

Holidays In the United States

Labor Day

Federal Holiday

First Monday of September

NO CLASS/COLLEGE OFFICES CLOSED

Labor Day is the first Monday of September. This holiday honors the nation's working people, typically with parades. For most Americans it marks the end of the summer vacation season and the start of the school year.

Indigenous People's Day

Federal Holiday

Second Monday in October

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Indigenous People's Day is celebrated on the second Monday in October. This holiday celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. In the past, this holiday was called Columbus Day and you might see that used in some places.

Halloween

Fun Holiday

October 31st

COLLEGE IS OPEN AS NORMAL

Halloween is usually celebrated amongst family, friends and, sometimes, co-workers. Some areas hold large community events. Parties and other events may be planned on October 31 or on the weekends before and after this date. Adults may celebrate by watching horror films, holding costume parties or creating haunted houses or graveyards. Watch out for some AMAZING costumes around MassArt on Halloween!

Veterans Day

Federal Holiday

November 11th

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11. This holiday was originally called Armistice Day and established to honor Americans who had served in World War I. It now honors veterans of all wars in which the U.S. has fought. Veterans' organizations hold parades, and the president places a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Thanksgiving Day

Federal Holiday

Fourth Thursday in November

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest. Many regard this event as the nation's first Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving feast became a national tradition and almost always includes some of the foods served at the first feast: roast turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and pumpkin pie.

Christmas Day

Federal Holiday

December 25th

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25. Christmas is a Christian holiday marking the birth of Jesus. Decorating houses and yards with lights, putting up Christmas trees, giving gifts, and sending greeting cards have become holiday traditions even for many non-Christian Americans.

New Year's Day

January 1st

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

New Year's Day is January 1. The celebration of this holiday begins the night before, when Americans gather to wish each other a happy and prosperous coming year. Many Americans make New Year's resolutions.

Federal Holiday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Third Monday of January

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated on the third Monday in January. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was an African-American clergyman who is recognized for his tireless efforts to win civil rights for all people through nonviolent means.

Federal Holiday

Valentine's Day

February 14th

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. It is a festival of love and many people give cards, letters, flowers or presents to their spouse or partner.

Fun Holiday

President's Day (Washington's Birthday)

Third Monday in February

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

President's Day (Washington's Birthday) is observed the third Monday of February in honor George Washington, the first President of the United States. This date is commonly called Presidents' Day and many groups honor the legacy of past presidents on this date.

Federal Holiday

St. Patrick's Day

March 17th

St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture that takes place annually on March 17, the anniversary of the patron saint of Ireland's death. Many in Boston wear the color green on this day and there is usually a parade the preceding or following Sunday.

Fun Holiday

Patriot's Day (Marathon Monday)

Third Monday in April

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Patriots' Day is a civic holiday commemorating the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. These were the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. It is observed on the third Monday in April in Massachusetts. Observances and re-enactments of these first battles of the American Revolution occur annually at Lexington and Concord. The Boston Marathon takes place on this day each year.

State Holiday

Mother's Day (United States)

Second Sunday of May

Fun Holiday

Memorial Day

Last Monday of May

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Memorial Day originally honored the people killed in the American Civil War, but has become a day on which the American dead of all wars are remembered.

Federal Holiday

Father's Day
Sunday, June 16th

Fun Holiday

Juneteenth
June 19th

State Holiday

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Juneteenth is celebrated to recognize June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and told slaves about their emancipation from slavery. Governor Charlie Baker signed Juneteenth into law in 2020 as a holiday, to help "recognize the continued need to ensure racial freedom and equity." June 19 is the oldest known date celebrating the end of slavery in the US.

Independence Day
July 4th

Federal Holiday

NO CLASS/COLLEGE CLOSED

Independence Day is July 4. This holiday honors the nation's birthday - the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It is a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts, and fireworks.

Taken from <http://www.usa.gov/citizens/holidays.shtml>.