Interfaith Calendar
18-Month
2019 - 2020
Diversity Awareness Partnership
18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR

To foster and support inclusive communities, Diversity Awareness Partnership is pleased to present the 2019-2020 18-Month Interfaith Calendar. This publication is a handy guide to observances celebrated across 25 religious traditions in the St. Louis region. When planning your organization’s schedule, refer to our Interfaith Calendar to honor the holidays your friends, neighbors, and colleagues celebrate.

CONSIDERATIONS

In order to be more accommodating for people who practice different religions, consider the following:

FOOD
Food and drink are central to many traditions’ rituals and practices. Consider vegetarian, vegan, non-alcoholic, and decaf options, which can accommodate a wide variety of religious and ethical choices.

HOURS
Some holidays may require individuals to worship or pray during different hours than they may the rest of the year. Consider flexibility that takes into account the work and objectives of your student or employee, rather than the typical time frame when this is normally accomplished.

TIME OFF
Many organizations have standard holidays for all employees or students that are built around the worldview of a particular religion - Christianity, for example. Consider allowing practitioners of other religions to float these holidays or make shifts in their schedules. Again, the priority should be the quality of the work, not where or when it takes place.

DEADLINES/WORK FLOW
During holidays that require prayer at late/early hours or that require fasting, some individuals may experience decreased stamina. Examine project schedules or work deadlines to see if they can be adjusted, if need be.

PRAYER
Some religions require daily or periodic prayer that requires solitude and quiet. Consider designating a space for individuals to pray that is clean, well-furnished, and accessible.

ATTIRE
For some religions, dress is part of an outward and ongoing commitment to that faith tradition. Make sure that your organization’s attire policy is communicated clearly to employees.
ONLINE RESOURCE

Interfaith Calendar of primary sacred times for world religions: www.interfaith-calendar.org

NOTES

This calendar strives to be as inclusive as possible. However, we are always open to adding more holidays and more religions. Please contact us directly if there’s something you’d like us to consider adding for next year’s calendar.

All content in this calendar represents information that was available at the time of production. To the greatest extent possible, holidays based on lunar phases or other variables that change every Gregorian calendar year have been factored into observance dates. The spelling of certain observances may vary as well, based on different ways of representing words from other languages.

All Baha’i, Jewish, and Muslim holidays begin at sunset unless otherwise noted.

We encourage all places of worship to be accessible to persons with disabilities by making necessary accommodations. Contact DAP for additional information on how your organization can become more inclusive in this way.

COLOR KEY

- Baha’i
- Buddhist
- Catholic Christian
- Christian
- Confucian
- Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
- Hindu
- Hispanic Christian
- Interfaith
- Jain
- Jehovah’s Witnesses
- Jewish
- Mormon
- Muslim
- Orthodox Christian
- Pan-African
- Protestant Christian
- Rastafarian
- Scientologist
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Swedenborgian Christian
- Taoist
- Wiccan/Pagan
- Zoroastrian
1 Tuesday
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ
Shogatsu/Gantan-sai | Shinto
New Year’s Day celebration

5 Saturday
Twelfth Night | Christian
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking of the coming of the Epiphany

The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master | Sikh
Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 Sunday
Epiphany/Three Kings’ Day | Christian
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

7 Monday
Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian
Celebration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

13 Sunday
Maghi | Sikh
Commemoration of a battle in which 40 Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh

14 Monday
Makar Sankranti | Hindu
Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the Sun
Seijin no Hi | Shinto
Holiday honoring those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year

17 Thursday
Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot/Blessing of the Animals | Hispanic Catholic
Observeance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

18 Friday
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/25/19)
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 Saturday
Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

20 Sunday
World Religion Day | Baha’i
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world’s religions

Tu B’S’vat | Jewish (until 1/21/19)
Celebration of the coming of spring

21 Monday
Mahayana New Year | Buddhist (until 1/23/19)
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mayahana countries

25 Friday
Conversion of St. Paul | Christian
Event in the life of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

A Primer on Important Terms

Ecumenical: Including or representing multiple denominations within Christianity. Relevant this month because of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, traditionally observed in St. Louis with a prayer service coordinated by Catholic and multiple Protestant groups.

Interfaith: Including or representing multiple faiths or religions.

Religious diversity: A characteristic of a group of people wherein a large number of religious identities are included compared to the group size.

Religious inclusivity: Intentional efforts to include those who would otherwise be excluded based on their religion (or lack thereof).

World religions: One of the most common ways that we describe the many systems of religious belief that are practiced around the world. There are an estimated 4,200 religions in the world. This month, the Baha’i faith hosts World Religion Day, dedicated to illuminating the universal principles among the world’s religions.
1 Friday
Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan
Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, celebrates the passage from winter to spring

2 Saturday
Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian
Remembrance of the infant Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem

3 Sunday
Setsubun-sai | Shinto
Celebration of the traditional beginning of spring and the end of winter

Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith
Commemoration of U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during WWII

5 Tuesday
Lunar New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
New Year’s celebration marking the start of the Lunar New Year; begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

Vasant Panchami | Hindu
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

12 Tuesday
Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian
Time period leading up to Lent

14 Thursday
National Founding Day, United States | Scientology
Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

St. Valentine’s Day | Christian
Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

15 Friday
Nirvana Day | Buddhist
Also known as Parinirvana Day, remembering the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana; festival day that marks the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth

19 Tuesday
Spring Lantern Festival | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

Intercalary Days | Baha’i (until 3/1/19)
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered ‘days outside of time’

The World Interfaith Harmony Week, Annual UN Observance Week: Feb. 1-7

“The World Interfaith Harmony Week will fall on the first week of February of every year and aims to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith. The World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan. Just under a month later, on October 20, 2010, it was unanimously adopted by the UN and henceforth the first week of February will be observed as a World Interfaith Harmony Week.”

(from https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/)

This event is recognized around the world by individuals and groups who plan and host events honoring interfaith principles. Planning is decentralized and done at a grassroots level, with the UN’s website offering suggestions on meaningful opportunities, including harmony breakfasts, movie-inspired dialogue, joint mission/justice work, and more.
2 Saturday
Nineteen Day Fast | Baha’i (until 3/20/19)
Fast to be observed by adults of the Baha’i faith in good health from sunrise to sunset

4 Monday
Maha Shivaratri | Hindu
Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

5 Tuesday
Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian
Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

6 Wednesday
Ash Wednesday | Christian
Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers’ foreheads as a sign of repentance

10 Sunday
Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian
First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated

11 Monday
Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian
Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods

13 Wednesday
L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday | Scientology
Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 Sunday
St. Patrick’s Day | Christian
Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

Ta’anit Esther | Jewish
Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

Purim | Jewish (until 3/21/19)
Commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill them

Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan
Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)

21 Thursday
Naw Ruz (Norooz) | Baha’i, Zoroastrian
Marks the start of the new year which occurs on the date of the Vernal Equinox (also known as Persian New Year)

Holi | Hindu
Spring festival known as the “festival of colors” or the “festival of love”, the festival signifies the victory of good over evil

Hola Mohalla | Sikh
Created by Guru Gobind Singh as an occasion for Sikhs to show their martial arts skills and host mock battles

Magha Puja Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men

25 Monday
Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian
Feast day commemorating the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus

28 Thursday
Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian
Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

Lord’s Evening Meal | Jehovah’s Witness
Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ
2 Tuesday
Lailat al Miraj | Muslim (until 4/3/19)
Commemorates the Prophet Muhammed’s nighttime journey from Mecca to “the farthest mosque” in Jerusalem

18 Thursday
Maundy Thursday | Christian
Remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples

Rama Navami | Hindu
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

19 Friday
Theravada New Year | Buddhist (until 4/21/19)
Buddhist New Year

Good Friday/Holy Friday | Christian, Orthodox Christian
Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

Passover/Pesach | Jewish (until 4/27)
8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

Lord’s Evening Meal | Jehovah’s Witness
Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu
Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama; devotion and selfless works are encouraged

28 Sunday
Easter/Pasca | Orthodox Christian
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

First Day of Ridvan | Baha’i (until 5/2/19)
Commemorates the beginning of the Baha’i faith in 1863 when Baha’u’llah first declared his mission, marks first of a twelve-day period

Lailat al Bara’ah | Muslim
Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins

Grounation Day | Rastafarian
Holy day celebrated in honor of Haile Selassie’s 1966 visit to Jamaica

29 Monday
Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha’u’llah’s exile from Baghdad

9 Tuesday
Mahavir Jayanti | Jain
Celebration of the birth of Mahavira, founder of Jainism as a religion

14 Sunday
Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikh, Hindu
In Sikhism the day commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood

Palm Sunday | Christian
Celebration of the entry of Jesus to Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Beltane</td>
<td>Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Yom HaShoah</td>
<td>Jewish**</td>
<td>Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Twelfth Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Baha’i faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>**National Day of Prayer</td>
<td>Interfaith**</td>
<td>U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5 Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Chongmyo Taeje</td>
<td>Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6 Monday</strong></td>
<td>Ramadan begins</td>
<td>Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9 Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Observance of the Publication of Dianetics</td>
<td>Observance of the 1950 publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health which was the forerunner of Scientology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13 Monday</strong></td>
<td>World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day</td>
<td>Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18 Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Visakha Puja (Buddha Day)</td>
<td>Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Guatama Buddha in the Theravada tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21 Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue &amp; Development</td>
<td>United Nations-sanctioned international holiday that celebrates the richness of the world’s cultures while promoting intercultural dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>22 Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Lag Ba’Omer</td>
<td>Observation of the counting of the day, the link, between Pesach and Shavout</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>24 Friday</strong></td>
<td>Declaration of the Bab</td>
<td>Celebration of the Bab, Ali Muhammad’s announcement in 1844 that he was the “gate” to the coming of the promised one of all religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29 Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Ascension of Baha’u’llah</td>
<td>Remembrance of the death of Baha’u’llah, founder of the Baha’i faith</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>30 Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Ascension of Jesus</td>
<td>Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>31 Friday</strong></td>
<td>Laylat al Qadr</td>
<td>The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5 Wednesday
Eid al Fitr | Muslim (until 6/7/19)
Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

6 Thursday
Ascension Day | Orthodox Christian
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter

7 Friday
Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist
Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety and recognizing the life and death of Chinese Scholar, Qu Yuan

9 Sunday
Pentecost | Christian, Orthodox Christian
Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

Race Unity Day | Baha’i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

Shavuot | Jewish (until 6/10/19)
Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

16 Sunday
Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikh
Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith’s tradition

Trinity Sunday | Christian
Celebrates doctrine of the Trinity, remembering and honoring God the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

19 Wednesday
New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christian
Annual commemoration of the vision document “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770

20 Thursday
Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, also known as transubstantiation

23 Sunday
Sunday of All Saints | Orthodox Christian
Celebrating the memory of all saints

28 Friday
Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian
Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity
JULY 2019

Travel and Visitation

For Americans, July is prime time for summer vacations, which frequently include opportunities for tourism. Both domestically and abroad, holy sites and congregations are destinations for visitors wishing to learn more about their own or other religions. The hot summer weather can often be at odds with expected dress codes at holy sites, so the following tips are offered for visitors:

- Regardless of where you visit, plan to cover your shoulders and legs. Shorts and tank tops are nearly universal no-nos for houses of worship, including Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Jewish, and Hindu sites.
- In Muslim sites, plan to remove your shoes. If you’d be uncomfortable walking barefoot around a mosque, bring socks if you’re wearing sandals over bare feet. Women should consider bringing a light scarf or pashmina to cover their heads. Though visitors are often not asked to cover their heads, honoring internal expectations of hijab can create a sense of mutual respect between visitor and host. Be mindful that men and women may have separate entrances to buildings as well as separate worship spaces.
- In Catholic and Orthodox Christian cathedrals and churches, the basic rules apply regarding knees and shoulders. Some Orthodox churches require women to cover their heads and to wear skirts (no miniskirts), and some separate men and women in the sanctuary seating. Distracting or too-tight clothing, as well as clothing with logos, are not appropriate here.
- “Except in Reform temples, all men and boys are expected to cover their heads. This is often optional at Reform services. Out of respect, even non-Jewish guests should follow the custom of the synagogue and wear a kippah. Men who have been Bar-Mitzvahed also typically put on a tallis. This is not expected of non-Jews, who may politely decline if offered one. Today, in more liberal synagogues, women sometimes also wear a kippah and tallis, but this is not obligatory.” (www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/synagogue-customs-and-etiquette)
- If you are visiting someone else’s house of worship, the best way to honor your hosts is to inquire about appropriate dress. This shows your good intentions and desire to show respect. Many sites will have backup head coverings and scarves to cover the shoulders for visitors.
Festival of Nations, August 24-25

In St. Louis, August is a prime opportunity to learn about people from around the world. Over the last weekend in August, the International Institute of St. Louis holds their annual Festival of Nations. “Our region’s largest multicultural celebration features more than 40 booths, non-stop dance and music, arts and crafts, and an international bazaar with unique gifts from around the world.

This August, more than 125,000 visitors will gather for two days to celebrate the many cultures of our region’s newcomers and long-timers. Annually, the International Institute produces the festival in collaboration with more than 100 local ethnic and international organizations.”

(festivalofnationsstl.org)

As part of this event, Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis coordinates an area of the festival showcasing Religions of the World. Under a single large tent, representatives from many of St. Louis’ religions are available to educate the public about their beliefs, practices, communities, etc. Since 2012, this presence at the Festival has grown each year and is an excellent opportunity for members of the public to see the amazing diversity of religious traditions practiced right here in St. Louis.
SEPTEMBER 2019

1 Sunday
Religious year begins | Orthodox Christian
Start of the religious calendar year

2 Monday
Hijri-New Year | Muslim
Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

3 Tuesday
Ganesh Chaturthi | Hindu
Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success

8 Sunday
Paryushana Parva | Jain
Festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement, and a celebration of the natural qualities of the soul

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian
Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

9 Monday
Auditor’s Day | Scientology
Scientology Auditors are acknowledged for their dedication in helping their fellow men and women

12 Thursday
Ashura | Muslim
Optional one-day fast marking the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali (Shi’a Islam) and marking the day that Moses fasted in gratitude for liberation of the Israelites (Sunni Islam)

23 Monday
Ethiopian New Year’s Day | Rastafarian
First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

27 Friday
Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

28 Saturday
Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Commemoration of the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helen

30 Monday
Confucius’ Birthday | Confucian
Observance of the birth of Confucius

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

September Interfaith Concert
Since 2011, Arts & Faith St. Louis has held a concert in September that creates shared arts experiences to inspire thoughtful discussion among diverse audiences, to bring people together, and to bridge divides through shared experiences. What began as an interfaith commemoration of September 11th has evolved into an annual concert that celebrates religious diversity. The show features professional headlining musicians like Christine Brewer alongside faith groups from around the metropolitan area. It is presented free and open to the public as a gift to the people of St. Louis. The Sheldon Concert Hall hosts this annual event, always on a Sunday afternoon in early September. Date and details for the 2019 event will be available at www.artsfaithstl.org.
### October 2019

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4 Friday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Navratri</td>
<td>Hindu&lt;br&gt;Festival of the divine mother (lasting 9 nights) honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessing</td>
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<td><strong>7 Monday</strong>&lt;br&gt;St. Francis Day/Blessing of the Animals</td>
<td>Catholic Christian&lt;br&gt;Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, often celebrated with special blessing of animals</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8 Tuesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Yom Kippur</td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/9/19)&lt;br&gt;Also known as the Day of Atonement with central themes of atonement and repentance</td>
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<td><strong>Dussehra/Durga Puja</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hindu</td>
<td>Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement</td>
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<td><strong>9 Wednesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Birthday of Guru Ram Das</td>
<td>Sikh&lt;br&gt;Commemoration of the birth of one of the foremost gurus of Sikhism</td>
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<td><strong>Sukkot</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jewish</td>
<td>Feast Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents</td>
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<td><strong>14 Monday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Founding of the International Association of Scientologists</td>
<td>Scientology&lt;br&gt;Scientologists rededicate themselves to the aims of Scientology: a world without criminals, suffering, and war</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving- Canada</strong>&lt;br&gt;Interfaith</td>
<td>(until 10/20/19)&lt;br&gt;Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year</td>
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<td><strong>19 Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hoshanah Rabbah</td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/20/19)&lt;br&gt;Commemoration of the last of the annual readings of the Torah</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20 Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Shemini Atzeret</td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/22/19)&lt;br&gt;Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah</td>
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<td><strong>21 Monday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Simchat Torah</td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/22/19)&lt;br&gt;Day to celebrate the reading of the Law</td>
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<td><strong>22 Tuesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Guru Granth Sahib Installation</td>
<td>Sikh&lt;br&gt;Remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books by Granth Sahib</td>
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<td><strong>27 Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Diwali</td>
<td>Sikh, Jain, Hindu&lt;br&gt;The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28 Monday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Birth of the Bab</td>
<td>Baha’i (until 10/29/19)&lt;br&gt;Honoring of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner to Baha’u’llah and the Baha’i faith</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>31 Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;All Hallow’s Eve</td>
<td>Christian&lt;br&gt;Praying and fasting prior to the feast of All Saint’s Day</td>
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<td><strong>Reformation Day</strong></td>
<td>Protestant Christian&lt;br&gt;Anniversary of the tradition of Protestantism, marked by Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Samhain</strong></td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan (until 11/1/19)&lt;br&gt;Celebration of endings and beginnings</td>
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</table>
1 Friday
All Saints Day | Christian
Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

2 Saturday
All Souls Day | Catholic Christian
Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died

Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian
Celebration of the coronation of the messianic figure of the Rastafari movement

10 Sunday
Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim
Celebration of Prophet Muhammad’s birthday

12 Tuesday
Birth of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Baha’i faith

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib’s birthday | Sikh
Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

16 Saturday
Nativity Fast Begins | Orthodox Christian (until 12/24/19)
Period of abstinence and penance in preparation for the birth of Jesus

International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith
United Nations observance day to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance

24 Sunday
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh
Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Christ the King Sunday | Christian
Feast celebrating the all-embracing authority of Christ, over and above governmental authority

26 Tuesday
Day of the Covenant | Baha’i
Celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha’u’llah

28 Thursday
Ascension of Abdu’l-Baha | Baha’i
Celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu’l-Baha to heavenly dwelling

Thanksgiving | Interfaith
Celebration of the harvest and community

Interfaith Thanksgiving Blessing

Annually on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Interfaith Partnership offers an Interfaith Thanksgiving event featuring music, prayer and an opportunity to give thanks among an audience of people from diverse religious backgrounds. The event is hosted by a different faith community each year and therefore provides participants the opportunity to visit new houses of worship year after year. Previous Thanksgiving hosts have included Christian Science, Islam, Judaism, Unity Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. Details posted at www.interfaithstl.org.
**DECEMBER 2019**

**1 Sunday**
Advent | Christian (until 12/24/19)
Season observed as a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ

**6 Friday**
St. Nicholas Day | Christian
Celebration of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children and role model for gift-giving

**8 Sunday**
Bodhi Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

Immaculate Conception of Mary | Catholic Christian
Celebrates the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**12 Thursday**
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Catholic Christian
Honoring of a legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 CE

**16 Monday**
Posadas Navidenas | Hispanic Christian (until 12/25/19)
Nine-day religious observance during which families participate in nightly Christmas processions that re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus to Bethlehem

**21 Saturday**
Yule | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the Winter Solstice

**22 Sunday**
Hanukkah | Jewish (until 12/30/19)
Festival of lights commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple

**24 Tuesday**
Christmas Eve | Christian
Day before Christmas, often celebrated with a midnight Mass/Liturgy of Jesus’ birth

**25 Wednesday**
Christmas | Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Feast of the Nativity | Orthodox Christian
Commemorates the Nativity in the flesh of Jesus Christ

**26 Thursday**
Zarathosht Disco | Zoroastrian
Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

Kwanzaa | Pan-African (until 1/2/20)
Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture among people of African descent

**28 Saturday**
Holy Innocents | Christian
Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the same attempt to destroy Jesus

**29 Sunday**
Holy Family’s Day | Catholic Christian
Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family

**31 Tuesday**
Watch Night | Christian
Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year, and to prepare for the next year

Freedom Day | Scientology
Day celebrating the official recognition of the Church of Scientology in the United States in 1974
1 Wednesday
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

Shogatsu/Gantan-sai | Shinto
New Year’s Day celebration

5 Sunday
Twelfth Night | Christian
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking of the coming of the Epiphany

The Birth of the Tenth Sikh
Master I Singh
Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 Monday
Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christian
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

7 Tuesday
Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

8 Wednesday
Mahayana New Year | Buddhist
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mayahana countries

12 Sunday
Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

13 Monday
Maghi | Sikh
Commemoration of a battle in which 40 Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh

Seijin no Hi | Shinto
Holiday honoring those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year

15 Wednesday
Makar Sankranti | Hindu
Celebration marking the turning of the Sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the Sun

17 Friday
Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot/Blessing of the Animals | Hispanic Catholic
Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

18 Saturday
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/25/20)
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 Sunday
World Religion Day | Baha’i
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

20 Monday
Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist

25 Saturday
Conversion of St. Paul | Christian
Honoring the conversion of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

Lunar New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
New Year’s celebration marking the start of the lunar new year; begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

29 Wednesday
Vasant Panchami | Hindu
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1 Saturday</td>
<td>Imbolc</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Sunday</td>
<td>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Four Chaplains Sunday</td>
<td>Interfaith</td>
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<td>3 Monday</td>
<td>Setsubun-sai</td>
<td>Shinto</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Sunday</td>
<td>Tu B’Shvat</td>
<td>Jewish (until 2/10/20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Monday</td>
<td>Spring Lantern Festival</td>
<td>Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Wednesday</td>
<td>Triodion begins</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Friday</td>
<td>Race Relations Day</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Valentine’s Day</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Saturday</td>
<td>Nirvana Day</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Tuesday</td>
<td>National Founding Day</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Wednesday</td>
<td>Magha Puja Day</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Saturday</td>
<td>Maha Shivaratri</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
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<td>25 Tuesday</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday)</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td>26 Wednesday</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Intercalary Days</td>
<td>Baha’i (until 3/1/20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Saturday</td>
<td>Nineteen Day Fast</td>
<td>Baha’i (until 3/19/20)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2 Monday
Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian
Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods

8 Sunday
Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian
First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated

9 Monday
Ta’anit Esther | Jewish
Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

Purim | Jewish (until 3/10/20)
Commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill them

Holi | Hindu (until 3/10/20)
Spring festival known as the “festival of colours” or the “festival of love.” The festival signifies the victory of good over evil.

10 Tuesday
Hola Mohalla | Sikh
Created by Guru Gobind Singh as an occasion for Sikhs to show their martial arts skills and host mock battles

13 Friday
L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday | Scientology
Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 Tuesday
St. Patrick’s Day | Christian
Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

19 Thursday
Lord’s Evening Meal | Jehovah’s Witness
Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

20 Friday
Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan
Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)

Naw Ruz (Norooz) | Baha’i, Zoroastrian
Marks the start of the New Year which occurs on the date of the Vernal Equinox (also known as Persian New Year)

25 Wednesday
Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian
Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the son of God

Ramayana Week | Hindu (until 4/2/20)
Nine day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

28 Saturday
Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian
Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra
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<th>Religion</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Thursday</td>
<td>Rama Navami</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Friday</td>
<td>Laylat al Miraj</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to “the farthest mosque” in Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Saturday</td>
<td>Qingming Festival</td>
<td>Taoist, Confucian</td>
<td>Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, commemorates onset of spring and is an occasion to remember ancestors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sunday</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Monday</td>
<td>Founding of the Church</td>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>Commemoration of the appearance of the angel Moroni in 1830 to Joseph Smith, who subsequently founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Tuesday</td>
<td>Lord's Evening Meal</td>
<td>Jehovah's Witness</td>
<td>Memorial commemoration of Christ's death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Wednesday</td>
<td>Hanuman Jayanti</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama, devotion and selfless works are encouraged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Thursday</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Friday</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Christian, Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Saturday</td>
<td>Lazarus Saturday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Sunday</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Tuesday</td>
<td>Baisakhi/Vaisakhi</td>
<td>Sikh, Hindu</td>
<td>In Sikhism the day commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Sunday</td>
<td>Easter/Passa</td>
<td>Christian, Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Monday</td>
<td>Yom HaShoah</td>
<td>Jewish (ends 4/21/20)</td>
<td>Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Tuesday</td>
<td>Laylat al Bara’ah</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Friday</td>
<td>Ramadan Begins</td>
<td>Muslim (until 5/23/20)</td>
<td>Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Tuesday</td>
<td>Ninth Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
<td>Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha’u’llah’s exile from Baghdad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Religion/Tradition</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Friday</td>
<td>Beltane</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
<td>Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Sunday</td>
<td>Chongmyo Taeje</td>
<td>Confucian</td>
<td>Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Thursday</td>
<td>National Day of Prayer</td>
<td>Interfaith</td>
<td>U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Saturday</td>
<td>Observance of the Publication of Dianetics</td>
<td>Scientology</td>
<td>Observance of the 1950 publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health, which was the forerunner of Scientology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Monday</td>
<td>Lag Ba’Omer</td>
<td>Jewish (until 5/12/20)</td>
<td>Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Pesach and Shavout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Wednesday</td>
<td>World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Tuesday</td>
<td>Laylat al Qadr</td>
<td>Muslim (until 5/20/20)</td>
<td>The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Friday</td>
<td>Ascension of Jesus</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Saturday</td>
<td>Eid al Fitr</td>
<td>Muslim (until 5/24/20)</td>
<td>Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Wednesday</td>
<td>Ascension of Baha’u’llah</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
<td>(until 5/28/20) Remembrance of the death of Baha’u’llah, founder of Baha’i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Thursday</td>
<td>Shavuot</td>
<td>Jewish (until 5/30/20)</td>
<td>Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Sunday</td>
<td>Pentecost</td>
<td>Christian, Orthodox</td>
<td>Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 Sunday
Trinity Sunday | Christian
Celebrates doctrine of the Trinity, remembering and honoring God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

11 Thursday
Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, also known as transubstantiation

14 Sunday
Race Unity Day | Baha’i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

Sunday of All Saints | Orthodox Christian
Celebrating the memory of all saints

16 Tuesday
Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikh
Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith’s tradition

19 Friday
New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christian
Annual commemoration of the vision document “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian
Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity

21 Sunday
Litha | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the services of life (Summer Solstice)

25 Thursday
Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist
Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety and recognizing the life and death of Chinese Scholar, Qu Yuan
ABOUT DAP

Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion. DAP achieves this through these engagement opportunities:

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Diversity & Inclusion education and training is delivered through presentations, workshops, seminars, community forums and roundtables. D&I trainings raise awareness around the importance of diversity and inclusion among employees by exposing challenges, facilitating dialogue, and providing tangible resources needed to create a more inclusive workplace.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

We offer youth diversity programs for students in K-12:

- Give Respect, Get Respect Program
- EXPLORE Career Immersion Program
- Diverse-City Art Competition

AWARENESS INITIATIVES

Diversity Awareness Partnership provides educational publications addressing a variety of diversity topics. Through the use of digital media and print publications, the message of appreciating and understanding differences is promoted in organizations, schools, corporations and throughout the community.

DAP CONNECT

DAP Connect brings together people interested in diversifying and expanding their professional and social networks.

Call (314) 246-3146 or visit www.dapinclusive.org for more information.
MISSION
Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion.

VISION
Diversity Awareness Partnership’s vision is inclusive communities where diversity is respected and embraced, and equity is the norm.