



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2026 Diversity and Inclusivity Calendar

Observance: a customary practice; respectful attention or service

Commemorate: to remember officially and give respect to a great person or event

Celebrate: Acknowledge a significant day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity.

Being an Ally: Being associated with another person or group as a helper that provides assistance and support in an ongoing effort, activity or struggle.

January

Month-long observances:

National Mentoring Month

Poverty in America Awareness Month

Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Important D&I Calendar Dates:

January 1—New Year's Day

January 1—Gantan-Sai (Shinto)

January 3—Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)

January 4—World Braille Day

January 7—Christmas (Eastern Orthodox)

January 13—Maghi (Sikh)

January 14—Makar Sankranti (Pongal)-Hindu

January 18—World Religion Day

January 19—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 24—International Day of Education

January 26—International Customs Day

January 27—International Holocaust Remembrance Day

February

Month-long observances:

American Heart Month

Black History Month

Ethnic Equality Month

Important D&I Calendar Dates:

February 1—National Freedom Day

February 2—Imbolc-Wicca/Paganism

February 4—Rosa Parks Day

February 7—National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

February 8—International Epilepsy Day

GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA

Metropolitan Offices

749 Houbolt Road • Joliet, IL 60431

P: (815) 729-9638 F: (815) 729-9629 W: www.jolietymca.org





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February 10—Safer Internet Day
February 11—International Day of Women & Girls in Science
February 14—Valentine’s Day
February 15—Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 15—International Childhood Cancer Day
February 15—Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
February 16—Family Day (Canada)
February 17—Chinese New Year (Lunar new year) (Year of the Horse)
February 17—Mardi Gras
February 17—Ramadan begins (Islam)
February 18—Ash Wednesday
February 20—World Day of Social Justice

March

Month-long observances:

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
Gender Equality Month
Greek-American Heritage Month
Irish-American Heritage Month
National Colon Cancer Awareness Month
National Kidney Month
National Multiple Sclerosis Awareness and Education Month
National Women’s History Month

Important D&I Calendar Dates:

March 2—Purim begins (Jewish)
March 3—Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)
March 4—Holi (Hindu)
March 6—Employee Appreciation Day
March 8—International Women’s Day
March 14—Pi Day
March 16—Laylat al-Qadr (Islamic)
March 17—St. Patrick’s Day
March 19—Chaitra Navratri (Hindu)
March 20—Ostara (Wicca/Paganism)
March 20—Eid-al-Fitr/End of Ramadan (Islamic)
March 21—Now Ruz (Baha’i)
March 21—World Down Syndrome Day
March 25—International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
March 29—Palm Sunday
March 31—Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
March 31—International Transgender Day of Visibility.

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April

Month-long observances:

Arab-American Heritage Month
Autism Awareness Month
Celebrate Diversity Month
Earth Month
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
National Volunteer Month

Important D&I Calendar Dates:

April 1—Passover begins (Jewish)
April 2—World Autism Awareness Day
April 3—Good Friday
April 5—Easter
April 10—National Day of Silence (LGBTQ+)
April 13—Vaisakhi (Sikh)
April 19—Patriot Day
April 20—Start of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 22—Earth Day

May

Month-long observances:

ALS Awareness Month
Haitian Heritage Month
Indian Heritage Month
Jewish-American Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
National Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Older Americans Month

Important D&I Calendar Dates:

May 1—Visakha Puja Day (Buddhism)
May 1—Beltane (Wicca/Paganism)
May 5—Cinco de Mayo
May 17—International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
May 18—Victoria Day (Canada)
May 21—World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
May 23—Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 25—Memorial Day
May 29—Ascension of Baha'u'illah (Baha'i)

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June

Month-long observances:

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
Black Music Month
National Caribbean American Heritage Month
Men's Health Month
Pride Month (LGBTQ+)

Important D&I calendar dates:

June 5—World Environment Day
June 12—Loving Day
June 12—World Day Against Child Labor
June 14—Race Unity Day
June 16—Muharram Islamic New Year (Islamic)
June 19—Juneteenth
June 20—World Refugee Day
June 21—Litha, Summer Solstice (Pagan)
June 21—National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)
June 24—St Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec)
June 28—Pride Day (LGBTQIA+) (varies by city and country)

July

Month-long observances:

French-American Heritage Month

Important D&I calendar dates:

July 1—Canada Day (Canada)
July 4—Independence Day (USA)
July 10—Martyrdom of Bab (Baha'i)
July 11—World Population Day
July 14—Bastille Day (French)
July 14—Non-Binary People's Day
July 18—International Nelson Mandela Day
July 22-23—Tisha B'Av (Jewish)
July 24—Pioneer Day (Mormon)
July 26—National Disability Independence Day (commemorates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act)

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August

Month-long observances:

National Civility Month

Important D&I calendar dates:

August 1—Lughnasadh (Wicca/Paganism)
August 2—International Day of Friendship
August 7—Purple Heart Day
August 9—International Day of the World's Indigenous People
August 13—Left-Handers Day
August 17—Marcus Garvey Day (Jamaican)
August 19—World Humanitarian Day
August 21—Senior Citizens Day
August 27—Obon (Buddhism)
August 26—Women's Equality Day

September

Month-long observances:

Hispanic Heritage Month
National Guide Dog Month
Suicide Prevention Month

Important D&I calendar dates:

September 4—Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
September 5—International Day of Charity
September 7—Labor Day
September 8—Paryushan Parv (Jainism)
September 11—Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 15—International Day of Democracy
September 16—Mexican Independence Day
September 18—International Equal Pay Day
September 20-21—Yom Kippur (Jewish)
September 21—International Day of Peace
September 21—World Gratitude Day
September 22—American Business Women's Day
September 23—Bi Visibility Day
September 25—Sukkot (Jewish)
September 30—National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Canada)

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October

Month-long observances:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Bullying Prevention Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Filipino-American Heritage Month
German-American Heritage Month
Italian-American Heritage Month
LGBTQ History Month
National Work and Family Month
Polish-American Heritage Month
Family History Month

Important D&I calendar dates:

October 2—International Day of Nonviolence
October 2-3—Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 2-3—Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 10—World Mental Health Day
October 11-20—Sharad Vanratri (Hindu)
October 11—National Coming Out Day (LGBTQ+)
October 12—National Indigenous Peoples' Day (USA)
October 12—Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
October 15—Spirit Day (LGBTQ+ anti-bullying)
October 16—Bosses' Day
October 20—Dussehra (Hindu)
October 22—International Stuttering Awareness Day
October 26—Intersex Awareness Day
October 31—Halloween
October 31—Samhain (Wicca/Paganism)

November

Month-long observances:

Diabetes Awareness Month
Movember (awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer)
National Native American Heritage Month

Important D&I calendar dates:

November 1-2—Dia de los Muertos (Mexican/Latino)
November 1—All Saints' Day (Roman Catholic)
November 2—All Souls' Day
November 4—National Stress Awareness Day

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November 8—Diwali (Hindu)
November 8—Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikhism)
November 9—World Freedom Day
November 9—World Adoption Day
November 10—Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
November 11—Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 11—Veterans Day
November 13—World Kindness Day
November 16—International Day for Tolerance
November 19—International Men's Day
November 20—Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 20—Universal Children's Day (Human Rights, U.N.)
November 24—Guru Nanak Jayanti (Sikh)
November 25—International Day for the elimination of Violence Against Women
November 26—Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)
November 26—Thanksgiving
November 28—Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Baha'i)

December

Month-long Observances:

HIV/AIDS Awareness Month
Universal Human Rights Month

Important D&I calendar dates:

December 1—World AIDS Day
December 3—International Day for People with Disabilities
December 4—Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 5—International Volunteer Day
December 9—International Genocide Prevention Day
December 10—International Human Rights Day
December 21—Yule Winter Solstice (Pagan)
December 25—Christmas (Christian)
December 26-January 1—Kwanzaa week (Celebration of African customs and cultures)
December 26—Boxing Day (Great Britain and Commonwealth Countries)
December 31—New Year's Eve

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