



THE HISTORY OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, with the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.

From The American Presidency Project: Proclamation 10257—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2021: “National Hispanic Heritage Month is an important reminder of how much strength we draw as a Nation from our immigrant roots and our values as a Nation of immigrants. I am proud to recognize my four Hispanic Cabinet Secretaries—Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, and Small Business Administrator Isabel Guzman—who are all leading executive departments that oversee critical components of American life.”

*Information provided by the US Census Office and available at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/hispanic-heritage-month.html>

LEARN MORE ABOUT HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Check out the following organizations to learn more about the history of Hispanic Heritage Month and ways to celebrate:



Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institute’s Heritage and History Month Events Calendar

Access in-person and online performances, lectures, and family activities that celebrate our nation's rich cultural heritage and help us understand our shared history:

<https://www.si.edu/events/heritagemonth>



National Hispanic Heritage Month Official Website

A collaborative project of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. <https://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>



National Hispanic Heritage Month: A Commemorative Observances Legal Research Guide

Since 1968, the U.S. has celebrated a yearly national observance of Hispanic heritage, now called National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15). This guide provides the legislative history, proclamations, and laws related to this celebration. <https://guides.loc.gov/national-hispanic-heritage-month-legal-resources>



National Archives: Hispanic Heritage Month

Learn more about the history of National Hispanic Heritage Month and access free educational resources provided by the US National Archives. <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/hispanic-heritage-month>



National Endowment for the Humanities: Hispanic and Latino Heritage and History in the United States

Access a free teacher's guide for Hispanic and Latino Heritage and History in the United States. <https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/hispanic-heritage-and-history-united-states>

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For questions or recommendations on additional resources related, contact USA Triathlon at diversity@usatriathlon.org or visit USA Triathlon's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access website at www.usatriathlon.org/thrive.