

Big View Community Engagement

Hosted by Circles of Support



Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. A blending of the words June and nineteenth, it commemorates June 19, 1865. That's the day that General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and told slaves of their emancipation from slavery. It came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Minnesota was the fourth state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday. President Barack Obama declared Juneteenth a national day of observance in 2014. Despite the significance, many people are not aware that the holiday even exists. **Please come together while we are apart, to raise awareness of the Juneteenth holiday.**

Juneteenth is a platform for the lifting up of ancestors and freedom fighters. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions that African Americans had in building this country.

Juneteenth is also referred to as a day of peace, love, and happiness. May we all celebrate Juneteenth this year in harmony and support of our African American friends and neighbors.

To participate “together,” please send a photo of your activity (walk, sign creation, celebration, new learning, etc.) to Michelle Toven at michellet@kootasca.org. Photos will be shared publicly. View them on our Facebook page: ***Circles of Support at Kootasca***



FRIDAY, JUNE 19th

Questions? Call 218-656-2027



There are several ways to participate:

- **Walk, run, or roll 2.5 miles** – Take a photo

In 2016 at age 90, Opal Lee of Fort Worth, Texas started a grassroots walking campaign all across the nation to bring attention and awareness to the need for a National Day of Observance for Juneteenth. The walk consists of Lee, covering 2.5 miles at various locations around the country in hopes to bring awareness to the holiday and encourage others to sign her petition to make it nationally recognized. In 2019, Opal went to Williamsburg where she walked through the area's historically black neighborhoods, starting at the Stryker Center and ending at the First Baptist Church where she rang the Freedom Bell. The virus is not stopping her this year. For more information: <https://www.opalswalk2dc.com/page/page/9026388.htm>



- **Make a sign about why Juneteenth matters to you** – Take a photo
- **Host a Juneteenth celebration with your family** – Take a photo
- **Engage in Anti-Racism learning** – Take a photo or tell us what you did.

Resource list provided

Any issue that has the potential to adversely impact people in poverty may become the subject of a Big View Community Engagement meeting.

Community members from all income levels are welcome to attend and encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue around meeting topics.

It is our position at Circles of Support to uphold the voice and dignity of the poor.