

April



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APRIL AT NDU



- Fridays - SpICE meetings at ISMO
- 2-5 April - CISA FSP to NYC
- 17 April - Easter
- 22 April - Earth Day
- 28-6 May - IFP FSP to Hawaii



Easter

April 17



Easter is a Christian holiday that occurs on the first Sunday of April. Preparation for this holiday begins with Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice, and ends with Holy Week. The Friday before Easter is called Good Friday. Many Christians observe Good Friday and Easter Sunday by attending a worship service.

In the United States, parents often set up Easter egg hunts for their kids to find colorful plastic eggs filled with chocolate or coins around the yard. It's also common to dye or paint hard-boiled eggs with water colors. Without a doubt, you will see a lot of chocolate, flowers, and Easter bunnies this April.

Outdoor Activities

With the beginning of Spring, venture out into the beautiful outdoors of the DMV area.

National Park Week

April 16 - 24

National Park Week is a wonderful time to celebrate national parks, get outside and experience the great outdoors. There will be a theme each day of the celebration including Park Rx Day (Fee Free Day), Military Monday, Friendship Friday, and National Junior Ranger Day.



Get Outside with AllTrails

AllTrails is a great resource to find walks and hikes near you. It is an app and website that you can use to find trails for all levels of hikers. Use it to explore places like Theodore Roosevelt Island, Monuments and Memorials, the Georgetown Loop, the Potomac Heritage Trail and the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail.



Hirshhorn Sculptor Garden

Open daily from 1000 to 1630, the Hirshhorn Sculptor Garden is a wonderful place to walk around and appreciate art. Learn more about the garden [here](#)!



Holidays

April Fools' Day - April 1



April Fools Day is a custom of telling practical jokes on April 1 and shouting "April Fools!" Many speculate this annual custom began back in 1582 when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. The news that the new year began on January 1 and no longer with the spring equinox on April 1 didn't reach everyone, making these people the fools.

Easter- April 17



On April 22, 1878 the White House hosted the first Easter Egg Roll. Annually, this event includes games, live entertainment, story time, and the traditional egg roll on the White House lawn. This year's event shall occur on April 18.

Emancipation Day - April 16



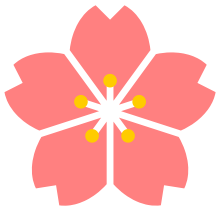
On April 16, 1862 the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act was signed by President Abraham Lincoln. This act freed over 3,000 slaves in the District of Columbia prior to the broader Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln eight months later during the American Civil War.

Earth Day - April 22

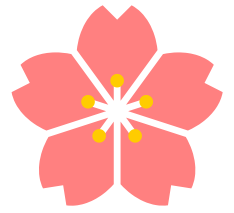


The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 in response to the deteriorating environment in the United States. This holiday quickly caught on and by 1990 Earth Day had gone global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries. 51 years later, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world.

Cherry Blossom Festival



The Cherry Blossom Festival's activities continue this month as the Cherry Blossom Season draws to a close. However, big events are still going on throughout the city!



Events & Activities

The National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

Enjoy one of DC's largest spectator events April 9, from 10 am -12 pm. The parade runs for 10 blocks along the iconic Constitution Avenue Northwest. Portions of the parade are free while tickets are available for reserved grandstand seating in the performance areas of the parade.



Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival

Hosted by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC, the street festival from April 9-10 will feature Japanese cultural performances, authentic Japanese food and beverages, handmade Japanese crafts, and more. Tickets are purchasable at the JASWDC website.



さくら祭り

SAKURA MATSURI
JAPANESE STREET FESTIVAL

Petalpalooza - April 16

This day-long all-ages celebration brings art, music, and play to multiple outdoor stages, interactive art installations, a beer garden, family-friendly hands-on activities, and more. The evening is capped by a dazzling 15 minute choreographed fireworks show set to music starting at 8:30 PM.



CONGRATS



NWC Spouses National Security Elective Course AY21-22



A huge shout out to the international spouses who completed the National Security Elective at the National War College and graduated in March!



Call for Volunteers!

International Fellows Community Sponsor Program

Sponsor Program Mission

Strengthen American Foreign policy initiatives by facilitating less formal relationships between IMS and Americans from the local community.

Provide a venue for the IMS to discuss and understand more about America and its people.

Create meaningful connections with American citizens that will continue after the IMS returns home.



What is a Sponsor?

A Sponsor is a member of the local community who commits to developing a personal relationship, nurturing cultural exchange, and extending hospitality to an International Fellow enrolled in one of NDU's 11-month programs. Sponsors do not need to be affiliated with the military.

Who are the International Fellows?

International Fellows (or "IFs" for short) are a cohort of senior foreign military and civilian officials who come from over 70 countries to attend the National Defense University. They are required to have working proficiency in English and are encouraged to bring their families with them for their year in the US.



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