



Observing and Celebrating Cultural, Heritage, and Religious Events

One of the easiest and no-cost ways to engage in inclusion and belonging work is giving members and Associate Members the opportunity to learn about different heritage, religious, and cultural observances, holidays, and celebrations. This resource is designed to help you plan and implement education initiatives for the chapter.

THE WHY

Educating members and Associate Members about heritages, cultures, and religions around the world is key to living in a way the Eleven Basic Expectations prescribes. By providing these types of programs and educational experiences within the chapter, members have the opportunity to become better people and members of the Fraternity.

Beyond what it does for individual members and chapters, there is an opportunity to work publicly acknowledge different observances and holidays on social media. Doing so will make Delta Chi a leader on your campus, will let people know the quality of members in Delta Chi, and will bring potential new members to recruitment events because they will see their heritage, identity, and background represented in the chapter's work.

FINDING INFORMATION

The Fraternity provides a Cultural Competency educational module through our Learning Management System accessible in MyDChi. This provides some baseline knowledge for members and can help to provide context for important celebrations.

Some of the events you will be recognizing and celebrating are likely already on your radar. Many people know Christmas is in December, Black History Month is in February, and Memorial Day is in May. There are many other events worthy of recognition and celebration and finding all of that information can be difficult.

Look at the Delta Chi Digest for links to a DEI calendar each month. The calendar will always be a comprehensive overview of religious, cultural, and heritage celebrations and observations.

EDUCATING MEMBERS

There is no right or wrong way to engage in this work. Below is a list of ideas to get you thinking about what will work best for your chapter. You can also ask the chapter members and Associate Members how they would like to receive educational resources.

- Create a monthly calendar for members with heritage, cultural, and religious observances—this can include links to learn more information.
- Post in the chapter group chat to draw attention to a given observance on the day it is occurring. You can share details with the chapter there or provide a link for more information.
- Take time at chapter meetings to share upcoming days of note and provide mini-education sessions on each one.

- Work with the PR chair to make social media posts for different days of importance. This is especially relevant if you draw attention to other campus organizations, offices, etc. that are providing programming and/or resources.
- Organize chapter attendance at campus and community events related to heritage, culture, and religion.
- Provide a book, movie, podcast, and/or social media account of the month recommendations for chapter members and/or lead a study/discussion of the recommendation. The DEI Chair BRIEF has a list of books, movies, podcasts, and social media accounts to get you started.
- Allow members to do a voluntary social media takeover to share their experience during a religious or cultural event.
 - *Example 1:* A Jewish member can share how their family recognizes Passover and can provide information about the observance, the Seder, and explain traditions.
 - *Example 2:* A member in the LGBTQ+ community can do a takeover when attending a Pride event and share the history of the event and its relevance.
 - *Example 3:* A member who is in the military can give a “behind the scenes” look into their military role on Armed Services Day and share why they joined the military and what serving means to them.
- Highlight members are part of different identity groups during heritage months, weeks, or days. This can be done on voluntarily on social media, in newsletters for alumni and parents, and/or shared internally with chapter members.
 - *Tip:* Ask the member/Associate Member to share about their identity and then share something about their membership in Delta Chi
- Feature alumni of different backgrounds in monthly alumni newsletters and ask them to share any connection to their membership (either as a collegian or as an alumnus).
- Work with the Brotherhood Chair to encourage members to volunteer to help plan and lead an event celebrating their culture, heritage, religion, or other aspect of their identity.
 - *Example 1:* “Around the World Food Tour,” where members from different backgrounds teach how to make a food from their home country and then everyone gets to try the foods from each country.
 - *Example 2:* A Hindu member leads the chapter through a Holi celebration
 - *Example 3:* A member from Mexico or with Mexican heritage leads a Day of the Dead celebration for the chapter

SAMPLE MESSAGES

If you want to share information internally with chapter members, below is a sample of what you can send in the chapter group chat or share at a meeting.

VETERAN'S DAY EXAMPLE

Today is Veteran's Day—a day for Americans to honor and thank all veterans of the armed services, living and deceased. Be sure to take time to reflect on their service to our country and thank anyone you know who previously served in the military. You can learn more about the history of Veteran's Day [here](#) or through a quick video [here](#).

VESAK DAY EXAMPLE

Happy Vesak Day! Today is the most significant holiday for Buddhists and celebrates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Siddhartha Guatama, the historical Buddha. Common traditions on Vesak are honoring Buddha, practicing generosity, observing the rules of morality, listening to Buddha's teachings, and meditating. Celebrations include decorating temples and homes, processions and chanting, and doing good deeds. You can learn more about Vesak Day [here](#).

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EXAMPLE

Today marks the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month! Throughout the month, the history, culture, and impacts of people of Hispanic and Latino backgrounds are celebrated and recognized. You can learn about the month [here](#). Each day, I will send information about one Hispanic American and their contributions - let me know if you have anyone you'd like me to include.

These examples above can be helpful inspiration as you determine what you want education for your members to be, and you can share similar information to the examples above on chapter social media. Work with the PR chair and other members to create/find images to use for posts. As a reminder, if you use content made by someone else, it is important to give them credit. Additionally, encourage members and Associate Members to interact with the post to drive engagement and tag Delta Chi IHQ accounts and your campus IFC. If you need more guidance, the Delta Chi Digest will always highlight three to five events for the upcoming month to provide ideas on how your chapter can recognize, observe, and celebrate different cultural, religious, and heritage events.