

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

NOVEMBER 26

In the United States, the month of November is dedicated to honoring the history and heritage of Native Americans who deeply enrich our nation. National Native American Day is celebrated on November 26, the day after Thanksgiving. It is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the many important contributions, the diverse cultures, and traditions of Native Americans.

HISTORY

In 1976, Jerry C. Elliott High Eagle, a Cherokee/Osage physicist, authored legislation for a Native American Awareness Week. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the last week of November to be American Indian Week. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month, which we now know as Native American Heritage Month. November was chosen as this time of year typically concludes the traditional harvest season and was a time of celebration for Native Americans. Not only is this a time to celebrate Native Americans, but it also serves as a time to educate and raise awareness on the unique challenges this community has faced, historically and in the present.

TODAY

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are about 6.79 million Native Americans, which is approximately 2.09% of the population. There are about 574 federally recognized tribes in the nation.

KEY EVENTS AND FIGURES

To do justice to Native American Heritage Month, it's helpful to be familiar with this rich history. Click [here](#) to learn more.

While this fact sheet is meant to provide a high level overview, there are many different perspectives and ways to celebrate each holiday or heritage month.



ACTIVATION SUGGESTIONS

1. Showcase music and art from Native American artists.
2. Host a Native American history trivia event or a book signing of a Native American author.
3. Support local Native American-owned businesses as retail suppliers.
4. Visit a Native American Museum, heritage center or historical site.
5. Feature Local Native American food items on menus.
6. Use Native American images and art as backgrounds in menus and social media.
7. Partner with a local chapter of a Native American organization or participate in a community event.
8. Try a Native American Recipe.
9. Learn about a famous Native American and share with a friend or colleague.
10. Recognize and honor any Native American Staff on this day!



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