

# 2026

# Recognize

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CALENDAR

Engage2Excel's Employee Recognition Calendar highlights holidays, notable events and industry-related observances. Packed with fun and thoughtful dates, it helps you stay intentional about recognizing your team all year long, creating impactful moments that celebrate and inspire your workforce.

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# January

1-31 National Mentoring Month

1 New Year's Day

12 National Pharmacist Day

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

21 Thank Your Mentor Day

24 National Compliment Day

30 Have Fun at Work Day

# 85%

A Deloitte survey of 16,000 professionals found that **85% of professionals** want to hear **"thank you"** in day-to-day interactions.



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# February

1-28 Black History Month

3 Women Physicians Day

7 Send a Card to a Friend Day

9 National Pizza Day

14 Valentine's Day

16 Presidents Day

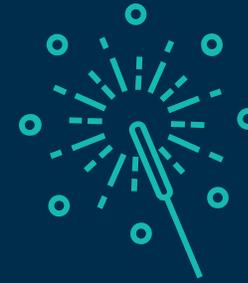
16 Family Day (Canada)

17 Chinese New Year

17 Lunar New Year

17 Random Acts of Kindness Day

22-28 National Engineers Week (EWeek)



# March

1-31 National Women's History Month

1-7 Read an eBook Week

4 Holi Day (India)

6 Employee Appreciation Day

8 International Women's Day

17 St. Patrick's Day

18 Transit Driver Appreciation Day

30 National Doctors' Day



# April

1-30 Stress Awareness Month

5 Easter

7 World Health Day

19-25 Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

20-26 Volunteer Week

22 Administrative Professionals Day

28 Safety and Health at Work Day

# May

1-31 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

1-31 Employee Health and Fitness Month

1-31 Nurses Month

1 Labour Day (India)

5 Teacher Appreciation Day

6 Nurses Day

10-16 National Hospital Week

13 Receptionist Day

13 Third Shift Workers Day

15 National Pizza Party Day

18 National Victoria Day (Canada)

21 National Waitstaff Day

25 Memorial Day

# 67%

A McKinsey study found that 67% of employees rated

**praise and commendation as the top motivators for performance**, choosing them over performance bonuses and other financial incentives.

# June

1-30 LGBTQIA Pride Month

1-30 Professional Wellness Month

1 Say Something Nice Day

2 Leave the Office Early Day

5 National Donut Day

12 National Automotive Service Professionals Day

17 National Nursing Assistants Day

19 Juneteenth

21 Indigenous Peoples' Day (Canada)

24 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (Canada)





July

1 Canada Day (Canada)

4 Independence Day

18 World Listening Day

31 System Administrator Appreciation Day



August

1-31 National Wellness Month

4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

15 Independence Day (India)

26 Women's Equality Day

31 Eat Outside Day



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September

2 Global Talent Acquisition Day

7 Labor Day

7 Labour Day (Canada)

13-19 National Security Officer Appreciation Week

13-19 National Truck Driver Appreciation Week

13 International Programmers' Day

15-15 National Hispanic Heritage Month

15 IT Professionals Day

18 World Manager's Day

21 World Gratitude Day

25 National Cooking Day

26 HR Professional Day

29 National Coffee Day

30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day (Canada)

## RECOGNITION TIPS:

### Start Meetings with a "Shout Out Spotlight"

Kick off team meetings by highlighting an employee's recent accomplishment or positive behavior. This can be as simple as a verbal thank you or as elaborate as a short presentation slide with their photo and what they did well. It sets a positive tone and shows others that their efforts are noticed.

# October

1-31

Disability Employment Awareness Month

1-31

Diversity Awareness Month

1-31

National Learning and Development Month

2

Manufacturing Day

5-9

Customer Service Week

5

World Teachers' Day

12

Indigenous Peoples' Day

12

Thanksgiving (Canada)

16

Boss's Day

20

Pharmacy Technician Day

21

Medical Assistants Day

28

National Chocolate Day

31

Halloween



# November

1-30

National Gratitude Month

1-30

Native American Heritage Month

6

Diwali (India)

10-16

National Nurse Practitioner Week

11

Veterans Day

11

Remembrance Day (Canada)

13

World Kindness Day

26

Thanksgiving

# December

1-31

National Human Rights Month

1

Giving Tuesday

4-12

Hanukkah

5

International Volunteer Day

15

National Cupcake Day

18

National Ugly Sweater Day

25

Christmas Day

26-1

Kwanzaa

31

New Year's Eve



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CALENDAR



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We recognize that there are many wonderful events & holidays celebrated around the world, and while we would love to honor them all, we aren't able to include every one in this calendar.