



Celebrate Diversity

#MOCelebratesDiversity

By The Office of Equal Opportunity

We want to embrace the differences that help make us better together. The OEO believes diversity and inclusion are everyone's responsibility and we hope all State team members carry such responsibility with honor, courage, and passion. Check us out [here](#)!

JUNETEENTH

On Sept. 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of Jan. 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."



Peace ♥ Love ♥ Juneteenth

However, not everyone would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, it was not implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, enslaved people in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas were not freed for another two years!

Freedom to the remaining slaves finally came on **June 19, 1865**, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived at Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the

more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth" by the newly freed people in Texas. The name "Juneteenth" references the date of the holiday, combining the words "June" and "nineteenth." To learn more about Juneteenth, check out the short two-minute video.

President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law in 2021 declaring Juneteenth a federal holiday. For more information on Juneteenth celebrations happening in Missouri [Click here](#). To hear a brief history of Juneteenth, click the video to the right.



"To listen, to acknowledge, to reflect, to share, to celebrate"

-Unknown

Contact us if you have ideas on diverse groups to celebrate at CelebrateDiversity@oa.mo.gov.