



International yearly events

January

Australian Open Tennis

Learn about the nationalities of the players and the similarities between Scouting here and there.

February

11 National Foundation Day

According to the earliest Japanese history records, on this day in the year 660 BC the first Japanese emperor was crowned.

16 Lunar/Chinese New Year

(changes year to year – will be 5 February in 2019)

21 International Mother Language day

Arrange to learn the basics in a few different languages. Better yet, reach out to members of your community and get them to teach you!
www.un.org/en/events/motherlanguageday

22 Founders Day

Celebrate BP's birthday with your global brother and sisters

March

17 St Patrick's Day

A day to celebrate Irish culture and history

20 International Day of Happiness

www.un.org/en/events/happinessday/

21 Harmony Day

Celebrate all the nations of the world coming to Australia to make it a better place

Formula One Grand Prix

Date changes slightly year to year. Learn about the nationalities of the drivers and where the other courses are.

April

7 World Health Day

www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2017/en/

25 ANZAC Day

May

5 Cinco de Mayo

Celebrates a victory by the Mexican army over French forces in 1862.

21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversityday/

29 International Day of UN Peacekeepers

www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/pkday.shtml

June

1 Canada Day

Celebrating the union of English and French Canada. Think maple leaves, maple syrup, ice hockey, beavers, moose and poutine!

12 World Refugee Day

www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/

July

4 United States of America Independence Day

The day the United States declared themselves independent from England in 1776.

11 World Population Day

www.un.org/en/events/populationday/

14 Bastille Day

Celebrates the storming of the Bastille prison and the release of many prisoners. It was a symbol of individual freedom during the French Revolution.

30 International Day of Friendship

www.un.org/en/events/friendshipday/

August

1 World Scout Day and World Scout Scarf Day

The anniversary of the very first Scout camp held by BP on Brownsea Island, UK. Wear your scarf to school, uni, or work to promote Scouting and use the day as an opportunity to learn more about Scouting overseas.

12 International Youth Day

www.un.org/en/events/youthday/

September

21 International Day of Peace

www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/

October

9 Thanksgiving (Canada)

Celebrated on the second Monday of October (will be 8 October 2018), to give thanks for the blessings in one's life, particularly the harvest.

11 International Day of the Girl Child

www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/

14 World Food Day

www.fao.org/world-food-day/2016/home/en/

24 United Nations Day

www.un.org/en/events/unday/

Third weekend in October – Jamboree of the Air/Jamboree of the Internet (JOTA/JOTI)

- 20 to 22 October 2017
- 19 to 21 October 2018



- 18 to 20 October 2019
- 16 to 18 October 2020

31 **World Cities Day**
www.un.org/en/events/citiesday/

Halloween

Learn origins and how it is celebrated around the world

November

3 **Japanese Culture Day**
A day for promotion of culture and the love of freedom and peace.

11 **Remembrance Day**
www.shrine.org.au/Remembrance/Remembrance-Day

16 **International Day of Tolerance**
www.un.org/en/events/toleranceday/

19 **World Toilet Day**
www.un.org/en/events/toiletday/ & www.wateraid.org/au

Sporting events

The summer and winter Olympics and Paralympics are held every four years in different places around the world. The next Summer Olympics and Paralympics are being held in Tokyo, Japan in 2020 and the next Winter Olympics and Paralympics is being held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018.

The Commonwealth Games are a great opportunity to get to know some other countries. In 2018, Australia is lucky enough to be hosting them on the Gold Coast, Queensland. The location of the next Commonwealth Games is yet to be decided but Australia, along with Canada, Malaysia and the UK have submitted expressions of interest in hosting the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The Special Olympics Summer and Winter Games are also hosted every four years respectively and are also held in various location throughout the world.

The Invictus Games is an international Paralympic-style, multi-sport event, created by Britain's Prince Harry, in which wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and their associated veterans take part in different sports. The Invictus Games coming to Sydney in 2018 and will host the following countries:

-  Afghanistan
-  Canada
-  Denmark
-  Estonia
-  France
-  Georgia

20 **Universal Children's Day**
www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/

23 **Thanksgiving (USA)**
Celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November (will be the 22nd Nov in 2018), Americans celebrate in honour of a feast between English settlers and Native Americans near Plymouth in 1621. These were the Pilgrims, and they sat down to feast with members of the Wampanoag tribe.

December

5 **International Volunteer Day**
www.un.org/en/events/volunteerdays/

18 **International Migrants Day**
www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/

-  Germany
-  Iraq
-  Italy
-  Jordan
-  Netherlands
-  New Zealand
-  United Kingdom
-  United States

Religious and Spiritual events

Refer to the Multifaith calendar for more information and events but the big ones are:

- **Mahāyāna Buddhist New Year**
The Buddhist New Year depends on the country of origin or ethnic background of the people. In Mahayana countries the new year starts on the first full moon day in January.
- **Holi (Festival of Colours)**
Hindu festival generally held between February - March.
The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter, and for many a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships.
- **Therava Buddhist New Year**
The Buddhist New Year depends on the country of origin or ethnic background of the people. In Theravadin countries (ie Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Lao) the new year is celebrated for three days from the first full moon day in April.



- **Easter**
Easter is both a religious and a commercial holiday. The religious holiday sees Christians celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, whom they believe is their Savior. The commercial holiday sees the coming of the Easter Bunny, who brings eggs and candy to children and adults.
- **Buddha Day/Vesak Day**
The holiest day in Buddhism. On this day are celebrated the birth, the Enlightenment, and the death of the Buddha. This day is usually in the middle or last two weeks of May.
- **Ramadan**
Ramadan is a holy month dominated by daily fasting and devotion to faith and reflection.
- **Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)**
Rosh Hashanah is a very somber holiday, the beginning of the High Holy Days of Judaism. It is actually a two-day celebration and is often referred to as the Jewish New Year.
- **Hijria (Islamic New Year)**
Islamic New Year is celebrated on the first day of Muharram, the first Islamic month. The marking of the beginning of the new year is usually quiet, unlike New Year's celebrations associated with other calendars.
- **Diwali/Deepavali (Festival of lights)**
Hindu festival over five days sometime from mid-October – to mid-November. It spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.
- **Christmas**
Christmas is celebrated on December 25 in countries all around the world. It marks the birth of Christ for Christians but for others it is a time of family and thanksgiving.
- **Chanukah/Hanukah**
Jewish Festival of Lights, when it is celebrated changes due to Lunar calendar but usually in December
- **Kwanzaa**
Kwanzaa is a holiday festival that begins December 26 and lasts for a full seven days. It means “first fruits of the harvest.” It is a time to celebrate African and African-American heritage and culture.