



Celebrate and Honor Juneteenth

Learn more about the holiday that celebrates independence for **all** Americans.

Juneteenth is celebrated every year on June 19 to mark the emancipation of all enslaved people in the United States. Emancipation came to different parts of the United States at different times throughout the end of the Civil War. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas which was the last remaining stronghold of slavery. This was over two months after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee in Appomattox Court House. By completing this patch, you will learn more about the origins of Juneteenth, some of the ways it is celebrated, and how to share it with your friends, family, and neighbors.

How to earn the Juneteenth patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Discover the history of Juneteenth, when it started, what it means to so many Americans, and recent proclamations.
2. **Connect**—Make your own Juneteenth flag or a Juneteenth snack to celebrate.
3. **Take Action**—Encourage others to celebrate Juneteenth!

Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need:

- Computer or mobile device with internet access
- Juneteenth resources (You can either go online with an adult, ask an expert, or visit your public library.)
- White, blue, and red construction paper (See Step 2)
- Scissors
- Glue or clear tape
- Ingredients for your Juneteenth snack (See Step 2)

STEP 1 Learn more about the origins of Juneteenth.

On June 19, 2019, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed a bill into law which declared June 19 as Juneteenth National Freedom Day in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania, 46 other states, and the District of Columbia, all currently recognize Juneteenth as a holiday for state employees, but the first celebrations can be traced back as far as 1867. Learn more about the history of Juneteenth:

Check out books from your local library. There are many Juneteenth books available, but some notable children books include:

- *Juneteenth for Mazie* by Floyd Cooper
- *All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom* by Angela Johnson
- *Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom* by Charles Taylor

Go online to learn more about Juneteenth. There are plenty of great resources, but we have listed a few examples below:

- [BrainPop: What is Juneteenth and Why Do We Celebrate?](#)
- [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)
- [Austin PBS Juneteenth Jamboree Series](#)


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STEP 2

Make a Juneteenth flag or snack.

For this step, you can either make your own Juneteenth flag or create a Juneteenth snack to share with your friends and family.

Flag:

The holiday of Juneteenth has its own flag created in 1997 by Ben Haith, the founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation. You will need scissors, tape/glue, and pieces of red, white, and blue construction paper.

1. Cut the red and blue construction paper in half lengthwise. Glue or tape the two pieces together with the blue paper on top and the red paper on the bottom. These colors are meant to mirror the red, white, and blue of the United States flag.
2. Take the white paper and cut out the white jagged ring. This represents “bursting with freedom.” You’ll glue this to the center of your red and blue flag.
3. Now take your remaining white paper and cut out a star to place inside your white “bursting” circle. This represents the single star from the Texas flag since Galveston, Texas was the last place emancipated.

Flag image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth#/media/File:Juneteenth_Flag.svg



Snack:

Like most holidays, Juneteenth celebrations involve food shared among friends and family. Some traditional Juneteenth celebrations include Texas barbeque, while others include red foods to symbolize “ingenuity and resilience in bondage.” Find a favorite red snack that you can prepare. This might be red velvet cupcakes, watermelon slices, or a bowl of strawberry punch.

Looking for ideas on how to decorate your red velvet cupcakes? Try adding black and green frosting so it mirrors another flag commonly seen on Juneteenth: the red, black, and green African American flag.

STEP 3

Take action to celebrate Juneteenth!

There are many ways that you can celebrate Juneteenth and the lasting impact it represents for freedom for all United States citizens. Choose one of the options below:

- Do you believe that Juneteenth should be a national holiday? 47 states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, but it is not yet a federal holiday like Independence Day on July 4. Write to your representatives in the United States House and Senate explaining why you think Juneteenth deserves to be a national holiday. Or write to your local community leaders about why you’d like to see a Juneteenth celebration in your hometown.
- Take your Juneteenth flag and post it in your window. Make more flags to share with your neighbors, friends and family members and be sure to explain the different symbols in the flag and what they mean for this holiday.
- Find a Juneteenth event in your community and participate! You might attend a parade, join a barbeque, or volunteer your time at your local celebration.

All done?

CONGRATULATIONS! You’ve completed all the necessary steps to earn the Simple Machines patch.

After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch.* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.

**Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.*