GuidanceResources®

Marking Juneteenth

Juneteenth, a shortened form of June 19th, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

History of Juneteenth

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were free. This was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. That executive order had had little impact on the Texans due to the small number of Union troops available to enforce the order there. With the end of the Civil War, those forces were deployed to influence and overcome resistance to ending slavery.

Juneteenth Today

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law establishing the date as a federal holiday. The national holiday celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. It is also a time for many to gather with family and community to honor the present and reflect on shared history and tradition.

For more information:

Your EAP is committed to supporting diverse workforces and strives to fulfill your preferences for culturally competent mental health professionals who can meet your emotional needs. Contact us to learn about what else may be available to you.

- Juneteenth.com
- National Museum of African American History & Culture
- PBS – What is Juneteenth
- GovInfo – Juneteenth

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