

*19th White Plains
Juneteenth
Parade & Festival
2004-2023*



JUNETEENTH
A Celebration of Freedom

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WHY WE CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

J -- Juneteenth represents the joy of freedom--the chance for a new beginning.

U -- Unless we expose the truth about the African-American slave experience, Americans won't be truly free.

N -- **Never must we forget our ancestors' endurance of one of the worst slave experiences in human history.**

E -- Every American has benefitted from the wealth blacks created through over 200 years of free labor and Juneteenth allows us to acknowledge that debt.

T -- To encourage every former slave-holding state to follow Texas' (and Oklahoma's) example and make Juneteenth a state holiday.

E -- Every day in America, blacks are reminded of the legacy of slavery. Juneteenth counters that by reminding us of the promise of deliverance.

E -- **Even on the journey to discover who we are, Juneteenth allows us to reflect on where we've been, where we're at and where we're going as a people.**

N -- Never give up hope is the legacy our enslaved ancestors left. It was this legacy that produced black heroism in the Civil War and helped launch the modern civil rights era. It is this legacy we celebrate.

T -- To proclaim for all the world to hear, that human rights must never again become subservient to property rights.

H -- History books have only told a small part of the story; Juneteenth gives us a chance to set the record straight.