



Cultural, Heritage, & Religious Observances: September 2026

HERITAGE MONTH ~ SEPT 15 - OCT 15

Hispanic Heritage Month

Honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose roots trace to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The mid-month start is deliberate: it opens on the independence anniversaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, with Mexico and Chile following days later.

[Learn more → **hispanicheritagemonth.gov/**](#)

HERITAGE MONTH ~ SEPTEMBER

Deaf Awareness Month

Celebrates the richness of Deaf culture, including the nearly 300 sign languages used worldwide. The last full week marks International Week of the Deaf. Rochester's large Deaf and Hard of Hearing community makes this observance especially meaningful across our campuses.

[Learn more → **nationaldeafcenter.org**](#)

FEDERAL HOLIDAY ~ SEPT 7

Labor Day

A federal holiday since 1894, recognizing the American labor movement and the workers whose organizing won the eight-hour day, workplace safety standards, and the right to collective bargaining.

[Learn more → **dol.gov**](#)

JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

The fall holy days open the Jewish year. Observance often involves rest from work, fasting, and synagogue attendance—students and colleagues may request scheduling flexibility.

**All begin at sundown.*

[Learn more → **myjewishlearning.com**](#)

Rosh Hashanah SEPT 11-13*

The Jewish New Year, marking the start of the year 5787 and the ten Days of Awe. Marked by the sounding of the shofar, festive meals with apples and honey, and reflection on the year past.

Yom Kippur SEPT 20-21*

The Day of Atonement and the most solemn day of the Jewish year, closing the Days of Awe. Observed through a 25-hour fast, abstention from work, and a full day of prayer seeking repentance and reconciliation.

Sukkot SEPT 25- OCT 2*

The Feast of Tabernacles, a week-long harvest festival recalling the temporary shelters of the Exodus. Families build and gather in a sukkah—an open-roofed hut—for meals and hospitality.

Work restrictions apply on the first days.

OBSERVANCE ~ SEPT 25

Mid-Autumn Festival

Falling on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, when the harvest moon is at its fullest, this festival is celebrated across China, Vietnam, Korea, and diaspora communities worldwide — known variously as Zhongqiu Jie, Tết Trung Thu, and Chuseok.

[Learn more → **cnn.com/travel/**](#)

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