

MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



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I have not received any words of wisdom from our Grand Commandery officers or anyone else for that matter, so I am privileged to tell you about what we celebrate in June.

What's in June?

During the American Revolutionary War, the Congress decided that the country needed a flag to represent the united colonies. On June 14, 1777 the Second Continental Congress passed a Flag Resolution. This day is still celebrated as Flag Day in the United States.

The resolution said that the United States Flag would have 13 red and white alternating stripes and that there would be a blue area with 13 white stars. They didn't give an exact description of the flag and there were several different versions.

The flag has changed over the years:

- January 13, 1794 - The number of stars and stripes was each changed to 15.
 - April 4, 1818 - Changed the number of stripes back to 13 and allowed for one star for each state.
 - June 24, 1912 - Officially gave the proportions of the flag as well as the arrangement of the stars. The stars would be in six horizontal rows of eight each with a single point of each star to be pointing upward.
 - January 3, 1959 - Changed the star pattern to seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.
 - August 21, 1959 - Changed the star pattern again to nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.
- The official flag is to be 1.9 times as long as it's width. It has thirteen red and white alternating stripes with a red stripe on the top and on the bottom. The blue part in the upper left is called the Union. The Union is to be 7 stripes tall. There are 50 white stars in the Union representing the 50 states. They are in 11 staggered horizontal rows of 5 and 6 stars.

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the freedom of the slaves in the United States. The name Juneteenth is a combination of the words June and nineteenth. The day is also called Emancipation Day and Freedom Day. The day is celebrated in the United States mostly by African-Americans. It is most celebrated in the state of Texas where it has been an official state holiday since 1980. Many other states recognize the day as either an official holiday or observance.

What do people do to celebrate?

There are a number of different ways that people celebrate the day including parades, marches, and barbecues. Many people get together for ceremonies that include public service awards, prayer, and the raising of the Juneteenth Flag. Government and educational facilities will often have programs or information regarding the history of the holiday and the Emancipation Proclamation. It's also a time for African-Americans to celebrate their heritage.

History of Juneteenth

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862. It went into effect on January 1, 1863. However, slaves were not set free in the Confederacy until Union army was able to come in and take over. On June 18, 1865 the Union army arrived in Galveston, Texas. The next day, June 19th, General Gordon Granger announced that the slaves in Texas were free by order of the president of the United States. The first Juneteenth celebration took place the very next year.

The annual celebration began to spread throughout Texas and surrounding states. However, it became less popular in the early 1900s. It became popular once again in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1980 it became an official state holiday in Texas. There is currently a movement to get the day recognized on a national level.

Fathers Day

Father's Day is a day to celebrate fatherhood as well as your father's contribution to your life. Celebrated on the 3rd Sunday in June.

The original Father's Day is thought to have been founded by Sonora Dodd in Spokane, Washington on June 19, 1910. Sonora and her five siblings were raised by their single-parent dad. She thought that since there was a Mother's Day, there should be a day to honor fathers as well.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson visited Spokane and spoke at the Father's Day celebration. He wanted to make the day an official US holiday, but Congress didn't agree. President Calvin Coolidge tried again in 1924, but the day still didn't become a holiday. The main reason was because many people felt that the day was too commercial. That the only reason to have the holiday was so that companies who sold ties and men's clothing could make money. In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. The national holiday was finally signed into law in 1972 by President Richard Nixon. Since then, the day has become a major holiday in the United States.

Holiday information provided by:
www.ducksters.com/holiday
www.americanflagfoundation.org

Respectfully submitted by Dan Koch Jr. PM, REPGC