

2024 NATIONAL AND YMCA SPECIAL EVENTS



JANUARY

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE JANUARY 15

The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is an official day of service and celebrated the civil rights leader's life and legacy. Encourage your members and community to volunteer their time on MLK Day of Service.
mlkday.gov

FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH*

Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week, now African American History Month, while residing at the Wabash YMCA during the 1910s. Elevate the Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by celebrating the contributions and achievements, and recognizing and uplifting the struggles of Black/African American individuals and communities.
africanamericanhistorymonth.gov

WE WEAR BLACK DAY

FEBRUARY 23

YMCAs across the country commit to being an anti-racist organization and honor Black History Month in a show of solidarity by wearing black on February 24. This is a great opportunity to get both your staff and members involved in the diversity, equity and inclusion work within your Y.

APRIL

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

During Autism Awareness Month, elevate the Y's commitment to diversity, inclusion and belonging. Promote Y programs focused on individuals with disabilities, such as swim lessons, childcare offerings, etc.

NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

April commemorates the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and reflects on housing discrimination and segregation, past and present. As community leaders, the Y has an opportunity to be a part of equitable and inclusive change, sharing resources which advance equitable opportunities and expand homeownership.
hud.gov

RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Promote your Y's efforts to raise awareness of and narrow the health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minorities during National Minority Health Month at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
minorityhealth.hhs.gov

FIVE DAYS OF ACTION

APRIL 15 - 19

Five Days of Action is week-long campaign designed to raise awareness and inspire adults to take action to protect children from sexual abuse.

MAY

ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Elevate the Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by celebrating the contributions and achievements, and recognizing and uplifting the struggles of Asian American/ Pacific Islander individuals and communities.
asianpacificheritage.gov

MARCH

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Elevate the Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by celebrating the contributions and achievements, and recognizing and uplifting the struggles of women in the Movement and in our communities.
womenshistorymonth.gov

JUNE

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

Elevate the Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by celebrating the contributions and achievements, and recognizing and uplifting the struggles of newcomer/ immigrant communities.

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

Elevate the Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by celebrating the contributions and achievements, and recognizing and uplifting the struggles of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+.
loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month

JUNETEENTH

JUNE 19

Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of those who were enslaved in the United States. Acknowledge this celebration while lifting up the Y's commitment to becoming an anti-racist, multicultural organization.
juneteenth.com

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

JUNE 20

World Refugee Day, designated by the United Nations, is recognized globally to celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict and persecution. If your community has a refugee population, be sure to use this opportunity to share how your Y has welcomed them into your neighborhood with open arms, caring hearts and empathy.
un.org/en/observances/refugee-day

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SEPTEMBER

WELCOMING WEEK **SEPTEMBER 13–22**

Welcoming Week is an opportunity to celebrate immigrants' contributions to communities and bring residents together in a spirit of unity.

welcomingamerica.org

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH **SEPTEMBER 15–OCTOBER 15**

Elevate the Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by celebrating the contributions and achievements, and recognizing and uplifting the struggles of Hispanic/Latino individuals and communities.

hispanicheritagemonth.gov

OCTOBER

DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH

Share opportunities at your Y that demonstrate how the Y makes sure everyone—regardless of age, income or background—has an opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Observed each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees. Highlight your Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by recognizing this observance and sharing any staff stories you may have.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY **OCTOBER 14**

Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors the United States' Indigenous peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. Use this day as an opportunity to educate your community about the day.

SPIRIT DAY **OCTOBER 16**

LGBTQ youth disproportionately face bullying and harassment because of their identities. Each year, millions go purple for Spirit Day to support LGBTQ youth in a united stand against bullying. Pledging to "go purple" on Spirit Day is a way for everyone to visibly show solidarity with youth and to take part in the largest, most visible LGBTQ anti-bullying campaign in the world.

glad.org/spiritday

NOVEMBER

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Elevate the Y's commitment to diversity and inclusion by celebrating the contributions and achievements, and recognizing and uplifting the struggles of Native American individuals and communities.

nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov