



A Day of Service

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day), observed annually on the third Monday in January, is a federal holiday in the United States. Legislation was first introduced in 1968—four days after King's assassination—to establish a holiday on his birthday to honor his life and legacy, and to encourage service and community involvement. President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law on November 2, 1983, and the first celebration was on January 20, 1986. Since then, MLK Day has been observed annually as a day to remember the leader and apply his values to the present day.

Inspired by Dr. King's dedication to social justice, MLK Day is designated as a National Day of Service, reflecting his values of civic responsibility and unity. This holiday encourages individuals to take time off work or school to engage in community efforts, often referred to as “a day on, not a day off” to emphasize action and involvement. Millions of people participate in acts of service on this day, advancing Dr. King's dream and bringing together individuals from all backgrounds.

Ways to get involved:

- **Beautify Your Community:** Help clean up litter in community parks or other outdoors areas, remove graffiti or start green spaces in your neighborhood.

- **Support Homeless Shelters:** Donate or volunteer at your local shelter
- **Engage in Advocacy:** Join advocacy groups to raise awareness about important issues like justice and racial equality.
- **Organize or Attend a Day of Learning:** Participate in discussions about Dr. King and his advocacy.
- **Donate to Charities:** Contribute to organizations that promote equality.
- **Volunteer with Local Organizations:** Join service projects organized for MLK Day.

Engaging in these activities continues Dr. King's legacy and contributes to the well-being of your community. This MLK Day honors Dr. King's work by taking action to improve society.