

JUNETEENTH PATCH PROGRAM

What is Juneteenth? Juneteenth combines “June” and “nineteenth.” It’s also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Emancipation Day.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation officially ending slavery. However, the practice still remained in some parts of the country that did not receive the news. It wasn’t until June 19, 1865, that the news regarding the end of the Civil War and the abolishment of slavery made it to the enslaved people in Galveston, Texas. Celebrations throughout the newly free Black community followed, which in time became an annual tradition across the United States.

Juneteenth is a time to gather with family and community, honor the present, and reflect on shared history and tradition.

Discover the tastes, sounds, and experiences of this African American cultural tradition. Discover the history of Juneteenth by learning about traditions, celebrations, and Black freedom fighters.

Connect your Juneteenth knowledge to celebrations and social justice movements in your community.

Take Action with your newfound knowledge of the Juneteenth holiday to show your support for freedom and racial justice.


girl scouts
of wisconsin
southeast



Discover, Connect, and Take Action to earn your Juneteenth patch!

This patch program is designed to help Girl Scouts of any grade level understand the importance of the Juneteenth holiday. We invite you to take this opportunity to learn more about and experience this African American cultural tradition!

The **Resources** page at the end of this guide will provide you a starting point as you determine which activity options work best for you.

Be sure to visit one of our **GSWISE Resource Centers** to purchase your patch!

Discover

Discover the history of Juneteenth by learning about traditions, celebrations, and Black freedom fighters. Complete at least two activities below.

1. **Read a book, watch a video, or listen to a podcast on the history of Juneteenth.**

Various books about Juneteenth can be found at your local library, Amazon, or local bookstore, and some can be found on YouTube as a read-aloud video. Check out the [Resources](#) page included at the end of this program guide for reading suggestions.

2. **Learn about important Black women activists throughout history.** Use your knowledge to create a poster about a freedom fighter.

- ♦ Where and when were they born?
- ♦ How did they fight against racism and inequality?
- ♦ What is their legacy?

3. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. **Learn about the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation and what it meant for slavery in the United States.**

4. The Juneteenth flag is a combination of red, white, and blue colors with a starburst shape in the middle. **Research and discover the significance of each part of the flag. Make your own Juneteenth flag to display.**

5. **Enjoy a traditional recipe.** One way that Juneteenth has traditionally been celebrated is by having a barbecue and drinking red strawberry soda. When African Americans were freed, they celebrated by drinking soda, a luxury they didn't have while enslaved, and by eating red food—the color red symbolizes perseverance and the struggles they endured. Try out the recipe for strawberry social, a traditional Juneteenth drink, from <https://www.awortheyread.com/strawberry-soda/>.

Juneteenth Strawberry Soda (8-10 servings)

- ♦ 1-liter strawberry soda or lemon lime soda
- ♦ 1 ½ cup strawberry lemonade mix
- ♦ 1 cup homemade strawberry syrup
- ♦ 1 pint of fresh strawberries, washed and sliced in half
- ♦ Fresh sprigs of mint
- ♦ Ice



Directions:

1. Make the strawberry lemonade by combining the strawberry lemonade mix with the strawberry soda or lemon-lime soda instead of water.
2. Stir in homemade strawberry syrup (see recipe below), fresh strawberries, and fresh sprigs of mint.
3. Taste and adjust sweetness to your liking.
4. Pour into glasses filled with ice.
5. Garnish with fresh strawberries and fresh sprigs of mint and serve.

Homemade Strawberry Syrup

- ♦ 1 cup of granulated sugar
- ♦ 1 cup of water
- ♦ 1 cup of fresh strawberries, cleaned with stem removed and cut in quarters
- ♦ 2 tablespoons of fresh-squeezed lemon juice

Directions:

1. Place a saucepan over med-high heat and add water, sugar, prepared strawberries, and lemon juice.
2. When the mixture begins to boil, use a fork or potato masher to mash the strawberries to release the juices.
3. Allow the mixture to boil for an additional minute and remove from heat.
4. Place a tight-fitting lid onto the saucepan and allow the strawberry syrup to steep for 10 minutes.
5. Using a fine-mesh sieve, strain the syrup into a mason jar. Store in the fridge for up to three days.

Connect

Choose one of the following options to connect your Juneteenth knowledge to celebrations and social justice movements in your community!

1. **Attend a local Juneteenth celebration or a virtual event.** Attending an event allows you to directly learn from Black activists about their work in the country and your community, and to experience the Juneteenth holiday firsthand. Below are a few Juneteenth events. *Please note these community events are not organized by GSWISE. All event-related questions should be directed to event organizers at the links below.*

Juneteenth - Milwaukee: <https://www.juneteenthmilwaukee.com/>

Juneteenth - City of Racine: <https://cityofracine.org/ParksRec/Events/Juneteenth/>

Juneteenth - Kenosha: https://thejuneteenthkenosha.my.canva.site/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJmYxpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHiTfXnLZc3UC1fAWIsYzohLC01GV0DIj6-53XXz5ev9_d8MHUo43Xg2ra-zx_aem_j6rXZubjD5fx1oTIJLLJDA

2. **Visit a museum,** such as the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum or America's Black Holocaust Museum.
3. **Support a Black-owned business!** Buying goods or food from a Black-owned business in your community has many benefits, including closing the racial wealth gap, celebrating Black cultures, strengthening the local economy, and promoting racial visibility and representation.
4. **Connect Juneteenth, Freedom Day, to your own community.** What freedoms are people advocating for in your community, and why are they important? This connection will allow you to see how social justice is in action in the world around you and the numerous social justice causes that exist.
5. **Have an idea of your own relevant to the community you live in?** We challenge you to take your own path!



Take Action

Girl Scouts has a long history of encouraging girls to help make the world a better place. Using your newfound knowledge of the Juneteenth holiday, choose one of the following options to show your support for freedom and racial justice:

1. **Contact an organization in your community** that is advocating for freedom and equality and ask how you can support their mission.
2. **Share what you've learned** about the importance of Juneteenth with others in your local community.
3. **Watch or listen to a Freedom Day speech.** Then, write your own speech about the importance of Juneteenth and present it to other Girl Scouts, friends, and family.
4. **Write a letter to your local library requesting more books and resources on Juneteenth.** Encourage them to purchase from Black-owned bookstores, if possible, explaining the positive impacts that purchasing from independent, and/or Black-owned businesses can create within local economies.
5. **Come up with your own way to Take Action on social justice in your local community!**

You did it! Congratulations on finishing this program kit. We hope you learned a lot! Don't forget to stop by a GSWISE Resource Center to purchase your patch.



Resources

- ♦ The History Channel: <https://www.history.com/articles/what-is-juneteenth>
- ♦ National Education Association: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/teaching-juneteenth-and-meaning-freedom>
- ♦ BrainPOP Video: <https://www.brainpop.com/topic/juneteenth?panel=10&refer=%2Ftopic%2Fjuneteenth%2Fmovie%2F>
- ♦ Sesame Street – Race, Ethnicity, and Culture: <https://sesameworkshop.org/>
- ♦ Smithsonian – National Museum of African American History & Culture
 - ♦ <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/moments/juneteenth>
 - ♦ <https://nmaahc.si.edu/visit/museum-store/juneteenth-reading-list>
 - ♦ <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/educators/teaching-and-learning>
- ♦ Learning for Justice: <https://www.learningforjustice.org/>

Please note these resources and community events in this program kit are not organized or produced by GSWISE. All event- or resource-related questions should be directed to organizers at the links provided.