



JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It was on June 19, 1865 that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, made it to Galveston, Texas with the news that the Civil War had ended and that slaves were now free. This news arrived two and a half years after President Lincoln signed into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves held in the 11 Confederate states that had seceded from and which were at war against the Union. The Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863, and in every Confederate state, except Tennessee and Texas, the Proclamation went into immediate effect in the Union-occupied areas.

The Emancipation Proclamation had little to no impact on Texas due to the lack of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger and his regiment, they were finally able to overcome the Confederacy.

General Granger delivered General Order Number 3, which read in part:

The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer...

The celebrations that followed the reading of the proclamation by General Gordon Granger began a Texan tradition that has lasted for over one hundred and fifty-five years, and today is celebrated and hosted in cities across America and beyond.

It was the Thirteenth Amendment, in conjunction with frivolous laws enacted and enforced against Black folks, that maintained the social and economic structures in the U.S. and gave rise to the judicial and prison systems as we know them today as "slave codes" were replaced with "black codes." With the abolishment of slavery these systems were designed to maintain the power structure and keep some form of cheap labor. In the years following Reconstruction, the South reestablished many of the provisions of the black codes in the form of the so-called "Jim Crow laws." These remained firmly in place for almost a century, and were finally abolished with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

<https://www.juneteenth.com/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-codes#:~:text=In%20the%20years%20following%20Reconstruction,Civil%20Rights%20Act%20of%201964>

**YEARS OF BLOOD, SWEAT, TEARS AND CRIES,
YET STILL WE RISE!**



Attend or Volunteer at Bay Area Events

Juneteenth is a day of celebration as it commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

However, some of the following activities need volunteers. If you are interested, please see below.

The City of Richmond is in need of a total of 20 volunteers for this year's Juneteenth Festival.

- 5 for site monitoring
- 10 for set up and break down
- 5 for kids' area/monitor the jumper and games

Time: 9am – 5pm

Contact: George Brown at revgb11@sbcglobal.net

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' ("CBTU") monthly Adopt a Highway takes place the third Saturday of every month. This month it will take place on Saturday June 18, 2022.

If you are interested in volunteering, just show up.

If you have questions, please contact them at northern.ca.cbtu@att.net.

If you are interested in attending a Juneteenth celebration, check out this link of Bay Area (and surrounding areas) Juneteenth celebrations.

https://www.google.com/search?q=juneteenth+celebrations+bay+area&rlz=1C1GCEU_enUS889US889&oq=juneteenth+celebrations+bay+are&aqs=chrome.0.0i512j69i57j0i22i30i3j0i390i3.10849j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&ibp=htl;events&rciv=evn&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwihnzBwmaT4AhVLoI4IHRuyB3AQ8eoFKAJ6BAgWEA8#htivrt=events&htidocid=L2F1dGhvcml0eS9ob3Jpem9uL2NsdXN0ZXJlZmVudC8yMDlyLTA2LTE4fDE0MTIwOTU3ODYxNjU5MzU2ODI2&fpstate=tldetail

More information about Juneteenth can be found at the following links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3aQjTy328o>

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