompletionMay 10
 Tubman, Harriet March 10

Valentine's DayFeb. 14
 VE DayMay 8
 Victoria Day.....May 22
 Volunteer Week, National .. April 23-29
 Volunteer Week
 (Public School)April 17-21

Washington, GeorgeFeb. 22
 Woman Congressperson, First. March 4
 Women's Day, International March 8
 Women's History Month March 1-31
 World Religion DayJan. 15
 World Water Day March 22

Yom Hashoah.....April 23-24
 Young Child, Week of April 23-29
 Youth Art Month March 1-31

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OCTOBER

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2016	NAME	COMMENTS
Oct. 1-31	Crime Prevention Month	Information and materials available from the National Crime Prevention Council, 1201 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202-466-6272. Fax: 202-296-1356. Web site: www.ncpc.org .
Oct. 1-31	Czech Heritage Month	A month to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Czech Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.
Oct. 1-31	Italian American Heritage and Culture Month	Designated by presidential proclamation in 1989; celebrated by some states as a month to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Italian Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.
Oct. 1-31	National Bullying Prevention Month	A month to raise awareness of bullying prevention through events, outreach, and education. Sponsored by PACER (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights), 8161 Normandale Boulevard, Bloomington, MN 55437. Phone: 888-248-0822. Fax: 952-838-0199. Email: bullying411@pacer.org . Web site: www.pacer.org/bullying .
Oct. 1-31	National Principals Month	Observed during October each year as an opportunity to recognize and thank principals for their hard work and dedication. Sponsored by National Association of Elementary School Principals and National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537. Phone: 800-253-7746. Fax: 703-476-5432. Web site: www.principalsmonth.org .
Oct. 1-31	Polish American Heritage Month	A month to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Polish Americans and their many contributions to American culture.
Oct. 1-31	Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Month	Observed as a global advocacy and fund-raising campaign to help children learn about different countries and cultures. On October 31 (Halloween), children "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" to raise funds for their peers in less-developed countries. For information and materials, contact Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, 125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038. Phone: 800-367-5437. Email: trickortreat@unicefusa.org . Web site: www.trickortreatforunicef.org .
Oct. 1	First day of Navaratri	A nine-day Hindu festival dedicated to the glorification of the Hindu mother goddess Shakti.
Oct. 2-4	Rosh Hashanah	Begins at sunset, October 2 and ends at sunset, October 4. Jewish New Year and holy days. Days of Renewed Responsibility. The first of the High Holy Days marked by solemn religious observance.
Oct. 2	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday/International Day of Nonviolence	Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Indian leader who practiced nonviolent resistance and led the movement for independence from British rule. Born 1869; assassinated 1948.
Oct. 3	Child Health Day	By presidential proclamation, a day for adults to help children realize their full potential by promoting health, safety, and good choices.

2016	NAME	COMMENTS
Oct. 5	International Walk to School Day	A day to encourage healthier habits and a cleaner environment by having parents and children either walk to school from home or walk to school from a designated starting point. Sponsored by National Center for Safe Routes to School, 730 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Suite 300, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-3430. Email: info@walkbiketoschool.org. Web site: www.walkbiketoschool.org.
Oct. 6	German-American Day	Designated by presidential proclamation as the day to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of German-Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.
Oct. 8	The "Great Chicago Fire" Anniversary	On this date in 1871, a fire broke out in Chicago and raged for 3 days, destroying most of the city. The blaze killed 300 people.
Oct. 9-15	Fire Prevention Week	Observed the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. Sponsored by National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471. Phone: 800-344-3555. Fax: 617-770-0700. Email: education@nfpa.org. Web site: www.nfpa.org.
Oct. 9-15	National Educational Office Professionals Career Awareness Week	Observed the second full week in October. Sponsored by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals, 1841 South Eisenhower Court, Wichita, KS 67209. Phone: 316-942-4822. Fax: 316-942-7100. Email: naeop@naeop.org. Web site: www.naeop.org.
Oct. 9-15	National Metric Week	To encourage each person to develop and maintain an awareness of the metric system. Celebrated the 10th month of each year and the week containing the 10th day. Sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1502. Phone: 800-235-7566. Fax: 703-476-2970. Email: nctm@nctm.org. Web site: www.nctm.org.
Oct. 9	Anniversary of Benjamin Banneker's Death	Known as the "first Black man of science," Banneker was an American astronomer, mathematician, surveyor, and almanac author. Took part in the original survey for the nation's capital city of Washington, DC. Lived 1731-1806.
Oct. 10-14	National School Lunch Week	By annual presidential proclamation, always observed the weekdays of the week that begins with the second Sunday in October. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the School Nutrition Association, 120 Waterfront Street, Suite 300, National Harbor, MD 20745. Phone: 301-686-3100. Fax: 301-686-3115. Email: servicecenter@schoolnutrition.org. More information can be found at www.schoolnutrition.org/NSLW/.
Oct. 10	Canadian Thanksgiving	Celebrated in Canada as a day to give thanks for a successful harvest. Observed on the second Monday in October.
Oct. 10	Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day	A day to honor all explorers and to commemorate Columbus's sighting of the New World on October 12, 1492. A federal holiday celebrated on the second Monday in October.
Oct. 11-12	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Begins at sunset, October 11 and ends at sunset, October 12. Jewish holy day devoted to prayer, fasting, and repentance.
Oct. 11	General Casimir Pulaski Memorial Day	Casimir Pulaski, born in Warka, Poland, in 1747, was a brigadier general and chief of cavalry in the American Revolution. He died on this date in 1779.
Oct. 16-23	Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)	Begins at sunset, October 16 and ends at sunset, October 23. Jewish festival of thanksgiving, harvest, and the remembrance of the Jews who wandered in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt.

2016	NAME	COMMENTS
Oct. 16	World Food Day	Proclaimed in 1979 by the United Nations to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Celebrated on this day each year. Information available from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Liaison Office for North America), 2121 K Street, Suite 800-B, Washington, DC 20037. Phone: 202-653-2400. Fax: 202-653-5760. Email: faolow@fao.org. Web site: www.fao.org/world-food-day.
Oct. 17-21	National Character Counts Week	A week to renew our commitment to instill values in young people and encourage all Americans to remember the importance of good character. For more information contact, Character Counts!, 8117 West Manchester Avenue #830, Playa del Rey, CA 90293. Phone: 800-711-2670. Fax: 310-846-4858. Email: support@charactercounts.org. Web site: www.charactercounts.org.
Oct. 17-21	National School Bus Safety Week	Always observed the third full week in October. Poster Contest Theme for 2016: "# STOP ON RED!" Sponsored by the National Association for Pupil Transportation, 1840 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203. Phone: 800-989-NAPT. Fax: 518-218-0867. Email: info@napt.org. Web site: www.napt.org.
Oct. 20	Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth, in 1819, of "the Báb," the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í faith. One of the 9 holy days of the year where work and school are suspended for Bahá'ís. For more information contact Bahá'í National Center, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Phone: 800-22UNITE. Fax: 847-733-3578. Email: bahai-info@usbnc.org. Web site: www.bahai.us.
Oct. 20	John Dewey's Birthday	American educational reformer and philosopher. Lived 1859-1952.
Oct. 22	Make a Difference Day	To encourage children, youth, and adults to volunteer on behalf of their communities. Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and USA WEEKEND magazine. Phone: 800-416-3824. Email: diffday@usatoday.com. Web site: www.makeadifferenceday.com.
Oct. 23-31	Red Ribbon Week	Every year in which this week is observed, red ribbons are worn and displayed to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a Drug-Free America. Programs and observances are carried out to create awareness concerning the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs; organize community prevention coalitions; and support healthy, productive, drug-free lifestyles. Information available from Informed Families' Education Center, 2490 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33145. Phone: 800-705-8997. Email: info@nfp.org. Web site: www.redribbon.org.
Oct. 23-24	Shemini Atzeret	Begins at sunset, October 23 and ends at sunset, October 24. The closing day of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. A day of prayer.
Oct. 24-25	Simchat Torah	Begins at sunset, October 24 and ends at sunset, October 25. Jewish holiday. Reading of the law (Torah) is concluded and begun anew in the synagogue.
Oct. 24	United Nations Day	Established to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in 1945. Information from United Nations Headquarters, 405 East 42nd Street, New York, NY, 10017. Phone: 212-963-1234. Fax: 212-963-0071. Email: inquiries@un.org. Web site: www.un.org/en/events/unday.
Oct. 31	Halloween	Evening before All Saints or All Hallows Day. Traditionally an occasion for masquerading and pumpkin carving, and for children to play pranks.

NOVEMBER

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2016	NAME	COMMENTS
Nov. 1-30	National Native American Heritage Month	By presidential proclamation, a month to remember the contributions of Native Americans and Alaska Natives and to honor the unique heritage of our continent's first inhabitants.
Nov. 1	All Saints Day	A Catholic and Protestant commemoration of all the saints.
Nov. 6	Standard Time	Begins for all U.S. time zones. At 2 a.m., clocks move back 1 hour, except in the following U.S. states and territories: Hawaii, Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Nation), Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.
Nov. 7	Marie Curie's Birthday	Polish-born French scientist who won the 1911 Nobel Prize for chemistry for her work with radium and its compounds. Lived 1867-1934.
Nov. 8	Election Day	Observed for many state and local elections on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day (Armistice Day)	Federal holiday to celebrate the anniversary of the World War I Armistice between the Allied Powers and the Central Powers, signed at 5 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918; hostilities ceased at 11 a.m. In many places, silent memorial is observed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month each year.
Nov. 12	Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday	Organizer of the first women's rights convention in 1848 at Seneca Falls, NY. In 1866, she ran for U.S. Congress; in 1869, she cofounded the National Woman Suffrage Association with Susan B. Anthony. Lived 1815-1902.
Nov. 14-18	American Education Week	Cosponsored by the National Education Association, National PTA, National School Public Relations Association, and other national education associations to keep the public aware of what schools are doing. American Education Week is always observed the week before Thanksgiving. Education Support Professionals Day is observed the Wednesday of American Education Week (see November 16) and Substitute Educators Day is observed the Friday of American Education Week (see November 18). Information from National Education Association, 1201 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-3290. Phone: 202-833-4000. Fax: 202-822-7974. Web site: www.nea.org .
Nov. 14	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's Birthday Festival	A Sikh religious festival held in honor of Sikh founder Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's Birthday.
Nov. 16	Education Support Professionals Day	See American Education Week, November 14-18.
Nov. 17	National Parental Involvement Day	Information and materials available from Project Appleseed, 520 Melville Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130. Phone: 314-292-9760. Fax: 314-725-2319. Email: headquarters@projectappleseed.org . Web site: www.projectappleseed.org .
Nov. 18	Substitute Educators Day	See American Education Week, November 14-18.

2016	NAME	COMMENTS
Nov. 19	Gettysburg Address Anniversary	On this date in 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech at the dedication of a national cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield. It expressed the resolve "that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."
Nov. 20-26	National Family Week	Recognized Thanksgiving week every year to show appreciation to families and their role in caring for individual members, thus contributing to a strong society. Sponsored by Alliance for Children and Families, 11700 West Lake Park Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Phone: 800-221-3726. Fax: 414-359-1074. Email: nfw@alliance1.org. Web site: www.nationalfamilyweek.org.
Nov. 20	Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution	Mexican national holiday celebrating the start of the social revolution begun in 1910.
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day	Day appointed for giving thanks for blessings, always celebrated the fourth Thursday in November. A federal holiday and legal public holiday in all states. Many schools also observe the following Friday.
Nov. 30	Mark Twain's Birthday	Author, journalist, and humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens; lived 1835-1910.

DECEMBER

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2016	NAME	COMMENTS
Dec. 1	Beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott	On this date in 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a White passenger on a Montgomery, AL, bus. Her consequent arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott on December 5, which brought Martin Luther King Jr. to national prominence. Parks became known as the "mother of the civil rights movement."
Dec. 1	World AIDS Day	Day to promote AIDS education and commemorate those whose lives have been lost or affected by AIDS. For more information, contact World AIDS Day, New City Cloisters, 196 Old Street, London, EC1V 9FR, United Kingdom. Phone: 020-7814-6767. Fax: 020-7216-0111. Email: info@nat.org.uk. Web site: www.worldaidsday.org.
Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Day	Japanese warplanes bombed Pearl Harbor at 7:55 a.m. on this date in 1941, killing over 2,300 people and sinking or damaging more than 19 ships. The U.S. declared war on Japan the following day.
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Roman Catholic Holy Day of Obligation; commemorates the Virgin Mary's freedom from original sin at her conception.
Dec. 10	Emily Dickinson's Birthday	Prolific American poet who wrote over 1,770 poems, only 7 of which were published in her lifetime. Lived 1830-1886.

2016	NAME	COMMENTS
Dec. 10	Human Rights Day	Observed on this date each year as the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
Dec. 15	Bill of Rights Day	Anniversary of the adoption of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution in 1791. Often marked by presidential proclamation.
Dec. 16	Boston Tea Party Anniversary	In response to the Tea Act passed by the British Parliament that secured a monopoly on colonists' tea by the East India Company, a group of colonists dressed as Native Americans threw a cargo of the company's tea into Boston Harbor on this date in 1773.
Dec. 17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' Flight	On this date in 1903, brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright achieved the first piloted, powered airplane flight near Kitty Hawk, NC. Their airplane remained aloft for 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet.
Dec. 21	First Day of Winter	Winter solstice occurs at 5:44 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.
Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)	Begins at sundown on December 24th and ends at sundown of January 1st. Jewish holiday commemorating rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees. Primarily a children's festival—a time for fun, songs, games, and gift-giving. It starts on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month of Kislev and lasts for 8 days and nights.
Dec. 25	Christmas	Celebration of the birth of Christ. A federal holiday celebrated in all states and territories.
Dec. 25	Clara Barton's Birthday	Nurse and philanthropist; founder of the American Red Cross. Lived 1821-1912.
Dec. 26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa	African American 7-day spiritual festival dedicated to 7 principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. The American celebration is related to the spirit and rituals of the harvest festivals of Africa.
Dec. 29	Wounded Knee Massacre Anniversary	On this date in 1890, the 7th Cavalry killed more than 300 Hunkpapa Sioux at Wounded Knee, SD. It was the final "battle" that brought to an end more than 3 centuries of warfare between Native Americans and Western pioneers.

2017

JANUARY

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2017	NAME	COMMENTS
Jan. 1-3	Japanese New Year Festivities	Beginning of the year Heisei Twenty-Ninth, the 29th year of Emperor Akihito's reign. To celebrate the new year, the front entrances of houses are decorated and people dress in their best clothes to visit local shrines and exchange visits with friends.
Jan. 1	Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary	On this date in 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all people held as slaves within the rebelling Confederate states "are, and henceforth shall be, free."
Jan. 1	New Year's Day	Legal holiday in all states and territories; also a federal holiday.
Jan. 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Roman Catholic Holy Day; celebrates the motherhood of Mary.
Jan. 6	Epiphany	Always celebrated on January 6. Epiphany is also known as Three Kings' Day and is a Christian celebration of the three wise men's visit to baby Jesus.
Jan. 7	Christmas Day (Orthodox)	Celebrated on this day by Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian Calendar.
Jan. 15	World Religion Day	To call attention to the need for the religions of the world to strive to be a unifying influence for humanity. Always the third Sunday in January. For more information contact Bahá'í National Center, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Phone: 800-22UNITE. Fax: 847-733-3578. Email: bahai-info@usbnc.org. Web site: www.bahai.us.
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance	Civil rights leader, minister, and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Born in Atlanta, GA, on January 15, 1929; assassinated April 4, 1968. A federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in January.
Jan. 19	Robert E. Lee's Birthday	Commander of the Confederate forces during the Civil War; lived 1807 to 1870. Celebrated in some states on the third Monday in January.
Jan. 23	First Native American U.S. Senator	On this date in 1907, Charles Curtis of Kansas became the first Native American U.S. Senator.
Jan. 28	Chinese New Year	Beginning of the Year of the Rooster.
Jan. 28	Christa McAuliffe Day	Observed in Illinois to commemorate high school teacher Christa McAuliffe, who was 1 of 7 astronauts killed on the space shuttle Challenger when it exploded 74 seconds after take-off on this date in 1986.

FEBRUARY

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2017	NAME	COMMENTS
Feb. 1-28	National African American History Month	Always observed the entire month of February. This observance was first created by Carter G. Woodson in the 1920s as Negro History Week. In 1976, the month-long celebration was established as a time to reflect on the history, teachings, and achievements of African Americans. For more information, visit www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov .
Feb. 1-28	National Children's Dental Health Month	For free resources or to purchase materials, contact the American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678. Phone: 312-440-2500. Email: ncdhm@ada.org . Promotional activities are available on the ADA Web site: www.ada.org .
Feb. 1	National Freedom Day	To commemorate the signing of the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865. Presidential proclamation established the date in 1948.
Feb. 2	Groundhog Day	Folklore says if the groundhog sees its shadow on this day and returns to its burrow, winter continues for 6 more weeks. For information, contact Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce, 102 West Mahoning Street, Punxsutawney, PA 15767. Phone: 800-752-PHIL. Email: info@punxsutawney.com . Web site: www.groundhog.org .
Feb. 5-11	National FCCLA Week	Always the second week in February, to focus attention on the activities and goals of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, 1910 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1584. Phone: 703-476-4900. Fax: 703-439-2662. Email: inbox@fcclainc.org . Web site: www.fcclainc.org .
Feb. 5	Anniversary of Mexican Constitutions	Anniversary to celebrate the adoption of the Constitutions of 1857 and 1917.
Feb. 6-10	National School Counseling Week	Sponsored by American School Counselor Association, 1101 King Street, Suite 310, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 800-306-4722. Fax: 703-997-7572. Email: asca@schoolcounselor.org . Web site: www.schoolcounselor.org .
Feb. 11	Thomas Alva Edison's Birthday	American inventor who patented more than 1,000 inventions, including the phonograph, the microphone, and the incandescent electric lamp. Lived 1847-1931.
Feb. 12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	Sixteenth president of the United States; born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, KY; assassinated 1865. Observed as a federal holiday (Presidents' Day) on the third Monday in February. (See February 20.)

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
Feb. 13-17	Take Your Family to School Week	A week to build positive partnerships with parents and let children know that their families value education. Sponsored by the National PTA, 1250 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 800-307-4782. Fax: 703-836-0942. Email: info@pta.org. Web site: www.pta.org.
Feb. 14	St. Valentine's Day	An occasion for the exchange of affectionate greetings in the United States, Canada, and Europe. The celebration probably dates from the Roman festival Lupercalia.
Feb. 15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday	Crusader for abolition of slavery and for women's rights. Lived 1820-1906.
Feb. 17	National PTA Founders Day	An occasion to mark the work of the PTA and to rally together with other parent groups to pledge anew their commitment to children. Sponsored by the National PTA, 1250 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 800-307-4782. Fax: 703-836-0942. Email: info@pta.org. Web site: www.pta.org.
Feb. 18-25	National FFA Week	Always celebrated during the week of Washington's traditional birthday, beginning the Saturday before February 22 and ending the following Saturday. For information, contact National Future Farmers of America Organization, P.O. Box 68960, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. Phone: 317-802-6060. Fax: 317-802-6051. Email: membership@ffa.org. Web site: www.ffa.org.
Feb. 20	Frederick Douglass Day	African American journalist and antislavery leader; died on this date in 1895; birthdate unknown.
Feb. 20	Presidents' Day	Federal holiday observed on the third Monday in February. Combines the observances of George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.
Feb. 22	George Washington's Birthday	First president of the United States; born February 22, 1732; died 1799. Observed as a federal holiday (Presidents' Day) on the third Monday in February. (See February 20.)
Feb. 23	W.E.B. DuBois's Birthday	Scholar, social critic, and African American leader; lived 1868-1963. Helped organize the Niagara Movement, the first Black protest movement of the 20th century and the forerunner of the NAACP. First African American to hold a doctoral degree.
Feb. 27-April 15	Orthodox Lent	Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Lent; period of fasting and penitence before Easter.
Feb. 28	Mardi Gras	Also called Shrove Tuesday. Celebrated especially in New Orleans, LA; Mobile, AL; and certain Mississippi, Florida, and Texas cities. Last feast before Lenten season.

MARCH

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2017	NAME	COMMENTS
March 1-May 31	Great American Cleanup	The nation's largest community improvement program involving an estimated 4 million volunteers who clean, beautify, and improve their local communities. Information available from Keep America Beautiful, Inc., 1010 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901. Phone: 203-659-3000. Fax: 203-659-3001. Email: info@kab.org. Web site: www.kab.org.
March 1-April 15	Lent	Lent, a period of fasting and penitence observed by Christian churches; lasts 40 days, excluding Sundays, from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter.
March 1-31	American Red Cross Month	Always observed during the entire month of March. Sponsored by the American Red Cross, 2025 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20006. Phone: 800-RED-CROSS. Web site: www.redcross.org.
March 1-31	Irish American Heritage Month	By presidential proclamation each year, this month is set aside to recognize the contributions made in American society and culture by the Irish and Irish Americans.
March 1-31	Music in Our Schools Month	To communicate the importance of music in the learning experience. Sponsored by National Association for Music Education, 1806 Robert Fulton Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Phone: 800-336-3768. Fax: 703-860-1531. Email: memberservices@nafme2.org. Web site: www.nafme.org.
March 1-31	National Middle Level Education Month	To encourage middle level schools to schedule local events focusing on the educational needs of early adolescents. Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537. Phone: 800-253-7746. Fax: 703-476-5432. Web site: www.nassp.org/mlmonth.
March 1-31	National Nutrition Month®	To promote the importance of healthful eating and physical activity habits all year long. Sponsored by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6995. Phone: 800-877-1600. Fax: 312-899-4899. Email: nnm@eatright.org. Web site: www.nationalnutritionmonth.org.
March 1-31	Social Work Month	To honor social workers and raise the public's awareness of the important and often unnoticed work social workers do. Information from National Association of Social Workers, 750 First Street NE, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20002. Phone: 800-742-4089. Email: socialworkmonth@naswdc.org. Web site: www.socialworkers.org.
March 1-31	Women's History Month	Proclaimed by Congress and many governors and state legislatures as a month to celebrate the rich and inspiring heritage of women's contributions to the United States. Information: National Women's History Project, PO Box 469, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Phone: 707-636-2888. Fax: 707-636-2909. Email: nwHP1980@gmail.com. Web site: www.nwHP.org.

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
March 1-31	Youth Art Month	Observed during March each year to emphasize the importance of art activities for children and to encourage schools and youth groups to support their art programs. Sponsored by The Council for Art Education, Inc. and The Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc.: 99 Derby Street, Suite 200, Hingham, MA 02043. Phone: 781-556-4. Fax: 781-207-5550. Email: debbiem@acminet.org. Web site: www.acminet.org.
March 1	Ash Wednesday	First day of Lent. Catholic priests place ashes in the middle of parishioners' foreheads during mass on this day.
March 1	Korean Independence Movement Day	Annual anniversary of the independence movement against colonial Japanese rule in 1919. The Korean Proclamation of Independence is read.
March 1	Peace Corps Anniversary	On this date in 1961, president John F. Kennedy signed the executive order establishing the U.S. Peace Corps. Informational material is available from local chapters, or from the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters, 1111 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20526. Phone: 855-855-1961. Web site: www.peacecorps.gov.
March 2	NEA's Read Across America	A day to celebrate the importance of reading by having caring adults visit schools as "guest readers" to share books with children. Observed every year on or around Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2, but local schools and organizations are encouraged to observe the date whenever it fits into their school calendar. Sponsored by the National Education Association, 1201 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-3290. Phone: 202-833-4000. Fax: 202-822-7974. Email: readacross@nea.org. Web site: www.nea.org.
March 3	Adoption of U.S. National Anthem	On this date in 1931, "The Star Spangled Banner" was adopted as the national anthem. It was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key.
March 4	Casimir Pulaski's Birthday	Born in Warka, Poland, in 1747, he was a brigadier general and chief of cavalry in the American Revolution; died 1779.
March 4	First Woman to Serve in Congress	On March 4, 1917, Jeannette Rankin began her term as a congresswoman from Montana. She was the first female member of Congress, elected 4 years before the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote.
March 6-12	National Foreign Language Week	Sponsored by Alpha Mu Gamma, 855 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029-3500. Phone and fax: 323-644-9752. Email: amgnat@lacitycollege.edu. Web site: www.lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amg/nflw.html.
March 6-10	National School Breakfast Week	The theme for 2017 is: "Take the School Breakfast Challenge". Sponsored by the School Nutrition Association, 120 Waterfront Street, Suite 300, National Harbor, MD 20745. Phone: 301-686-3100. Fax: 301-686-3115. Email: servicecenter@schoolnutrition.org. More information can be found at www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw.
March 8	International Women's Day	Established in the early 1900s as a day to honor working women. Anniversary of one of the first organized actions by working women anywhere in the world—the 1857 strike by women garment workers in New York to protest low wages, long working hours, and inhumane working conditions. Widely adopted and observed in other countries, and more recently in the United States.
March 10	Anniversary of Harriet Tubman's Death	American abolitionist, Underground Railroad leader; born into slavery in Dorchester County, MD, about 1820; died March 10, 1913, in Auburn, NY. She escaped from a Maryland plantation and helped more than 300 slaves reach freedom.

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
March 11	Johnny Appleseed Day	John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, was a planter of orchards and a friend of wild animals. Born 1774; died March 11, 1847.
March 12-18	Girl Scout Week	Sponsored by Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798. Phone: 800-478-7248. Web site: www.girlscouts.org .
March 12	Daylight Saving Time	Begins for all U.S. time zones. At 2 a.m. clocks advance 1 hour, except in the following U.S. states and territories: Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.
March 12	Magha Puja	A Buddhist holiday commemorating a time when many enlightened monks came together to pay respect to Buddha and were taught by him.
March 14	Albert Einstein's Birthday	Eminent physicist known for developing the Theory of Relativity. He won a Nobel Prize in physics in 1921; lived 1879 to 1955. After World War II, he was a leader in seeking international government control of nuclear energy.
March 16	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day® is Camp Fire's national call to action asking adults to write letters of love and support to youth, sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, neighbors, and even kids they don't know. This national campaign to honor children has been recognized by child care experts, educators, celebrities, leaders, parents, and kids everywhere as an event to inspire adult-to-child interaction. Information from Camp Fire, 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 1900, Kansas City, MO 64106-2197. Phone: 816-285-2010. Fax: 816-285-9444. Email: info@campfire.org . Web site: www.campfire.org .
March 16	First Black Newspaper in U.S. Published	This date in 1827 saw the publication of the nation's first Black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, in New York City.
March 17	Camp Fire Birthday	To commemorate the founding of Camp Fire. Sponsored by Camp Fire, 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 1900, Kansas City, MO 64106-2197. Phone: 816-285-2010. Fax: 816-285-9444. Email: info@campfire.org . Web site: www.campfire.org .
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	Commemorates the patron saint of Ireland. Always observed on this date.
March 19-25	National Poison Prevention Week	To encourage people to learn about the dangers of accidental poisoning of children and to take preventive measures. Observed the third full week of March. Sponsored by American Association of Poison Control Centers, 515 King Street, Suite 510, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703-894-1858. Fax: 703-683-2812. Email: info@aapcc.org . Web site: www.poisonprevention.org .
March 20	First Day of Spring	Vernal equinox occurs at 6:28 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.
March 21	Bahá'í New Year's Day (Naw-Rúz)	Begins at sunset the previous day (March 20). Originally a Persian holiday, Naw-Rúz is one of the 9 holy days of the year where work and school are suspended for Bahá'ís. For more information contact Bahá'í National Center, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Phone: 800-22UNITE. Fax: 847-733-3578. Email: bahai-info@usbnc.org . Web site: www.bahai.us .
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Day to remember the people throughout the world who have been victims of racial injustice. Information from United Nations Headquarters, 405 East 42nd Street, New York, NY, 10017. Phone: 212-963-1234. Fax: 212-963-0071. Email: inquiries@un.org . Web site: www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/ .
March 22	World Water Day	Always celebrated on this date to raise awareness of the estimated 783 million people worldwide that lack access to safe drinking water and to highlight the importance of freshwater in agriculture and health. Information from United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 2 United Nations Plaza, Suite 900, New York, NY 10017. Phone: 212-963-5995. Fax: 212-963-8014. Email: unwater@un.org . Web site: www.worldwaterday.org .

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
March 23	Anniversary of Patrick Henry's Speech	On this date in 1775, in a speech at Virginia's second revolutionary convention, American Revolution leader and orator Patrick Henry stated, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

APRIL

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2017	NAME	COMMENTS
April 1-30	National Autism Awareness Month	This month is set apart as an opportunity to learn how to help the 1 in 68 children on the autism spectrum. For more information contact Autism Speaks®, 1 East 33rd Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016. Phone: 212-252-8584. Fax: 212-252-8676. Email: familyservices@autismspeaks.org . Web site: www.autismspeaks.org .
April 1-30	National Poetry Month	Founded by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month is now held every April. Sponsored by Academy of American Poets, 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 901, New York, NY 10038. Phone: 212-274-0343. Fax: 212-274-9427. Email: academy@poets.org . Web site: www.poets.org/npm/ .
April 1-30	School Library Month	A month to celebrate school librarians and their programs that transforming learning. Sponsored by American Association of School Librarians, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone: 800-545-2433. Fax: 312-440-9374. Email: library@ala.org . Web site: www.ala.org/aasl/slm .
April 1	April Fools' Day	Always observed on April 1. A day for pranks and placing people in situations that make them look like an "April Fool."
April 2	International Children's Book Day	Celebrated on Hans Christian Andersen's birthday to help children develop an understanding of other cultures through literature. Each year a different national section of the International Board on Books for Young People sponsors the day, chooses a theme, invites an author to write a message, and invites an illustrator to design a poster. These materials promote books and reading around the world. Information: United States Board on Books for Young People, 5202 Old Orchard Road, Suite 300, Skokie, IL 60077. Phone: 224-233-2030. Email: executive.director@usbby.org . Web sites: www.usbby.org ; www.ibby.org .
April 6	Founding of the Mormon Church	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was founded on this date in 1830 by Joseph C. Smith and Oliver Cowdery.
April 7	World Health Day	Celebrated on this day each year to emphasize significant issues in public health of worldwide concern. Sponsored by the World Health Organization, 525 23rd Street NW, Washington, DC 20037. Phone: 202-974-3000. Fax: 202-974-3663. Email: info@who.int . Web site: www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/ .

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
April 8	Celebration of Buddha's Birthday	Founder of Buddhism, lived 563-480 B.C.
April 9-15	National Library Week	To promote the use and support of all types of libraries. National Library Workers Day is celebrated the Tuesday of National Library Week (see April 11). Sponsored by American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone: 800-545-2433. Fax: 312-440-9374. Email: library@ala.org. Web site: www.ala.org.
April 9	Mahavir Jayanti	The most important Jain festival. It celebrates the birth of Mahavira, the founder of present-day Jainism.
April 10-11	Passover (Pesach), First Days	Begins at sunset, April 10. Jewish festival marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.
April 11	National Library Workers Day	See National Library Week, April 9-15.
April 12	Anniversary of the First Man in Space	Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on this date in 1961, when he made a 1 hour, 29-minute voyage, orbiting Earth in spacecraft Vostok I, launched by the USSR.
April 13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	Third president; lived 1743 to 1826. Author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom, and founder of the University of Virginia.
April 14	Baisakhi	A Sikh festival celebrating Sikh new year and the founding of the Sikh community.
April 14	Good Friday	Observed by Christians the Friday before Easter. Commemorates Christ's crucifixion, death, and entombment.
April 15	Anniversary of the Sinking of the Titanic	On this date in 1912, the "unsinkable" ship Titanic sank on its first voyage, after colliding with an iceberg; approximately 1,500 of the estimated 2,200 people on board died.
April 16-22	National Coin Week	To promote coin collecting and to emphasize its educational aspects. For information, contact American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Phone: 800-367-9723. Fax: 719-634-4085. Email: ana@money.org. Web site: www.money.org.
April 16-22	National Student Leadership Week	Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage and recognize the many student leadership activities in our nation's secondary schools. For information, contact NASSP, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537. Phone: 703-860-0200. Fax: 703-476-5432. Email: alliances2@nassp.org. Web site: www.principals.org.
April 16	Easter	Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection. Observed the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox.
April 16	Orthodox Easter	Called Pascha, observed by Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox churches.
April 17-21	Public School Volunteer Week	To encourage parents and citizens to volunteer in their public schools; observed the third week of April. Sponsored by Project Appleseed, 520 Melville Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130. Phone: 314-292-9760. Fax: 314-725-2319. Email: headquarters@projectappleseed.org. Web site: www.projectappleseed.org.
April 17-18	Passover (Pesach), Concluding Days	Passover ends at sunset, April 18. Jewish festival; see April 10-11.
April 17	Patriot's Day	Always observed the third Monday in April in Maine and Massachusetts to commemorate the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which began the Revolutionary War in 1775. Always observed on April 19 in some states.

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
April 18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride	The "midnight ride" of Paul Revere started at about 10 p.m. on this day in 1775.
April 22	Earth Day	Over a billion people take action on behalf of the environment for Earth Day on this date each year. Information from Earth Day Network, 1616 P Street NW, Suite 340, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202-518-0044. Fax: 202-518-8794. Email: info@earthday.org. Web site: www.earthday.org.
April 23-29	Administrative Professionals Week and Day	Always the last full week in April with Administrative Professionals Day falling on the Wednesday of that week (see April 26). Observed to recognize the contributions of administrative support staff in the workplace and to encourage professional development. Sponsored by the International Association of Administrative Professionals, 10502 N Ambassador Drive, Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64153. Phone: 816-891-6600. Fax: 816-891-9118. Email: service@iaap-hq.org. Web site: www.iaap-hq.org.
April 23-29	National Volunteer Week	By presidential proclamation, a week to recognize and celebrate the important work that volunteers do every day and to explore ways to help others in need. For more information contact HandsOn Network, 600 Means Street, Suite 210, Atlanta, GA 30318. Phone: 404-979-2900. Fax: 404-979-2901. Email: info@handsonnetwork.org. Web site: www.handsonnetwork.org.
April 23-29	Week of the Young Child	To focus attention on the importance of the early years for children's learning and development. Sponsored by National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1313 L Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 800-424-2460. Fax: 202-328-1846. Email: naeyc@naeyc.org. Web site: www.naeyc.org.
April 23-24	Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah)	Begins at sunset, April 23 and ends at sundown, April 24. Honors the memory of 6 million Jewish martyrs and heroes who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
April 23	William Shakespeare's Birthday	William Shakespeare, poet and dramatist in Elizabethan England, was born on this date in 1564 and also died on this date in 1616.
April 24	Commemoration of Armenian Genocide	A day to remember the Armenians who were tortured, killed, and deported against their will by the Young Turks and Turkish Nationalists during 1915-1918 and 1920-1923. For more information contact the Armenian National Institute, 1334 G Street, NW Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 202-383-9009. Email: ani@agmm.org. Web site: www.armenian-genocide.org.
April 26	Administrative Professionals Day	See Administrative Professionals Week, April 23-29.
April 27	Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day™	Always the fourth Thursday in April. This program encourages parents and other adults to bring girls and boys to work with them and show them the wide range of jobs available to them. Sponsored by Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation, 209 East Fearling Street, Suite 1, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. Phone: 800-676-7780. Email: todastrv@mindspring.com. Web site: www.daughtersandsonstowork.org.
April 28	National Arbor Day	To encourage people to plant and care for trees. Sponsored on the last Friday in April by Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410. Phone: 888-448-7337. Fax: 402-474-0820. Email: education@arborday.org. Web site: www.arborday.org. Many states observe Arbor Day on other dates.
April 29	International Dance Day	Celebrated on the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet, to unite the cultures of the world with the common entity of dance. Every year the dance committee of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute selects a message from an outstanding choreographer or dancer to promote dance throughout the world. Information from United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 2 United Nations Plaza, Suite 900, New York, NY 10017. Phone: 212-963-5995. Fax: 212-963-8014. Email: newyork@unesco.org. Web site: www.unesco.org.

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2017	NAME	COMMENTS
May 1-31	Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	Designated by presidential proclamation to celebrate the collective accomplishments of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, who comprise many ethnic groups with diverse backgrounds, histories, languages, and cultures.
May 1-31	Better Hearing and Speech Month	Sponsored by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to raise public awareness about how to identify, prevent, and treat speech, language, and hearing disorders. Information from American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850-3289. Phone: 800-638-8255. Fax: 301-296-8580. Email: bhsm@asha.org . Web site: www.asha.org/bhsm .
May 1-31	Food Allergy Action Month	This month is set apart as an opportunity to learn how to help the approximately 15 million Americans with food allergies. For more information, contact Food Allergy Research and Education, 7925 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 1100, McLean, VA 22102. Phone: 800-929-4040. Fax: 703-691-2713. Email: info@foodallergy.org . Web site: www.foodallergy.org .
May 1-31	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month	Sponsored by the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition to encourage all Americans to take part in regular physical activity and increase their knowledge about the health benefits of exercise. Information from the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 560, Rockville, MD 20852. Phone: 240-276-9567. Fax: 240-276-9860. Email: fitness@hhs.gov . Web site: www.fitness.gov .
May 1-31	Preservation Month	To recognize the accomplishments of groups working to preserve neighborhoods, districts, and landmark buildings. Sponsored by National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20037. Phone: 800-944-6847. Fax: 202-588-6038. Email: info@savingplaces.org . Web site: www.preservationnation.org .
May 1-7	National Physical Education and Sport Week	To increase awareness of the value of quality physical education and sports programs. Sponsored by Society of Health and Physical Educators, 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Phone: 800-213-7193. Fax: 703-476-9527. Email: info@shapeamerica.org . Web site: www.shapeamerica.org/events/pepsportweek/ .
May 1-5	National Teacher Appreciation Week and National Teacher Day	National PTA founded this week to give PTAs an opportunity to conduct activities to strengthen respect and support for teachers and the teaching profession. National Teacher Day falls on Tuesday of National Teacher Appreciation Week (see May 2) and is a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives. Information from National Education Association, 1201 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-3290. Phone: 202-833-4000. Fax: 202-822-7974. Web site: www.nea.org .
May 1	Dia del Trabajo	Labor Day in Mexico and many other countries.

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
May 1	Law Day	Day to celebrate and learn about the rule of law in a constitutional democracy. Sponsored by the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654. Phone: 800-285-2221. Web site: www.americanbar.org .
May 1	Loyalty Day	By presidential proclamation each year, a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.
May 2	National Teacher Day	See Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1-5.
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	To celebrate the independence of the international press and journalists. Information from United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 2 United Nations Plaza, Suite 900, New York, NY 10017. Phone: 212-963-5995. Fax: 212-963-8014. Email: newyork@unesco.org . Web site: www.unesco.org .
May 4	Horace Mann's Birthday	Father of the American free public school system; first secretary of the State Board of Education in Massachusetts. Lived 1796-1859.
May 5	Anniversary of the First American Man in Space	On this date in 1961, Alan B. Shepard Jr., became the first American man in space. His suborbital flight lasted 15 minutes and reached a height of 115 miles.
May 5	Cinco de Mayo	Mexican anniversary of the victory over the French army in the Battle of Puebla in 1862.
May 5	School Lunch Hero Day	To encourage directors, managers, parents, students, teachers, and school administrators to show school nutrition professionals appreciation. Sponsored by the School Nutrition Association, 120 Waterfront Street, Suite 300, National Harbor, MD 20745. Phone: 301-686-3100. Fax: 301-686-3115. Email: servicecenter@schoolnutrition.org . Web site: www.schoolnutrition.org/SLHD/ .
May 7-14	National Music Week	Celebrated the first full week in May. Sponsored by National Federation of Music Clubs, 1646 W Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN 46142. Phone: 317-882-4003. Fax: 317-882-4019. Email: info@nfmc-music.org . Web site: www.nfmc-music.org .
May 7-13	Be Kind to Animals Week	Always observed the first full week in May, this event celebrates the bond between humans and animals. Sponsored by the American Humane Association, 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 360, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 800-227-4645. Fax: 303-792-5333. Email: info@americanhumane.org . Web site: www.americanhumane.org .
May 8	VE Day	Victory in Europe Day. Germany surrendered to Allied forces in 1945, ending World War II in Europe.
May 8	World Red Cross Day	Always on the birthday of Swiss citizen Jean Henri Dunant, who in 1863 founded the Red Cross movement in Geneva, Switzerland. Information available from the American Red Cross, 2025 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. Phone: 800-RED-CROSS. Web site: www.redcross.org .
May 10	Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad	On this date in 1869, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroad lines were joined by golden spikes at Promontory Summit, UT, completing the transcontinental railroad line.
May 10	National Bike to School Day	National Bike to School Day provides an opportunity for students to exercise; reduce traffic congestion and pollution; and improve neighborhood connections. Sponsored by National Center for Safe Routes to School, 730 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Suite 300, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-3430. Email: info@walkbiketoschool.org . Web site: www.walkbiketoschool.org .

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May 10	National School Nurse Day	To develop a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. Sponsored by National Association of School Nurses, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 925, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 240-821-1130. Fax: 301-585-1791. Email: nasn@nasn.org. Web site: www.nasn.org.
May 14	Mother's Day	Since 1914, Mother's Day has been observed on the second Sunday in May.
May 17	Anniversary of School Desegregation Ruling	On this date in 1954, racial segregation in public schools was unanimously ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment clause guaranteeing equal protection under the law.
May 20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary	Anniversary of the first transatlantic solo flight. On these dates in 1927, Charles Lindbergh flew nonstop from New York to Paris.
May 20	Armed Forces Day	Always observed on the third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day was first proclaimed in 1950 to honor men and women in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps Air Force, and Coast Guard.
May 21-27	National Educational Bosses' Week	Observed the third full week in May. Sponsored by National Association of Educational Office Professionals, 1841 South Eisenhower Court, Wichita, KS 67209. Phone: 316-942-4822. Fax: 316-942-7100. Email: naeop@naeop.org. Web site: www.naeop.org.
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	Biological diversity is the number and variety of living organisms on the planet. This day is used to raise awareness of the threats to species from pollution, overuse, and destruction of habitats. Information from the Convention on Biological Diversity, 413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9. Phone: 514-288-2220. Fax: 514-288-6588. Email: secretariat@cbd.int. Web site: www.cbd.int.
May 22	Victoria Day	Canadian national holiday, also called the Queen's Birthday. Celebrated on the Monday preceding May 25.
May 23	Declaration of the Bab	Bahá'í-sponsored observance commemorates the prophet Bab's 1844 revelation that he was heralding a new message from God. One of the 9 holy days of the year where work and school are suspended for Bahá'ís. For more information contact Bahá'í National Center, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Phone: 800-22UNITE. Fax: 847-733-3578. Email: bahai-info@usbnc.org. Web site: www.bahai.us.
May 25	Ascension	Celebrated the Thursday approximately 40 days after Easter, to commemorate Christ's ascension into heaven. Roman Catholic Holy Day of Obligation. Many diocese celebrate ascension on the following Sunday, May 28.
May 25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday	American author, philosopher, and Unitarian minister; born in Boston, MA. Lived 1803-1882.
May 27	First Day of Ramadan	Beginning of the Islamic holy month in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day. The holiest period of Islam, it honors the revelation of the Koran.
May 29	Ascension of the Baha'u'llah	Bahá'í-sponsored observance commemorates the anniversary of the death of the faith's prophet-founder, Baha'u'llah. One of the 9 holy days of the year where work and school are suspended for Bahá'ís. For more information contact Bahá'í National Center, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Phone: 800-22UNITE. Fax: 847-733-3578. Email: bahai-info@usbnc.org. Web site: www.bahai.us.

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
May 29	Memorial Day	A state and federal holiday in remembrance of war dead; also known as Decoration Day. Celebrated on the last Monday in May.
May 30-June 1	Shavuot (Festival of Weeks)	Begins at sunset, May 30 and ends at sunset, June 1. Jewish festival that commemorates the giving of the law (Torah) to Moses on Mount Sinai.
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	Observed annually on this day around the globe. Strives to bring international focus to the detrimental effects on health caused by tobacco use and environmental tobacco smoke. For more information, contact the World Health Organization, 525 23rd Street NW, Washington, DC 20037. Phone: 202-974-3000. Fax: 202-974-3663. Email: info@who.int. Web site: www.who.int/tobacco/wntd/en/.

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2017	NAME	COMMENTS
June-July	Fireworks Safety Month	Sponsored by Prevent Blindness, 211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60606. Phone: 800-331-2020. Email: info@preventblindness.org. Web site: www.preventblindness.org.
June 1-30	Great Outdoors Month	By presidential proclamation each year, a month to celebrate the natural beauty of the outdoors and renew our commitment to protect our environment. Also, an opportunity to pay tribute to those whose dedication keeps our country's open spaces beautiful and accessible.
June 1-30	National Caribbean-American Heritage Month	By presidential proclamation. A month to celebrate the many ways in which Caribbean Americans have helped shape the United States and to pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and Caribbean countries.
June 2	Republic Day (Italy)	Commemorates day in 1946 when Italy selected a republican government instead of a return to a monarchy.
June 3	Jefferson Davis's Birthday	President of the Confederate States of America; lived 1808-1889. Observed in some states on the first Monday in June.
June 4	Pentecost	Christian observance, considered the birthday of the Church, celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter; commemorates descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples of Jesus.
June 5	World Environment Day	Annual observance to reaffirm concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment. Sponsored by the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP Regional Office for North America: 900 17th Street NW, Suite 506, Washington, DC 20006. Phone: 202-785-0465. Fax: 202-785-2096. Email: worldenvironmentday@unep.org. Web site: www.unep.org/wed/.

2017	NAME	COMMENTS
June 11-15	National History Day Contest	The National History Day program is a year-long education program that culminates in a national contest every June. Its purpose is to engage students in grades 6-12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. For more information, contact National History Day, 4511 Knox Road, Suite 205, College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301-314-9739. Email: info@nhd.org. Web site: www.nationalhistoryday.org.
June 11	Race Unity Day	Bahá'í-sponsored observance promoting racial harmony and understanding, and the essential unity of humanity. Always the second Sunday in June. For more information contact Bahá'í National Center, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Phone: 800-22UNITE. Fax: 847-733-3578. Email: bahai-info@usbnc.org. Web site: www.bahai.us.
June 12-18	National Little League Baseball Week	By presidential proclamation and a Congressional resolution passed in 1959. Always the week beginning the second Monday in June.
June 12	Anne Frank's Birthday	The young German Jewish girl who, with her family, lived in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam for 2 years; she died in a concentration camp at age 15. Her diary was published in 1947.
June 14	Flag Day	The Stars and Stripes was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. A day for patriotic observances.
June 15	Anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's Kite Experiment	Noted author, diplomat, and inventor Benjamin Franklin proved lightning is electricity by flying a kite in a thunderstorm on this date in 1752; invented the lightning rod.
June 15	Magna Carta Day	Anniversary of the signing in 1215 of the Magna Carta by King John; it was the first charter of English liberties.
June 16	Anniversary of the First Woman in Space	Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space on this date in 1963, when she made a 71-hour voyage, orbiting the earth 48 times in the Soviet spacecraft Vostok 6.
June 16	International Day of the African Child	Celebrated on June 16 every year to commemorate the achievements and future challenges of Africa, and to celebrate the heritage of African American children. Information from Human Rights Education Associates, 689 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-3302. Phone: 617-301-4379. Fax: 617-249-0278. Web site: www.hrea.org.
June 18	Anniversary of the First American Woman in Space	On this date in 1983, Sally Ride became the first American woman in space aboard the space shuttle Challenger.
June 18	Father's Day	Always observed on the third Sunday in June.
June 19	Juneteenth	Commemorates the emancipation of African Americans in Texas. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger landed on Galveston Island and proclaimed the sovereignty of the United States over Texas and the freedom of all who had been slaves—2 1/2 years after slavery had ended in other parts of the South. Made a Texas state holiday in 1980, it is now celebrated in many parts of the United States.
June 21	First Day of Summer	Summer solstice occurs at 12:24 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.
June 25	Eid-al-Fitr	Muslim day of feasting to celebrate the end of Ramadan.
June 27	Helen Keller's Birthday	Blind and deaf, Keller graduated from Radcliffe College with honors; she became an author, educator, and crusader for better treatment of persons with disabilities. Lived 1880-1968.