



## IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

### Juneteenth and the Color Red



Have your family celebrate Juneteenth by requesting each guest bring something "Red." Examples like red soda pop, watermelon, apples, or even red beans will work. Have folks bring these items without much thinking about their origin. In fact, the roots of the symbolic efficacy of the color red can be traced to West Africa, where it has been associated with strength, spirituality, life, and death. Furthermore, culinary historians, trace the color to certain foods that traveled to the Americas along with the Africans during the trans-Atlantic slave trade, such as hibiscus and the kola nut.

So, this year at Juneteenth, as you take a long swallow from a cool drink of hibiscus iced tea, or red punch, remember the ancestors who sacrificed, remember the bloodshed in the struggle, remember the collective strength of people of the African diaspora, and finally remember the spirituality and transcendent joy that enabled us to overcome.

~ Content presented by ***Kelly Navies, museum specialist and oral historian***

## Juneteenth Movie Night



Movie nights are one of the best Juneteenth celebration ideas. The team can commemorate the day by watching Black-led movies or shows together.

Some good Juneteenth movies and shows to watch are:

- Miss Juneteenth
- 12 Years a Slave
- Black-ish
- Atlanta
- Homecoming
- Sherman's Showcase
- Watchmen
- Harriet
- 13th
- Malcolm X
- I Am Not Your Negro

You can host a movie-night in-office or take the event online.

To organize a movie night, prepare a projector, snacks, and beverages. Then set up a comfy space where employees will watch the films. After the movie, create a talk time for discussions and questions. Also, you can add other fun Juneteenth games to make the evening more interactive.

Showing a Juneteenth movie at work is an easy celebration idea and a good morale booster.

## **Support Black-owned Businesses**

An excellent way to commemorate Juneteenth is to support Black-owned businesses. You can support the community by using Black-owned businesses for any service that your company requires to celebrate Juneteenth.

For example, you can purchase the Juneteenth decorations for your office from a Black-owned store. You can also employ the service of a Black-owned catering company to take care of the menu for your company's Juneteenth party.

Also, you can support a Black-owned business during a fundraising event by your company. Ask a Black-owned business to sponsor your Juneteenth fundraising event. In return, promote the business by including their logo in the event's banner and flyers. You can also make up staff care packages using products from Black entrepreneurs. Be sure to include a rack card from Penn Center's Welcome Center, 16 Penn Center Circle Drive-West, St. Helena Island, Sc.

## **Juneteenth Two Truths One Lie**

As part of the celebration, you can also play Juneteenth games for teams in your office, like a Juneteenth-themed Two Truths and One Lie. The rules of the game are simple.

First, an employee gives two facts and one untrue fact about the Black history and culture. Then other employees try to guess which of the facts is a lie. The first employee to guess correctly wins a point.

You can also divide the employees into groups so that group members first pool up facts together before stating the facts and waiting for a correct guess.

At the end of the game, the group that wins the highest point wins. You can award the winning group's members with a Juneteenth prize like a Juneteenth medal, Juneteenth mugs, or even plates of red velvet cake.

Check out more [question games](#).

## **Office Cook-Off**

Office cook-offs bring employees together to celebrate with an abundance of Juneteenth food. In an office cook-off, employees compete by making delicious meals and showing off their cooking skills.

1. You can ask employees to bake or cook the food in their homes. Then they will present the cooked food at work to determine if they win.
2. Have employees do the cooking or the baking from scratch in a designated space at work.

Either way you choose to organize the office cook-off, you will have a table filled with food for further celebration. To make the event more interactive, you can allow workers to vote on their favorite dishes. After declaring the winner of the competition, your team can proceed to have a mini-Juneteenth party with the food and beverages.

## **Decorate the Workplace**

Decorations are excellent for setting a celebratory atmosphere. To commemorate Juneteenth at work, you can decorate your workplace. One of the best decoration ideas is to display holiday colors.

The Juneteenth colors are Red, Green, and Black. Here is the significance of each color:

1. Red- stands for the blood of millions of enslaved people and Africans shed.
2. Black- stands for the rich Black culture. This color also represents melanin and African Diaspora unification.
3. Green- represents fertility, hope, new life, productivity, independence, and prosperity.

To make the activity interactive, you can have your team members make decorations. Crafting decorations is an excellent way for the team to bond. Project suggestions include banners, paper flowers, and balloon arches.

## **Virtually Tour a Black Culture Museum or Exhibit**

Taking a tour of a Black culture museum is another way for teams to celebrate Juneteenth. This tour is an opportunity to learn about the Black experience and culture. Some of the Black culture museums you can visit with your team include:

- **Whitney Plantation**

Whitney Plantation is a museum located in Edward, Louisiana. During the tour, your team will learn the history and legacies of slavery in Louisiana in the 18th century.

Whitney Plantation focuses on exhibiting the lives of Africans enslaved by the Haydel family. The museum also displays the original slave cabin and the place where enslaved people labored hard to grow rice in the 18th and 19th centuries.

- **California African American Museum**

This Black culture museum is in Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California. The museums hold different historical artifacts, collages, drawings, and sculptures made by African Americans. Visitors will see a wide range of artwork carefully crafted by African American artists.

- **National Museum of African American History and Culture**

This museum depicts various artworks on slavery and freedom, Black photography, sports, literature, and music. In the National Museum of African American History and Culture located in Washington, D.C., visitors will explore the African American culture through interactive exhibitions.

- **The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration**

The Legacy Museum, located in Montgomery, Alabama, shows the history of slavery in America, including racial lynching and segregation. The museum also displays a collection of soil from lynching sites across the United States.

Find a local tour guide to host the tour for you and your team via Zoom or another selected virtual platform.

## Employee Virtual Bonfire Story Hour

1. Select the video conferencing platform to use.
2. Let team members take turns to share historical African American stories while others listen and learn.

Virtual campfires are great for remote teams to celebrate Juneteenth and share a fun and relaxing experience.

One topic could be stories of black military members of the armed services.

<https://www.uso.org/stories/3121-19-stories-of-black-u-s-military-history-to-celebrate-juneteenth>

Or St. Helena Ghost Stories <http://sainthelenaisland.info/ghoststories.htm>

### • ***Say What You Believe In/Choose One of the Songs Listed In the NPR JUNETEENTH PLAYLIST***

<https://www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2021/06/18/1007389777/songs-for-freedom-a-juneteenth-playlist-from-pianist-lara-downes>

## Watch a Juneteenth Video Together

For a rich team building experience that encourages discussion, try watching a Juneteenth video with your team and discussing it on a video call.

A few of our favorite educational Juneteenth videos:

- **[Grandmother of Juneteenth, Opal Lee, Shares the Importance of this Historic Holiday](#)** (Southern Living, 6 minutes)
- **[Why All Americans Should Honor Juneteenth](#)** (Vox, 7 minutes)
- **[On Juneteenth](#)** (US National Archives, 1 hour)
- **[John Lewis' Funeral Message](https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/30/politics/john-lewis-essay-new-york-times/index.html)**  
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/30/politics/john-lewis-essay-new-york-times/index.html>