



A DAY OF REFLECTION, RECOGNITION, AND RESTORATION

Juneteenth commemorates when slavery was finally abolished in the United States on June 19, 1865. The Emancipation Proclamation had been signed almost three years earlier, but that news was withheld from enslaved people in Texas until two months after the Civil War ended. Union troops arrived in Galveston to deliver General Order 3, informing enslaved people that they were now free.

Juneteenth, often celebrated on the third Saturday in June, is observed in many ways akin to the 4th of July. Celebrations might include family gatherings, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, singing traditional songs like "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," supporting Black-owned businesses, telling stories, and more. Primarily, it is a day to honor all that June 19 symbolizes.

**"None of us are free  
until all of us are free."**

— Poet Emma Lazarus



**Keep the spirit of Juneteenth alive by  
supporting Black-owned businesses year-round!**  
Scan the QR code for a Black-owned business directory.  
[juneteenth.com](https://juneteenth.com)



**Illinois  
State Board of  
Education**