

# 2022 Diversity Awareness Calendar

The Diversity Awareness Calendar reflects national, cultural, and 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 and to help inform scheduling of events, meetings, etc. and community celebrations.

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## January

- **Poverty in America Awareness Month**
- **January 1:** \*New Year's Day
- **January 1:** Anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation
- **January 6:** Epiphany
- **January 17:** \*Dr. King Holiday
- **January 18:** National Day of Racial Healing
- **January 27:** Holocaust Remembrance Day

## February

- **Black History Month**
- **Human Relations Month**
- **February 1:** Chinese New Year
- **February 1:** Imbolc
- **February 14:** Valentine's Day
- **February 15:** Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- **February 21:** \*President's Day
- **February 26:** Black Lives Matter Day

## March

- **Women's History Month**
- **Ethnic Equality Month**
- **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**
- **Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month**
- **Gender Equality Month**
- **Deaf History Month (3/13 -4/15)**
- **First Friday in March:** Employee Appreciation Day
- **March 1:** Madri Gras
- **March 2:** Ash Wednesday
- **March 8:** International Women's Day
- **March 17:** St. Patrick's Day
- **March 19:** Holi (Hindu) Holidays celebrating the winter harvest and the onset of spring
- **March 26:** Gaston MAX Festival

## April

- **Stress Awareness Month**
- **April 2:** World Autism Awareness Day
- **April 2:** Ramadan (Islamic): The first day of Islam's sacred month in which Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dusk until dawn
- **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 15-23:** Passover (Jewish)
- **April 15:** Good Friday (Christian)
- **April 17:** Easter (Christian)
- **April 22:** Earth Day (International)
- **April 21 – 23:** Gathering of Nations (Native American): more than 500 Native tribes meet and celebrate various traditions and cultures

## May

- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**
- **Jewish American Heritage Month**
- **Mental Health Awareness Month**
- **Teachers Appreciation Month**
- **May 1:** Beltane
- **May 5:** Cinco de Mayo
- **May 6:** National Day of Prayer
- **May 8:** Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for those who lost lives during WWII
- **May 8:** Mother's Day
- **May 17:** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (LGBTQ+): raises awareness for LGBTQ+ rights
- **May 30:** \*Memorial Day

## June

- **LGBT Pride Month**
- **Immigrant Heritage Month**
- **Caribbean American Heritage Month:** recognizes the significance of Caribbean culture and history in the U.S.
- **June 2:** Anniversary of Indian Citizenship Act of 1924
- **June 13:** Puerto Rican Day Parade
- **June 7:** Anniversary of the 1929 Loray Mill Strike conflict
- **June 14:** Flag Day
- **June 19:** \*Juneteenth
- **June 19:** Father's Day

## July

- **Social Wellness Month**
- **July 1:** National Postal Workers Day
- **July 4:** \*Independence Day
- **July 26:** National Disability Independence Day

## August

- **August 1:** Lughnasadh
- **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 5:** Labor Day
- **September 11:** Patriot Day
- **September 14th:** Anniversary of Ella May Wiggin's death
- **September 15:** Latinx Heritage Month begins (ends October 15th)
- **September 25 – 27:** Rosh Hashanah (Jewish): the Jewish New Year, a time for reflection in the faith

*\*National/Federal Holiday*

## October

- **Global Diversity Awareness Month**
- **LGBT History Month**
- **Disability Employment Awareness Month**
- **Polish American Heritage Month:** dedicated to honoring Polish heritage, October was chosen because it was when Polish settlers first arrived in Jamestown, VA in 1608
- **Oct. 10:** World Mental Health Day
- **Oct. 10:** \* Columbus Day (also observed as Indigenous Peoples' Day)
- **Oct. 16:** World Food Day
- **Oct. 17:** Spirit Day (LGBTQ)
- **Oct. 24:** Diwali (India Festival of Lights – 5-day celebration)
- **Oct. 31:** Halloween

## November

- **Native American Heritage Month**
- **November 1-2: to November 2:** Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
- **November 11:** \*Veterans Day
- **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 10:** International Human Rights Day
- **December 16-24:** Las Posadas
- **December 18 – 26:** Hanukkah (Jewish)
- **December 21:** Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve
- **December 25:** \*Christmas (Christian)
- **December 26 to January 1:** Kwanzaa