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Juneteenth Celebration

Juneteenth, official name of federal holiday Juneteenth National Independence Day, also called Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Black Independence Day, and Juneteenth Independence Day, holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, observed annually on June 19.

In 1863, during the American Civil War, Pres. Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared more than three million slaves living in the Confederate states to be free. More than two years would pass, however, before the news reached African Americans living in Texas. It was not until Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, that the state's residents finally learned that slavery had been abolished. The former slaves immediately began to celebrate with prayer, feasting, song, and dance.

Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center students and staff were able to come together to celebrate this holiday as well as educating the site on its meaning. Student were able to view a short film titled "What is Juneteenth? Why we honor it!" Students participated in an ART Contest reflected from what they learned related to Juneteenth History. Art was conducted on the concrete with chalk around the campus. AJATC campus wide was filled with amazing artwork from the students and staff.

Everyone received an incentive; however, the 1st place winners received a Pizza Bash, 2nd place winners received a Root Beer Bash and 3rd place winners received a Cookie Bash.

All students were given reflective item with information pertaining to Juneteenth at the end of the celebration. Here at AJATC all students and staff did an amazing job!!