## WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

You're probably familiar with the Emancipation Proclamation, when President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 declared the millions of enslaved people in the United States to be free. But what you might not realize is that despite this order, Black people in deep southern states continued to be held in illegal and immoral conditions, including in Texas, where people continued to enslave humans even after the Civil War ended in April of 1865.



**June 18, 1865:** Union Army General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX, with 2,000 troops to occupy the state on behalf of the federal government and to enforce the conditions of the Confederacy's surrender, which included an end to slavery.

**June 19, 1865:** General Granger read aloud the declaration announcing the total abolition of slavery in Texas. Juneteenth celebrations were common until a decline during the Jim Crow era, and then the holiday spread during the Great Migration, a time between 1916 and 1970 when 6 million African American families moved out of the rural Southern United States.

**1979:** Texas was the first state to establish Juneteenth as an official state holiday.

**2019:** Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf designated June 19 as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day," an official state holiday.

**2021:** Juneteenth became a national holiday. Currently all 50 states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday, a ceremonial holiday, or a day of observance.





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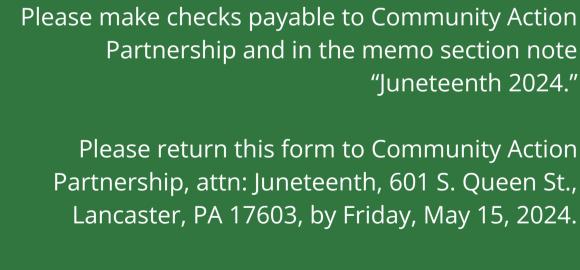
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