



MULTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Information provided here is only intended as a general summary. This service is continuously under development. We will make every effort to keep this site and associated documentation current and to correct errors brought to our attention. Please contact Ms. Portia Davidson for changes.

The United States Coast Guard Multicultural, Diversity and Inclusion Calendar for 2012 was developed by the Office of Diversity and the Civil Rights Directorate as an education and training tool to enhance mutual understanding and respect among the various religious, ethnic and cultural groups. This calendar is about honoring our differences and increasing awareness of the numerous important national and international observances and celebrations that may be commemorated in the United States. Acknowledging and respecting these events promotes greater knowledge of multiculturalism and diversity and is a foundation to inclusion. Realizing diversity requires the creation of an inclusive work environment that respects and values the differences that each service member and employee brings to the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard is defined by its history, culture, missions and traditions. This includes our people who bring a wide range of diverse backgrounds and experiences that enrich our ability to perform our global missions. People are the strength of our service and diversity and inclusion is vital to our mission readiness and excellence.

Our mission is to build a positive work environment for all personnel and nurture a climate of respect for all people of all backgrounds and cultures. To this end, we will position the Coast Guard organization as the "Service of Choice" and nationally recognized leader in diversity and inclusion management in the federal government.

Cultural Observances are held service-wide to recognize the continuous achievements of all Americans to American culture and to increase awareness, mutual respect, and understanding. Educational programs and cultural observances are effective ways to promote the employment and advancement of women, members of targeted racial and ethnic groups, and people with disabilities. The following cultural events are observed by the Coast Guard:

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February: African-American History Month
March: National Women's History Month

May: Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month
August 26: Women's Equality Day
September 15 - October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
October: National Disability Employment Awareness Month
November: National Native American Heritage Month

For more information about Special Observances and education programs, contact your Civil Rights Service Provider.

JANUARY 2012

***Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Remember! Celebrate! Act!
A Day On, Not a Day Off***

January 1 - New Year's Day
January 1 - Temple Day • Buddhist
January 1 - Gantan-sai (New Years) (Shinto)
January 6 - Epiphany • Christian
January 6 - Christmas • Armenian Orthodox Christian
January 7 - Orthodox Christmas Day (Russia)
January 9 - Mahayana New Year • Buddhist
January 14 - Makar Sankrant (Hindu)
January 14 - Religious Freedom Day (United States)
January 15 - World Religion Day • Bahá'í
January 16 - **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
January 22 - 24 - Seollal Holiday (South Korea)
January 23 - Lunar New Year
January 23 - 27 - No Name-Calling Week
January 24 - Spring Festival Golden Week (China)
January 27 - International Commemoration Day in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust
January 28 - Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
January 30 - Greek Education Day

FEBRUARY 2012

***National African-American Heritage Month
Black Women in American Culture & History***

February 1 - National Freedom Day
February 5 - Milad Al-Nabi • Islamic
February 6 - Constitution Day (Mexico)
February 6 - Lantern Festival (China)
February 8 - Nirvana Day • Buddhist

February 8 - Tu B'Shvat • Jewish
February 9 - Milad un Nabi (Birthday of Prophet Muhammad) • Muslim
February 14 - Valentine's Day
February 14 - Race Relations Day
February 15 - Susan B. Anthony Day
February 15 - Nirvana Day (alternative date) • Buddhist
February 20 - **President's Day**
February 20 - World Day of Social Justice
February 20 - Mahashivaratri (Hindu)
February 21 - International Mother Language Day
February 21 - Mardi Gras (United States)
February 21 - President's Day (United States)
February 22 - Ash Wednesday • Christian
February 23 - Zhonghe Festival (China)
February 26-March 1 - Ayyam-I-Ha or Intercalary Days • Bahá'i
February 27 - Clean Monday • Eastern Christian

MARCH 2012

National Women's History Month
Women's Education - Women's Empowerment
Irish-American History Month

March 2 - 20 - Nineteen-Day Fast • Bahá'i
March 3 - Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival) (Japan)
March 8 - International Women's Day
March 8 - Purim • Jewish
March 8 - Holi (Hindu)
March 14 - Commonwealth Day (Canada)
March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
March 20 - Vernal Equinox
March 20 - 21 - Naw-Ruz (Iranian New Year) • Bahá'i
March 21 - International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 23 - Padwa/Ugadi (Hindu)
March 25 - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery

APRIL 2012

Celebrate Diversity Month

April 1 - Ramanavami & Swaminarayan Jayanti (Hindu)
April 1 - Palm Sunday • Christian
April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day
April 4 - International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
April 4 - Qing Ming Jie (China)
April 5 - Holy Thursday • Christian

April 6 - 14 Passover • Jewish
April 6 - Theravada New Year • Buddhist
April 6 - Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
April 6 - Good Friday/Holy Friday • Western Christian & Eastern Orthodox
April 7 - 14 - Passover or Pesach • Jewish
April 7 - World Health Day
April 8 - Easter • Christian
April 14 - Varsakhi (Hindu)
April 15 - 22 - Days of Remembrance
April 19 - Yom Hashoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day
April 21-May 2 - Ridvan Festival • Bahá'í
April 22 - International Earth Day
April 23 - World Book and Copyright Day
April 23 - St. George's Day (Canada)
April 24 - 26 Yom Haatzmaut (Independence Day) (India)
April 29 - Shōwa Day (Japan)

MAY 2012

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Jewish American Heritage Month

May 1 – International Worker's Day
May 1 - 2 - Spring and Labor Day (Russia)
May 3 - World Press Freedom Day
May 5 - National Day of Prayer
May 5 - Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)
May 5 - Wesak or Buddha Day • Buddhist
May 9 - Victory Day (Russia)
May 10 - Lag B'Omer • Jewish
May 13 - Mother's Day
May 15 - International Day of Families
May 17 - Ascension Day • Christian
May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development
May 23 - Declaration of the Báb • Bahá'í
May 23 - Victoria Day (Canada)
May 27 - Shavuot (Feast of Weeks) • Jewish
May 28 - Memorial Day (United States)
May 29 - Ascension of the Bahá'u'lláh • Bahá'í

JUNE 2012

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month
Caribbean-American Heritage Month

June 4 - International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

June 5 - World Environment Day

June 10 - Race Unity Day • Baha'i

June 10 - All Saints Day • Eastern Christian

June 12 - Loving Day

June 12 - Russia Day (Russia)

June 14 - Flag Day

June 17 - Isra and Mi'raj • Muslim

June 20 - World Refugees Day

June 23 - United Nations Public Service Day

June 23 - Dragon Boat Festival (China)

JULY 2012

American Heritage Month

July 1 - Canada Day (Canada)

July 3 - Asala Puja or Dharma Day • Buddhist

July 4 - Independence Day (United States)

July 5 - Nisf Shabaan • Buddhist

July 9 - Martyrdom of the Bab • Bahá'i

July 11 - World Population Day

July 11 - Imamat Day • Muslim

July 13 - 15 - Festival of Souls (Japan)

July 16 - Umi no hi (Japan)

July 16 - Wassana • Buddhist

July 20–August 18 - Ramadan • Muslim

July 24 - Pioneer Day • Christian, Mormon

July 24 - Tanabata (Japan)

July 28 - Tisha B'Av • Jewish

AUGUST 2012

Family Heritage and Diversity Month

August 2 - Raksha Bandham (Hindu)

August 6 - Hiroshima Day (Japan)

August 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous People

August 10 - Janmashtami (Hindu)

August 12 - International Youth Day

August 14 - Laylat al Qadr • Muslim

August 15 - Assumption • Christian

August 15 - Liberation Day (Korea)

August 19 - Eid-al-Fitr • Muslim

August 20 - Asman • Bahá'í

August 23 - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

August 26 - Women's Equality Day (United States)

SEPTEMBER 2012

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15 - Oct 15)

Healthy Aging Month

Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

September 1 - Israel Miraji Ascent of the prophet Muhammad

September 3 - **Labor Day (United States)**

September 8 - International Literacy Day

September 9 - Grandparents Day (United States)

September 11 - Patriot Day (United States)

September 14-15 San Genarro Day (Italian-American)

September 16 - Mexico's Independence Day

September 16 - Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

September 17 - Constitution day and Citizenship Day (United States)

September 22 - Autumnal Equinox (Japan)

September 25 - Yom Kippur • Jewish

OCTOBER 2012

Diversity Awareness Month

National Disability Employment Month

German-American Heritage Month

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Italian-American Heritage Month

National Mental Illness Awareness Month

Polish-American Heritage Month

October 1 - 7 - Sukkot • Jewish

October 7 - Simchat Torah • Jewish

October 8 - Native American Day

October 8 - **Columbus Day**

October 8 - Shemini Atzeret • Jewish

October 9 - Cirio de Nazare (Brazil)

October 11 - National Coming Out Day (United States)

October 26 - Eid-al-adha • Islamic, Muslim

October 28 - Mother-in-Law Day

October 31 - Halloween (United States)

October 31 - Reformation Day • Christian

NOVEMBER 2012

National Native American Heritage Month
American Diabetes Month
Epilepsy Awareness Month
National AIDS Awareness Month
National Long Term Care Awareness Month

November 1 - All Saints Day • Christian
November 2 - All Souls Day • Christian
November 6 - Election Day (United States)
November 6 - Daylight Savings time ends (United States)
November 6 - Eid-al-adha (Brazil)
November 9 - Kristallnacht
November 12 - **Veterans Day (United States)**
November 12 - Birthday of Baha' u'llah • Bahá'i
November 12 - 18 - American Education Week
November 22 - **Thanksgiving (United States)**
November 26 - 28 - Dec Al Hijra (Muslim New Year)

DECEMBER 2012

Universal Human Rights Month

December 1 - World AIDS Day (United Nations)
December 1 - Rosa Parks Day (United States)
December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 2 - Advent begins
December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
December 5 - Ashura • Muslim
December 8 - Bodhi Day • Buddhist
December 10 - Human Rights Day
December 12 - Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)
December 15 - Bill of Rights Day (United States)
December 18 - International Migrants Day
December 20 - International Human Solidarity Day
December 20 - 27 - Hanukkah
December 25 - **Christmas Day**
December 26 - Boxing Day (Canada)
December 26-January 1 - Kwanzaa (United States)
December 31 - New Year's Eve
December 31 - Omisoka (Japan)