

August 8th - Emancipation Day in Tennessee



In 1871, Sam Johnson organized the first recorded celebration of Emancipation Day, held in Greeneville. According to the Knoxville Chronicle, a procession was held with Sam Johnson as the officer of the day. He was followed by a band and the citizens of Greeneville. The celebration included an address by then-former president Andrew Johnson and a picnic. A tradition began that day. Every year on August 8, African American residents put on their finest clothes, prepared their best dishes, and met their friends and families for a day of festivities. People would travel from across Tennessee to celebrate in Greeneville. In 1888, it was reported that about 200 people traveled from Knoxville to Greeneville.

Eventually, the celebration spread to other Tennessee cities. In 1897, an estimated 500 people visited Johnson City from Knoxville. In 1900, "3500 people from Birmingham, Asheville, Bristol and other cities came to Knoxville for the August 8 celebration," as mentioned on the Beck Cultural Exchange Center's website. Like Greeneville, Knoxville became a central location for the August 8 celebration. People gathered at Chilhowee Park for dances, games, and performances by musicians like Louis Armstrong. During segregation, August 8 was the only day African Americans were allowed in Chilhowee Park. Emancipation Day celebrations also occurred in Clarksville, Nashville, and Memphis, with thousands in attendance. Sam Johnson's efforts led to a growing tradition of August 8 being observed as Emancipation Day in Tennessee. He expanded his work by becoming a commissioner for the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, or the Freedmen's Bureau, a federal agency developed by President Lincoln to help the newly freed.

August 8 has since been celebrated in Tennessee and surrounding states like Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia for over 150 years.

To read more information about the history of Emancipation Day in Tennessee visit [Emancipation Day](#) from the Tennessee State Museum.

August 9th - International Day of the World's Indigenous People



There are an estimated 476 million indigenous people living in 90 countries across the world. They make up less than 5 percent of the world's population, but account for 15 percent of the poorest. They speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures.

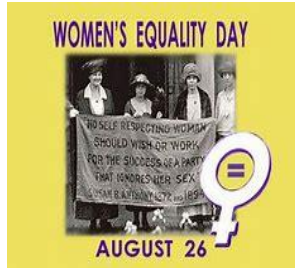
Indigenous people are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic, and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite their cultural differences, indigenous people from around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct people.

Indigenous people have sought recognition of their identities, their way of life and their right to traditional lands, territories, and natural resources for years. Indigenous people today, are arguably among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people in the world. The international community now recognizes that special measures are required to protect their rights and maintain their distinct cultures and way of life.

Did You Know?

- Globally, 47% of all indigenous people in employment have no education, compared to 17% of their non-indigenous counterparts. This gap is even wider for women.
- More than 86% of indigenous people globally work in the informal economy, compared to 66% for their non-indigenous counterparts.
- Indigenous people are nearly three times as likely to be living in extreme poverty compared to their non-indigenous counterparts.

August 26th – Women’s Equality Day



Women’s Equality Day is a celebration of the nineteenth amendment to the constitution which gave women the right to vote. This amendment was passed in 1920 and it prohibited states and the federal government from withholding the right to vote based on sex. This was a historic amendment and a massive victory for the cause of women across the nation.

Observing Women’s Equality Day 2023 is all about celebrating and empowering women. This can be done in different ways such as:

- Empowering the women around you
- Celebrating their passions and interests
- Supporting women’s Equal Rights
- Encouraging true equality and leveling the playing field for women
- Donating to women’s causes
- Attending demonstrations

August 30th – Raksha Bandhan - Hindu



Raksha Bandhan is a very popular festival. Originating from Sanskrit, the term Raksha Bandhan translates as “bond of protection.” This festival is dedicated to the love of brothers and sisters. On this special day, sisters tie a thread for the protection of their brother. Sisters pray for their brother’s long life when they tie ‘Rakhi’ on their brother’s wrist as a mark of affection. In return, brothers offer gifts and promise to protect their sisters at all costs. It is a promise ceremony between siblings.

Rakhi 2023 will be celebrated on 30th August. This festival is also known as Rakhi Purnima as it falls on a full moon day in the holy month of Shravana.

What is the best time to tie Rakhi on Raksha Bandhan?

The best time to perform the rituals of Raksha Bandhan is during Aparahan which falls later in the afternoon on the day of Raksha Bandhan as per the Hindu rituals. If this time is unavailable, then tying a Rakhi during Pradosh time is the next best idea. It is also an ideal time to perform the Rakhi rituals on this festival.

August 31st – Clinton 12 and Oak Ridge 85 Day

The Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954 may have ended segregation in public schools officially, but it was up to various students around the nation to enter previously segregated schools — starting in the Southeast with the 85 students in Oak Ridge, TN and 12 in Clinton, TN.

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1955, 85 Black students entered previously segregated Robertsville Junior High and Oak Ridge High schools, becoming the first Black students to attend previously all white, government-run schools in the Southeast following the U.S. Supreme Court decision. Just a year later, on Aug. 27, 1956, the "Clinton 12" with the help of the Rev. Paul Turner — pastor of First Baptist Church in Clinton — integrated Clinton High School.

As Governor, Bill Lee, in his proclamation in 2021 stated, the "Clinton 12" and their allies faced "threats and acts of violence" from integration opponents, including the bombing of Clinton High School in 1958. The Green McAdoo Cultural Center in Clinton, Tennessee (Anderson County) is a museum dedicated to telling the story of the Clinton 12.

August 31st of every year is declared “Clinton 12 & Oak Ridge 85 Day because of the bravery and pioneering spirit of 97 black boys and girls along with their families, who paved the way for the desegregation of public schools.