

2023 Diversity Awareness Calendar

The Diversity Awareness Calendar reflects national, cultural, and some religious holidays, widely recognized awareness months and day(s) of recognition, commemoration, and celebration for a specific group, culture or causes. This calendar is published by the City of Gastonia's DEI Department to help raise awareness and understanding of cultural diversity and to help inform scheduling of events, meetings, workplace festivities and community events.

**National/Federal Holiday*

January

- **Poverty in America Awareness Month**
- **January 1:** *New Year's Day
- **January 1:** Anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation
- **January 6:** Epiphany
- **January 16:** *Dr. MLK Holiday
- **January 17:** National Day of Racial Healing
- **January 22:** Lunar New Year
- **January 27:** Holocaust Remembrance Day

February

- **Black History Month**
- **Human Relations Month**
- **February 1:** National Freedom Day
- **February 14:** Valentine's Day
- **February 15:** Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- **February 20:** *President's Day
- **February 21:** Mardi Gras
- **February 22:** Ash Wednesday

March

- **Women's History Month**
- **Irish-American Heritage Month**
- **Gender Equality Month**
- **Deaf History Month (3/13 -4/15)**
- **March 3:** Employee Appreciation Day
- **March 8:** Holi (Hindu)
- **March 8:** International Women's Day
- **March 17:** St. Patrick's Day
- **March 22:** Ugadi (Hindu New Year)
- **March 23:** Ramadan begins (ends 4/20)
- **March 23:** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- **March 31:** Cesar Chavez Day

April

- **Arab-American Heritage Month**
- **Autism Awareness Month**
- **Celebrate Diversity Month**
- **April 2:** World Autism Awareness Day
- **April 13:** Equal Pay Day, an attempt to raise awareness about the raw wage gap, a figure that shows that women, on average, earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn.
- **April 6-13:** Passover (Jewish)
- **April 7:** Good Friday (Christian)
- **April 9:** Easter (Christian)
- **April 14:** National Day of Silence
- **April 22:** Earth Day (International)
- **April 29:** Civic Touch a Truck Day
- **April 22:** Diversity Day Event
- **April 21:** Eid al-Fitr (begins in the evening)
- **April 27 – 29:** Gathering of Nations
- **April 30:** National Small Business Week

May

- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**
- **Jewish American Heritage Month**
- **Mental Health Awareness Month**
- **Older Americans Month**
- **May 1:** May Day
- **May 4:** National Day of Prayer
- **May 5:** Cinco de Mayo
- **May 12:** Mother's Day
- **May 20:** National Armed Forces Day
- **May 21:** International Day for Cultural Diversity
- **May 29:** *Memorial Day

June

- **LGBT Pride Month**
- **Immigrant Heritage Month**
- **Caribbean American Heritage Month**
- **June 2:** Anniversary of Indian Citizenship Act of 1924
- **June 7:** Anniversary of the 1929 Loray Mill Strike conflict
- **June 11:** Race Unity Day (Bahá'í)
- **June 12:** Puerto Rican Day Parade
- **June 14:** Flag Day
- **June 18:** Father's Day
- **June 19:** *Juneteenth
- **June 21:** National Indigenous Peoples Day

July

- **Social Wellness Month**
- **July 1:** National Postal Workers Day
- **July 3:** Dharama Day (Buddhist)
- **July 4:** *Independence Day
- **July 19:** Muharram begins (ends 8/16)
- **July 26:** National Disability Independence Day

August

- **National Anti- Bullying Month**
- **National Black Business Month**
- **August 6:** Anniversary of Voting Rights Act
- **August 9:** International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- **August 26:** Women's Equality Day

September

- **Hispanic Heritage Month**
- **National Recovery Month**
- **September 4:** Labor Day
- **September 11:** Patriot Day
- **September 14th:** Anniversary of Ella May Wiggin's death
- **September 15:** Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month begins (ends October 15th)
- **September 16 – 17:** Rosh Hashanah
- **September 17:** Constitution/Citizenship Day

October

- **Global Diversity Awareness Month**
- **LGBT History Month**
- **Disability Employment Awareness Month**
- **Polish American Heritage Month**
- **Oct. 9:** * Columbus Day
- **Oct. 9:** Indigenous Peoples' Day
- **Oct. 10:** World Mental Health Day
- **Oct. 16:** World Food Day
- **Oct. 17:** Spirit Day (LGBTQ)
- **October 28:** National Make a Difference Day
- **Oct. 31:** Halloween

November

- **Native American Heritage Month**
- **November 1-2:** Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
- **November 11:** *Veterans Day
- **November 12:** Diwali (India Festival of Lights – 5-day celebration)
- **November 20:** Transgender Day of Remembrance (LGBTQ+): seeks to remember those who were murdered due to transphobia
- **November 24:** *Thanksgiving
- **Date Varies:** Hanukkah

December

- **December 1:** World AIDS Day
- **December 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **December 7:** Pearl Harbor Day
- **December 7-15:** Hanukkah (Jewish)
- **December 10:** International Human Rights Day
- **December 16-24:** Las Posadas
- **December 21:** Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve
- **December 25:** *Christmas (Christian)
- **December 26 to January 1:** Kwanzaa