

June 19

JUNETEENTH

Freedom Day



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Malvern Celebrates Juneteenth in the Park June 20

By Heather Bennett Ritter
Staff Writer

The Juneteenth Planning Committee is inviting the community to come together in celebration of freedom, culture and unity during their upcoming Juneteenth Celebration on June 20, at Malvern's Centennial Park.

The free event will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. this Saturday and will feature activities for all ages including food trucks, a bouncy house, face painting, over 25 vendors and music from DJ Uncle Jam.

Attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs for the whole family and take part in the free festivities while observing the federal holiday of Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.



19 facts related to Juneteenth

CELEBRATE
★
JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM. RESILIENCE. LEGACY.

“Freedom is never given; it is won.
Justice is never given; it is served.
We must live each day with the determination to be free.”

— JOHN LEWIS

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**HONORING OUR PAST.
INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.**

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Today and every day, we celebrate freedom, recognize our history, and commit to building a stronger, more equitable tomorrow.

HAPPY JUNETEENTH!

The abolition of slavery in the United States marked the end of a long and winding road. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, a point in time when the American Civil War had already been raging for years. President Lincoln's proclamation declared that "slaves within any State, or designated part of a State... in rebellion... shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." While this was an important step toward enslaved individuals receiving their freedom, the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment after the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865 officially abolished slavery.

Although many people were immediately granted freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation, a large number in various Confederate territories were not. On June 19, 1865, enslaved Africans living in Texas finally received news of their freedom, prompting a celebration and marking the unofficial beginning of Juneteenth. Here are 19 facts related to Juneteenth.

1. On June 19, 1865, roughly 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas to announce to the more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state they were free by executive decree.

2. The newly freed people in Texas came to refer to this day as "Juneteenth."

3. While Juneteenth has perhaps become the most notable holiday, many other celebrations commemorate the end of slavery. Many individual states commemorate their own emancipation days.

4. General Gordon Granger arrived with the Union troops to enforce the end of slavery in Texas. Granger commanded the Headquarters District of Texas.

5. On June 19, 1866, freedmen in Texas organized the

first annual celebration, which they called "Jubilee Day."

6. Juneteenth celebrations often feature music, prayer services, fun activities, and barbecues. When Black people migrated to other states, they brought their celebratory traditions with them.

7. Texas made Juneteenth an official holiday in 1979. Additional states, and eventually the Federal government, followed the lead throughout the years.

8. The United States Congress passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday and President Joseph Biden signed the bill on June 17, 2021. The first commemoration occurred two days later.

9. Juneteenth is the first day to obtain legal observance as a federal holiday since Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was designated in 1983.

10. Juneteenth goes by other names, including Emancipation Day, Black Independence Day and Freedom Day.

11. There is an official Juneteenth flag. It features blue over red and a white central star, surrounded by an outer star. The red, white and blue is a nod to the formerly enslaved people being recognized as Americans. The inner star represents Texas, and the outer star symbolizes new

freedom and new people.

12. Red foods and beverages are staples of Juneteenth festivities because they are said to represent the bloodshed by ancestors.

13. Juneteenth is the longest-running African American holiday.

14. Part of the General Order No. 3 that freed Texas slaves encouraged the newly emancipated people to remain with their past owners and work for wages. Despite this recommendation, many Black people left the area in a period known as "the scatter."

15. Emancipation Park in Houston was bought by former slaves. The 10-acre parcel was purchased specifically to celebrate Juneteenth.

16. Although Juneteenth celebrations waned during the early twentieth century, they were revived during the Civil Rights Movement.

17. The official title for the federal holiday of Juneteenth is Juneteenth National Independence Day.

18. Each year, a Juneteenth Flag-raising ceremony is held in Galveston.

19. Estimates suggest there were 3,953,760 enslaved people in the United States in 1860, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

