



Hispanic Heritage Month

What is Hispanic Heritage month and why celebrate it?

National Hispanic Heritage Month honors and celebrates the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latin Americans.

It's undeniable that the Hispanic community in the U.S. is growing and shaping our country. Hispanic Americans represent over 18% of our country's population and make up over 1.2 million of veterans in the U.S.

The IMS team has come together to highlight Hispanic contributions and stories as well as celebrating and assisting in elevating Hispanic voices not only over the next 30 days, but all year. This Hispanic Heritage Month, IMS is committed to making sure Hispanics are seen, heard and valued.

Helpful Definitions:

Hispanic refers to a person who is from, or a descendant of someone who is from a Spanish-speaking country. (Yes, that includes Spaniards).

Latino/a or Latinx refers to a person who is from, or a descendant of someone who is from, a country in Latin America (all Western Hemisphere countries south of the USA, where Spanish or Portuguese predominates/ the countries with a history of Iberian (Spanish and Portuguese) colonialism).

Fun Facts:

- National Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 because it coincides with the national independence days for many Latin American countries. Mexico's national Independence Day follows on the 16th, while Chile's occurs on the 18th, and Belize's is on the 21st.
- Mexico's official name is "Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos" which is Spanish for "The United Mexican States"
- The Cowboy hat, Rodeos, and Ranching are all from Spain and Mexico as the Spanish equivalent of a cowboy is a "Vacquero".
- Several state names such as; Florida (Flowery), Montana (Mountain), Colorado (Colorful), and Nevada (Snowy) come from Spanish words.
- The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson.
- It was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period.
- September 14, 1989, President George H.W. Bush (who had been a sponsor of the original Hispanic Heritage Week resolution while serving in the House in 1968) became the first president to declare the 31-day period from September 15 to October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Sources cited:

<https://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/a37168158/hispanic-heritage-month-facts/>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/hispanic-heritage-month.htm>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/RHI725219>

https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Minority_Veterans_Report.pdf





Elevating Hispanic Culture and Voices

Podcasts

[Tres Cuentos Latin American Literary Podcast](#)
[Latinx Therapy](#)
[Anything for Selena](#)
[Latina to Latina](#)
[Radio Ambulante](#)
[Latino USA](#)
[Code Switch](#)

TV Shows/Movies

Coco – Disney+ (Family)
Selena – Amazon Prime Video
Roma – Netflix
La Bamba – Hulu/Amazon Prime Video
Habla Now – HBO Max
Gente-fied – Netflix (TV Show)
Maya and the Three – Netflix (Family)
Vivo - Netflix (Family)
City of God - Amazon Prime/Hulu
Book of Life - Disney +
In the Heights - Amazon Prime
Under the Same Moon – Hulu/Amazon Prime Video

Educational Articles

[Afro-Latinos: Shaping the American story](#)
[Suit up! Honoring Latino heritage on the field](#)
[Speakers, Social Toolkits, Statistics from Hispanic Star](#)

Books

[My Broken Language: A Memoir](#)
[One Hundred Years of Solitude](#)
[Return to Sender](#)
[Disappeared](#)

Authors

[Elizabeth Acevedo](#)
[Yesika Salgado \(poet\)](#)
[Melissa Lozada-Oliva \(poet\)](#)
[Shea Serrano \(short story & pop culture\)](#)
[Mia Sosa](#)
[John Paul Brammer](#)
[Javier Zamora \(poet\)](#)

