

## 10 Ways for Girl Scouts to Participate in the celebration of Juneteenth!



*Girl Scouts of all ages can participate in the celebration of Juneteenth in many different ways. Look over the list below and decide what you would like to do in order to celebrate this special day! Activities can be done individually or as part of a troop/group. If you complete any of the activities, you can purchase the Juneteenth fun patch from the Nation's Capital Girl Scout Council Shop. You can do as many activities as you would like. Only one is required to earn the Juneteenth patch. NOTE: This patch can be earned at any time and not just during the month of June. To order the Juneteenth Patch, please call or email the Girl Scout Shop. This patch is not available online. 202-274-3312 | [gsshop@gscnc.org](mailto:gsshop@gscnc.org)*

**1. Learn why we celebrate Juneteenth.** Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday. Watch the following video and discuss the importance of Juneteenth. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9929k5b2VA> YouTube video name: BrainPop Juneteenth

QR Code:



**2. Watch the Divine Nine (D9) Celebrate Juneteenth.** The “Divine Nine,” fraternities and sororities were established in the early 20th century as a way for Black college students to connect with each other and build support networks. These organizations were formed as a response to the exclusion and discrimination that Black students faced in predominantly white fraternities and sororities. The “Divine Nine” includes the following organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Iota Phi Theta. A fraternity is an organization for men and a sorority is an organization for women. The first Black fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, was founded in 1906 at Cornell University, and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority was the first sorority founded in 1908 at Howard University. The “Divine Nine” hold a significant meaning in the Black community, always promoting leadership, scholarship, and community service, with their members being active in programs such as voter registration and education reform. When they are not doing community service, you can see them strolling and Stepping. Stepping is a dance performed in historically Black fraternities and sororities to showcase the organization’s traditions, values, and excellence. Stepping refers to a specific type of dance that displays synchronized movements such as stomping, clapping, and intricate footwork. This dance is usually accompanied by spoken word, singing, or other vocalizations. Watch the following video to see the celebration. Link: <https://youtu.be/lbUc36addXk> YouTube video name: Divine 9 segment of CNN Juneteenth Celebration

QR Code:



**3. Discuss or write about Frederick Douglass’ keynote “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”** On July 5, 1852, Frederick Douglass gave this speech and stated, “The Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn.” Watch a video of the speech and have your troop write or discuss their thoughts on the Fourth of July and Frederick Douglass’ speech. Did it change their perspective on the holiday? Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBe5qbnkqoM> YouTube video name: What to the slave is Fourth of July: Descendants Read Fredrick Douglass’ Speech

QR Code:



**4. Learn the Juneteenth song.** If you haven't heard of the YouTube channel Gracie's Corner, now is the time! Share this Juneteenth song with your class and learn the lyrics together. Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMR11wbKrmg> YouTube video name: Juneteenth Song Gracie's Corner

QR Code:



**5. Learn about the Juneteenth Celebration Food and try one.** There are a few things you'll reliably find at Juneteenth celebrations and they're usually red foods. The tradition of eating red foods likely came from the enslaved people brought to Texas in the 19th century. The color red can represent power, sacrifice, and transformation. It also helps that many red foods are available around mid-June. Summer fruits like strawberries and watermelon, for example are in peak season during Juneteenth. Red drinks like hibiscus tea and strawberry sodas are customary at Juneteenth celebrations. Other foods you'll likely see red velvet cake and, of course, barbecue. Click on one of the links below to give a try at one of the Juneteenth celebration recipes.

- [Watermelon Cucumber Mint Salad](#)
- [Frozen Strawberry Lemonade](#)
- [Strawberry Cake](#)
- [Barbecued Chicken Drumsticks](#)
- [Red Velvet Cake](#)

**6. What are reparations and create your own reparation bill.** A reparation is a payment made for damages or wrongful acts. The payment can be made to a country, to a group of people, or to one person. Cash is often used as payment. Sometimes other kinds of payment are used. In the United States many people think that African Americans should be granted reparations for the pain and suffering that their ancestors endured as enslaved people. The reparations would also make up for lost wages of enslaved people. In the early 1600s people were taken by force from their homes in Africa. They were shipped to the Americas and enslaved. They were forced to work without pay under harsh conditions. Although slavery officially ended in the United States in the 1800s, the effects of slavery continue today. The effects have become part of society. They have led to the problem of systemic racism. This means that African Americans are not always treated as equals with whites. They often do not have access to decent housing, jobs, and health care. In 2019, for the first time in more than a decade, Congress held hearings on the decades-old bill, HR 40, a modest effort to simply establish a committee to develop reparative proposals. But what Congress offers is extraordinarily weak sauce.

Your troop will take on the role of activist-experts working in one of the following domains of racial justice: Education, voting, housing, labor, health care, or criminal punishment. They can choose to get in groups or work individually to find a bill or law that falls under one of the domains, review it, and will design a better alternative. In crafting, your troop must decide what form the reparations should take, how much is due, and argue which needs are the most immediate, pressing, and fundamental. As racial justice activists, participants are all on the “same side” in this role play, but they come to the discussion with different expertise and priorities. Once they have created their reparation bill, they must present it in a “mock congressional hearing” where the troop will have to decide if they want to pass the bill along or debate on why it is not a good bill.

**7. Create a Community Poster.** Art is an accessible form of learning for kids to share their understanding through creativity and expression. After learning about Juneteenth, have your troop create a large poster art to share their knowledge about Juneteenth with their communities. After they are completed with their community poster, have them find a location and ask for permission for them to put their poster on display. This could be a local library, church, a troop members front yard, etc.

**8. Plan a Juneteenth Celebration.** Since it was designated a federal holiday in 2021, Juneteenth has become more universally recognized beyond Black America. Many people get the day off work or school, and there are a plethora of street festivals, fairs, concerts and other events. Juneteenth festivities are rooted in cookouts and barbecues. In the beginnings of the holiday celebrated as Black Americans’ true Independence Day, the outdoors allowed for large reunions among formerly enslaved family, many of whom had been separated. Plan a way for you to celebrate Juneteenth with your troop, family, friends, and community. Below is a list of examples.

**1. Read a book:**

- a. All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson
- b. Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper
- c. Juneteenth Jamboree by Carole Boston Weatherford

**2. Attend an Event:**

- a. Check out some local events in your community. This can be anything from parades to marches or protests and even activities at your community park and so much more. If you do a little research about what is happening in your town, you can plan or register to participate.
- b. Find an event hosted by the National Museum of African American History & Culture <https://nmaahc.si.edu/events>
- c. Visit the National Museum of African American History & Culture to discover more in depth of the history and culture of African Americans.

**3. Host a Juneteenth Celebration:**

- a. A cookout in the backyard

**4. Have a movie night:**

- a. Juneteenth Jamboree on PBS

- b. Black-Ish: The Johnsons Celebrate Juneteenth
- c. Miss Juneteenth

#### 5. Support a Black Business:

- a. Check out a local black business that is near you! It could be a restaurant, bookstore, candy shop, whatever you are interested in support the black business.

**9. Learn about the Juneteenth Flag.** The Juneteenth flags represent the history, and freedom of the American Slaves and their descendants. Despite being instrumental to the birth of the United States, Black Americans were long disregarded as only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a person. Therefore, they weren't treated humanely or even considered American citizens. The red, white and blue colors communicate that the enslaved Americans, and their descendants, were all Americans. While the colors of the Juneteenth flag run deep with meaning, the significance of the design goes beyond that.

- **The star:** in the center is a representation of Texas, known as the Lone Star state. Its inclusion was important because Galveston, Texas is where the last remaining enslaved people learned that the Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery two years prior. The star also symbolizes the freedom of all Black Americans throughout the country.
- **The burst around the star:** Represents Black Americans' new-found freedom and a new beginning. The nova aligned with the design because, much like with those freed from enslavement, it takes an "explosive event" to give birth to a new and brighter star in the sky.
- **The arc that runs through the center of the flag:** Symbolizes hope on the horizon and new opportunities for Black Americans.

You may also see a red, black and green flag flying at Juneteenth celebrations as well. That's the Pan-African flag. It included the declaration that red, black and green (also called RBG) be the colors signifying the African race. Those three colors represent the blood, soil and prosperity of Africa and its people.

- **Red:** Represents the millions of Black men and women who have lost their lives.
- **Black:** Represents melanin, the soil of the Nile valley and the unification of the African diaspora. Black compels us to remember that we Black men and women are all unified as members of one family.
- **Green:** stands for fertility, productivity and prosperity as well as the fertile cradle of Africa.

After learning about the Juneteenth flag and the Pan African flag, draw and color the flags. Templates can be found on pages 9 & 10.

#### 10. Trivia Hunt.

Use the questions on the next page to learn more about Juneteenth.

*Remember, if you are going on the internet to complete any of these activities, please sign the Internet Safety Pledge found at [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).*

## JUNETEENTH TRIVIA HUNT

**DIRECTIONS:** *Use the internet to help you find the answers to the questions below. Remember to sign the Internet Safety Pledge found at [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).*

1. What was the Tignon Law?
2. Why weren't enslaved people freed after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation?
3. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially abolished slavery?
4. What was the first Federal holiday created?
5. Which U.S. city was the first to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday?
6. Who created the Juneteenth flag?
7. Who was the Union general that announced the end of slavery in Texas?
8. Juneteenth became the first federal holiday since which other holiday was adopted in 1983?
9. What is the official flower of Juneteenth?

## JUNETEENTH TRIVIA HUNT ANSWER KEY

What was the Tignon Law?

**A: The Tignon Laws were a set of regulations enacted in 1786 by the Spanish Governor of Louisiana, Esteban Rodríguez Miró. These laws required women of African descent, both enslaved and free, to cover their hair with a scarf or handkerchief, known as a tignon. The intention behind the law was to maintain the social hierarchy by distinguishing women of color from white women and to curb the interracial relationships that were forming. For more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKRktw6x0kU> (Fashionable Rebellion Tignons – New York Historical Society)**

Why weren't enslaved people freed after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation?

**A: When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the proclamation applied only to enslaved people in the Confederacy, not those in the border states that remained loyal to the Union. These border states included Kentucky, Missouri, Delaware, Maryland, Tennessee, and parts of Virginia.**

Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially abolished slavery?

**A: The 13th Amendment officially abolished slavery.**

What was the first Federal holiday created?

**A: The birthday of U.S. President George Washington (February 22<sup>nd</sup>) was first celebrated as a federal holiday.**

Which U.S. city was the first to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday?

**A: Galveston, Texas, holds the largest Juneteenth celebration in the United States.**

Who created the Juneteenth flag?

**A: The flag is the brainchild of activist Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF). Haith created the flag in 1997 with the help of collaborators, and Boston-based illustrator Lisa Jeanne Graf brought**

**their vision to life.**

Who was the Union general that announced the end of slavery in Texas?

**A: Union General Gordon Granger announced the end of slavery in Texas.**

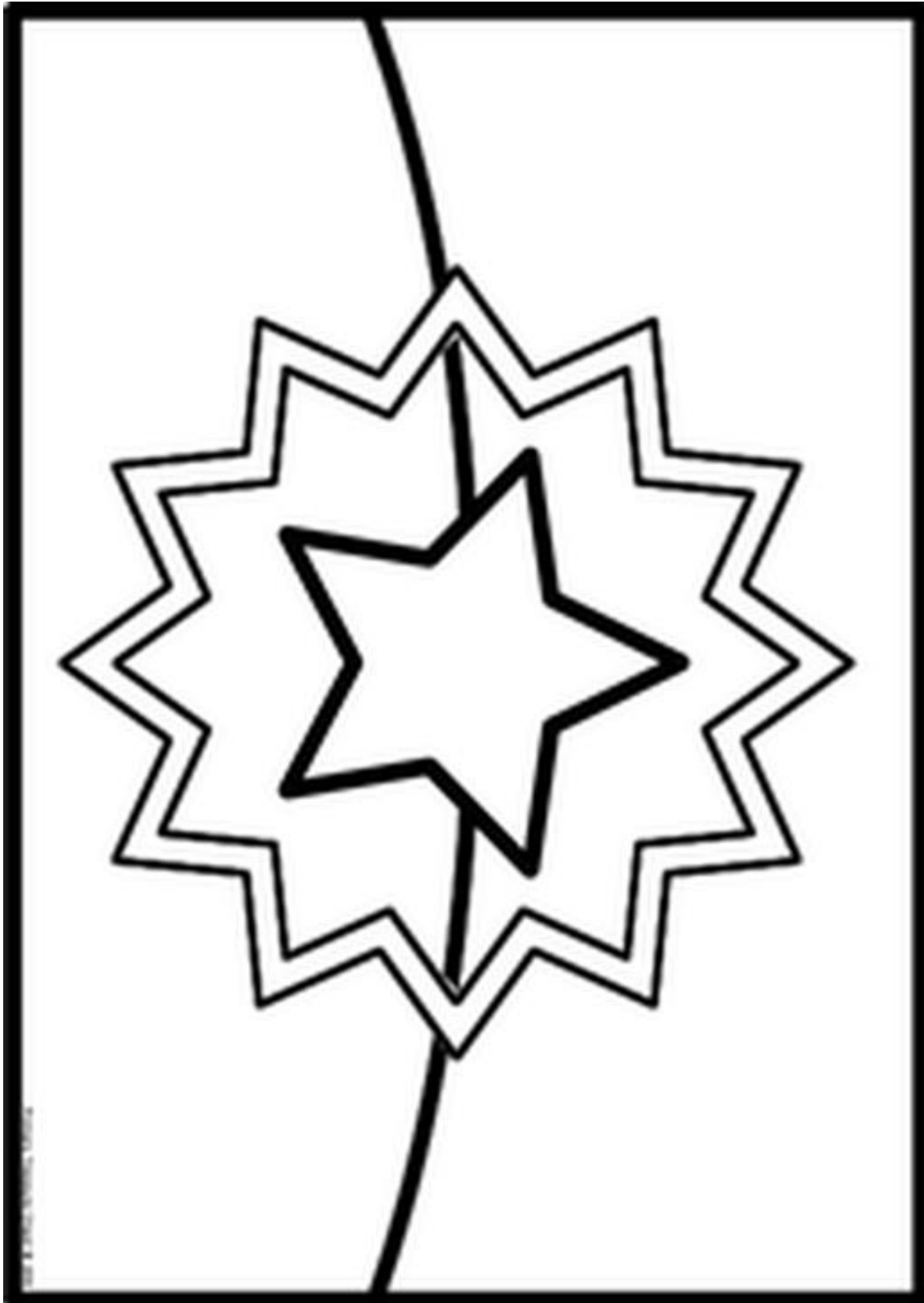
Juneteenth became the first federal holiday since which other holiday was adopted in 1983?

**A: In 2021 Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday since the establishment of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.**

What is the official flower of Juneteenth?

**A: The official flower of Juneteenth is the "Texas Star Hibiscus."**







### Pan-African flag

Designed by the UNIA in 1920 and also known as the UNIA flag, Afro-American flag and Black Liberation flag.  
 Red: the blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry, and shed for liberation.  
 Black: black people whose existence as a nation, though not a nation-state, is affirmed by the existence of the flag and power.  
 Green: the abundant natural wealth of Africa.

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