



North Carolina African American Heritage Commission

JUNETEENTH TOOLKIT & RESOURCE GUIDE



The NC African American Heritage Commission continuously works to celebrate and share the art, history, and heritage of African Americans. It is our mission to preserve, protect and promote North Carolina's African American history, arts, and culture for all people.

This is a resource guide, that will assist you in celebrating the Juneteenth holiday. Also known as "Freedom Day," Juneteenth is a uniquely American holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement that slavery would be abolished in Texas. North Carolina joins in the celebration of this National holiday and commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the former Confederacy.

We encourage you to interact with this resource by clicking on corresponding links for items that have been curated to encourage awareness and enthusiasm for Juneteenth.





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Juneteenth

A Celebration of Freedom



What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is an annual holiday, celebrated on June 19th, that commemorates the freedom of the enslaved in the United States. The name Juneteenth is a combination of the words "June" and "nineteenth." Also referred to as Emancipation Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is the oldest commemoration of its kind in the United States.

Why do we celebrate Juneteenth?

Juneteenth has become not only a time to commemorate Black liberation from the institution of slavery, but also an acknowledgment of the resilience, solidarity, and culture of the Black community. Juneteenth allows us all to join together to celebrate the freedoms and lives that generations before have fought bravely to secure.

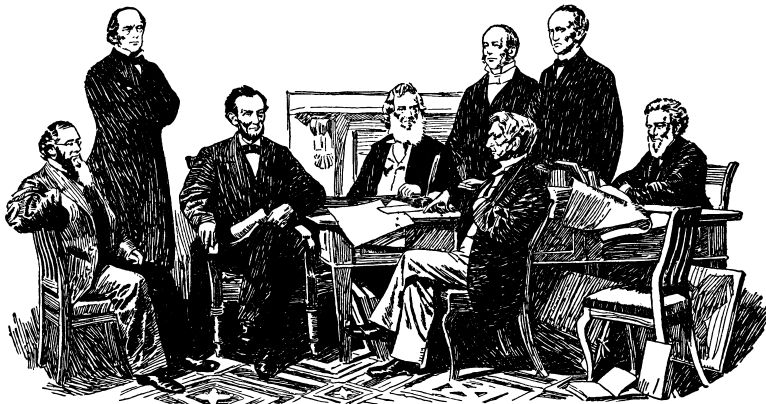


Image: Photograph titled, "Emancipation Day."

The History

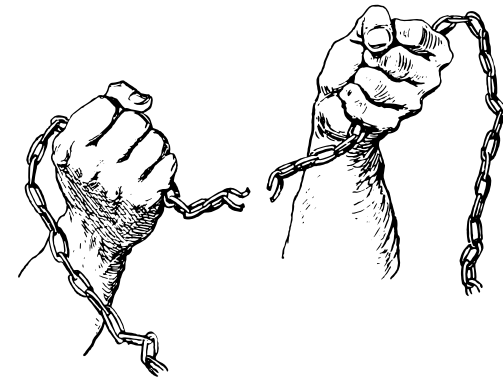
During the American Civil War (1861–1865), emancipation was implemented in different places at different times. Emancipation became a well-known cause of celebration across the United States.

Abraham Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, and it went into effect on January 1, 1863. The proclamation freed persons who were enslaved in "rebellious states."



It was not until June 18, 1865, two and a half years after the signing of the proclamation was issued, that the Union army arrived in Galveston, Texas.

The next day, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers issued General Order No. 3, which informed Texans that enslaved persons were free.



This news was met with celebration, but also defiance. Those who were formerly enslaved went to great lengths to claim and maintain their freedom in the days following the announcement.



Watch Now

Juneteenth has been celebrated annually since then, and is recognized as one of the longest-running holidays established by African Americans. The holiday spread throughout Texas, and spread to other states, honoring the end of slavery in the United State.

North Carolina

Liberation Story



Watch Now

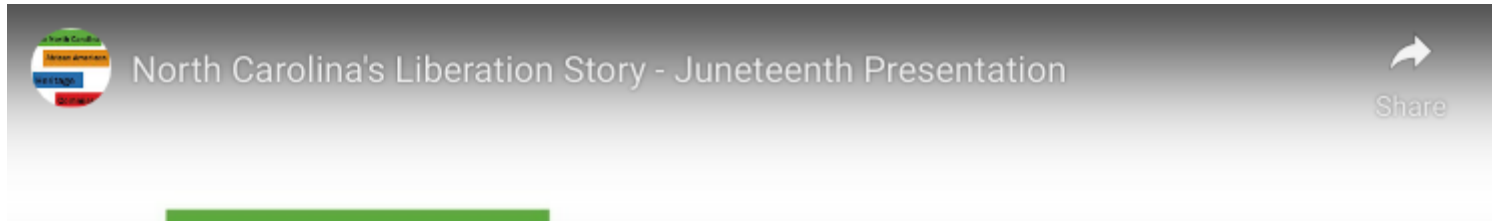


Juneteenth is embraced and celebrated by all races and ethnicities in honor, and commemoration of African American culture and achievements. Juneteenth has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1866.

North Carolina became the 26th state in 2007 to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth is about freedom, liberation, and celebration. It is a holiday for North Carolinians to come together to foster connections that will continue to empower and uplift the community.

VIDEO FEATURE

North Carolina's Liberation Story



The North Carolina

African American

Heritage

Commission



Watch on  YouTube

Watch Now

Talking Points

Tips for Juneteenth Language



North Carolina Reference Points

- In North Carolina, African Americans were liberated from slavery in diverse ways over time.
- On this day, we can honor formerly enslaved people who were able to achieve emancipation and claim their freedom.
- African Americans created new lives in freedmen's communities like Hotel de Afrique and Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony on the Outer Banks, and James City in New Bern.
- Enslaved African Americans navigated North Carolina's landscape, by land and by water, to liberate themselves from slavery during the Civil War Era.
- On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation provided a pathway to freedom for enslaved African Americans in communities like Beaufort, Elizabeth City, Plymouth, and New Bern.

- Emancipation celebrations in NC began occurring as early as January 1, 1864. Therefore, African Americans in North Carolina have a tradition of celebrating freedom even before Juneteenth.
- Other enslaved North Carolinians claimed their freedom in April 1865, and the months thereafter, after Confederate troops surrendered in Durham. U.S. Colored Troops witnessed this surrender.
- 6,000 African American men from North Carolina served in the Civil War as U.S. Colored Troops; they fought for liberation and played a major role in emancipating African Americans across the South.

- In North Carolina, we can use Juneteenth to explore how liberation and emancipation played out in
- our local communities; and to honor the rich communities and institutions that were created as a result—like Shaw University (Raleigh), Princeville (Edgecombe County), and St. Peter A.M.E. Zion Church (New Bern). This is an opportunity to celebrate rich local history!

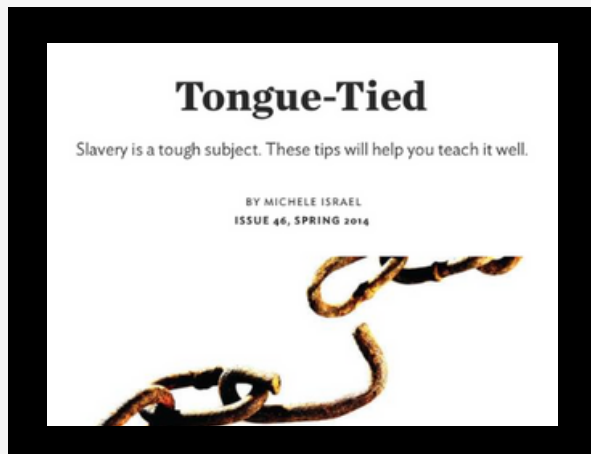
- Some of our state's earliest Juneteenth festivals were established in Rocky Mount, Charlotte,
- Winston-Salem, and Greensboro. Stagville State Historic Site also has a long tradition of honoring and celebrating Emancipation.



Additional Recourses

Below are articles that provide information about proper terminology and language when discussing the history surrounding Juneteenth.

For example, in many instances, the term "enslaved" is used in place of "slave", as it more accurately describes someone who was forced to perform labor or services against their will under threat of physical mistreatment, separation from family, or loved ones, or death. This language separates a person's identity from their circumstance.



[Read Now](#)



[Read Now](#)

Best Practices

Celebrating Juneteenth Thoughtfully



Many of us have spent the last year educating ourselves about ways to be more equitable and inclusive. Juneteenth calls on us to reflect and improve, as we continuously strive for positive change. Let's think about ways to become more active allies and accomplices for colleagues of color. Below you will find helpful tips and topics to consider when celebrating Juneteenth.

Promote opportunities to learn and engage the community

- Visit Black/African American museums, sites, and cultural centers

VISIT

- Encourage participation in local Juneteenth celebrations and patronage of Black businesses

PARTICIPATE

Expand Outreach and Networks

Support networking and recruiting through historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), and Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs) as well as racial identity-based professional organizations. Celebrate the fact that we all bring many different perspectives.

HBCUs in NC

Find TCUs

Find HSIs



Be Thoughtful and Empathetic

Encourage using the power of empathy to acknowledge the experiences of others, and learn about what liberation meant for this country and what that kind of progress means for us all. Be open to learning and thoughtful in celebrating Juneteenth in a way that allows people to still feel like they can be their authentic and complex selves.

Speakers Bureau

Juneteenth & African-American History



The NC AAHC is leading NC DNCR in the effort to create a Speakers Bureau centered on sharing North Carolina's liberation history. The esteemed experts below are willing to present lectures surrounding Juneteenth, African American history, and topics related to freedom-seeking. Additional information will be available on the NC AAHC website as we continue to share rich stories from our state's Juneteenth history in celebration of this national holiday.



Stephanie Sterling

East Carolina University



Earl Ijames

North Carolina Museum of History



Leesa Jones

Washington Waterfront
Underground Railroad Museum



Angela Thorpe

NC African American Heritage Commission



Bernard George

Historian & Reenactor, USCT 35th
Regiment



Chris Meekins

NC DNCR Civil War Roster Project



Adrienne Nirdé

NC African American Heritage Commission

Book a Speaker

Follow the link above to book a
speaker for your Juneteenth event!

FAQ Speakers Bureau

Are the Speakers willing to be physically present for a speaking engagement?

The NC AAHC will act as a liaison between the organization and the speaker. Speakers will provide a lecture for between 30 and 45 minutes. Whether the event is in-person or virtual, it is up to the discretion of the speaker to accept or deny the invitation.

How many engagements will the speakers accept?

It is expected that each speaker on the Juneteenth Speakers Bureau will participate in a maximum of 3 events. We encourage organizations to submit invitations as soon as possible to improve the chances of booking an expert. We expect requests throughout May in preparation for June and the Juneteenth Holiday.

Are speakers accepting events occurring throughout the month, or just on the Juneteenth holiday?

Speakers will consider events throughout June if the specified dates are aligned with their availability.

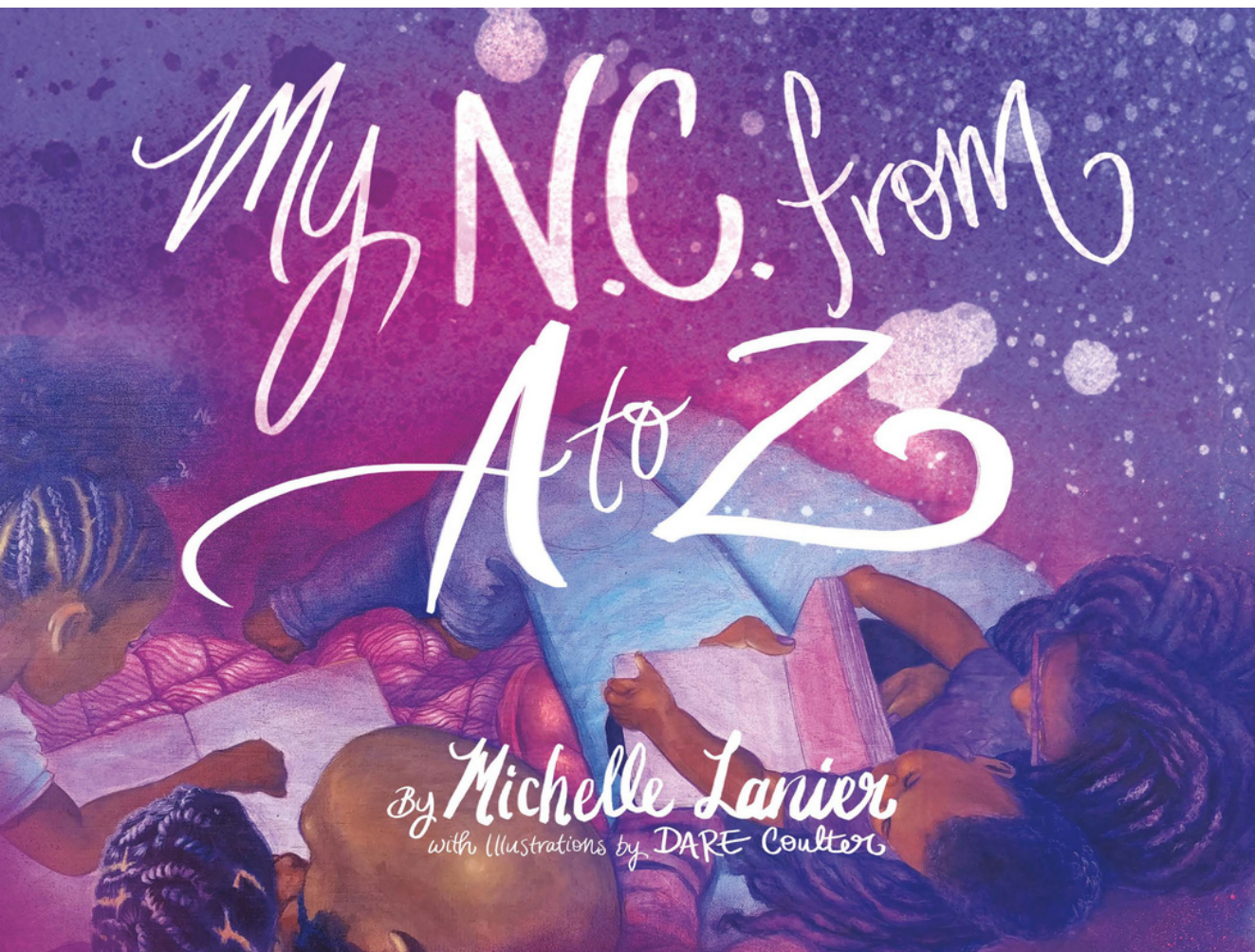
Is there an overarching theme for each speaker's presentation?

Speakers will offer lectures on topics that align with their expertise and could encompass Juneteenth, African American history, and topics related to freedom-seeking. Details of each speaker's area of expertise will be available on the NC AAHC website.



My NC from A-Z

By Michelle Lanier, with illustrations by Dare Coulter



My N.C. from A to Z is a book people of all ages can share and enjoy! This colorful, sturdy board book celebrates the pride of place, creates connections to North Carolina's rich African American heritage, and teaches children about human equality and social justice.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[Check out the
Companion Guide](#)



Watch Now



FREEDOM ROADS

Explore Freedom Roads Sites Across North Carolina



LEARN MORE

Educator Resources

- Freedom Seeking Lesson Plan

[View Lesson Plan](#)

- Halifax Roanoke River Lesson Plans

[View Lesson Plan](#)

- NC 35th USCT Lesson Plan

[View Lesson Plan](#)

- Fighting for Freedom Lesson Plan

[View Lesson Plan](#)

Freedom Roads Map

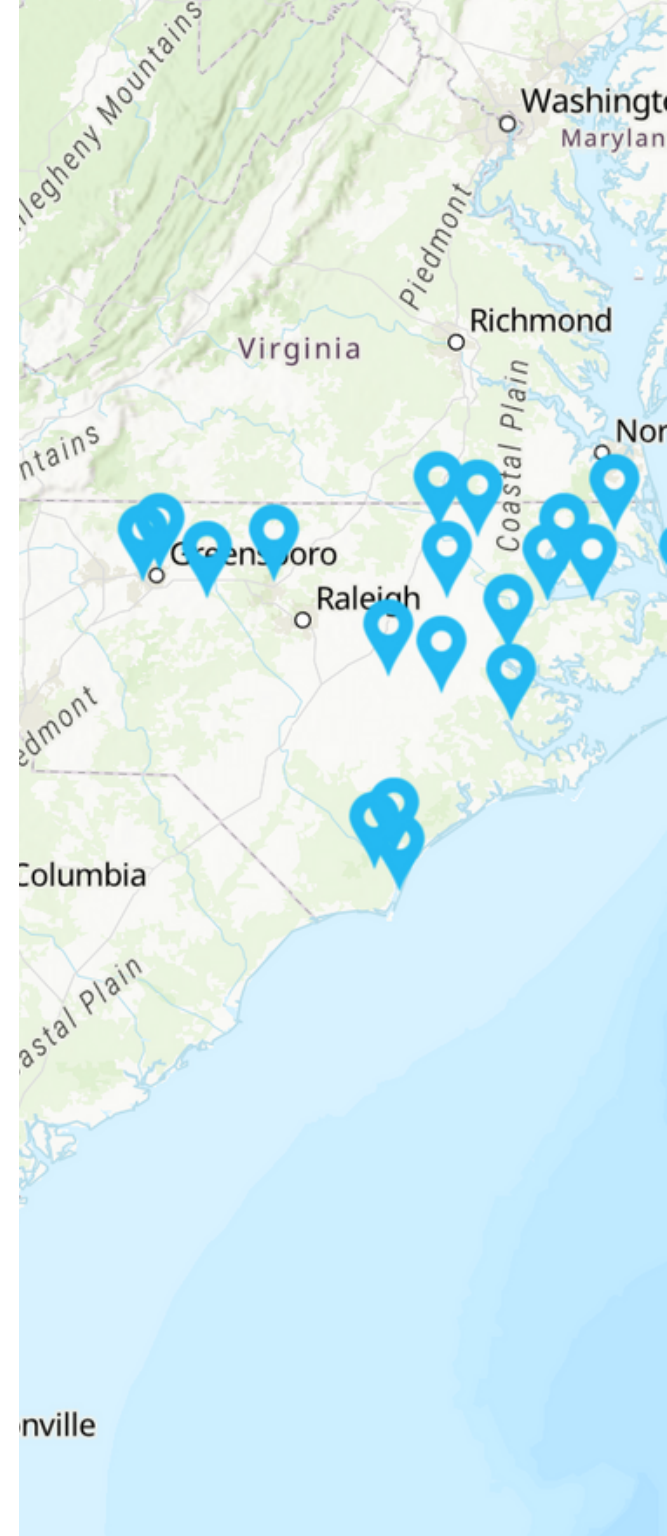
Features of the Map:

- Sites appear in alphabetical order
- The black arrows at the right of the floating panel allow you to navigate through different sites
- Clicking an individual dot on the right of the floating panel will cause the map to zoom in on that specific location
- The Home Button returns you to a view of the entire state of North Carolina

Determining Map Locations:

- Each site was assigned an approximate location to correspond with its floating panel
- More specific site addresses are listed with their respective panel text-search the exact location of a site by clicking the magnifying glass icon on the map

[View Map](#)





**North Carolina African American
Heritage Commission**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Let's Stay Connected!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

OUR MISSION

The North Carolina General Assembly created the African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) in 2008, to work across the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, to achieve the mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting North Carolina's African American history, art, and culture, for all people.





EVENT & PROGRAM

Submission Form



We are excited about the many Juneteenth celebrations within our great state! Be sure to share your Juneteenth event with us, as we may be able to provide planning, recourse, or promotional support.

Submission Form

Appendix: Links



Below are all the links available within this document listed in the order shown.

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NC AAHC Website: <https://aahc.nc.gov>

NC AAHC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCarolinaAAHC/>

NC AAHC Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/northcarolinaaahc/>

NC AAHC Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZNFbRqKlsD5xq60iEDhNUQ>

PG 6

The History of Juneteenth: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLXv3692Lvg&feature=emb_logo

PG 7

What's North Carolina's "Juneteenth History? https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=-l7xT9ByDDE&feature=emb_logo

PG 8

North Carolina's Liberation Story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=305&v=NYMSpoCYld4&feature=emb_logo

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Tongue-Tied by Michele Israel: <https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/spring-2014/tonguetied>

Language of Slavery: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/language-of-slavery.htm>

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Visit: <https://www.ncdcr.gov/experiences/african-american-history-and-culture>

Participate: <https://aahc.nc.gov/programs/juneteenth/juneteenth-events>

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HBCUs in NC: <https://unf.org/programs/north-carolina-impact>

Find TCUs: <https://sites.ed.gov/whiaiane/tribes-tcus/tribal-colleges-and-universities/>

Find HSIs: <https://www.edexcelencia.org/research/institutions>

Juneteenth Celebrations at NC State Parks with Black Folks Camp Too: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NIKuCuzUio>

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Book a Speaker: <https://form.jotform.com/221074273159151>

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Learn More: <https://aahc.nc.gov/resources/my-nc-z>

Companion Guide: <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.libguides.com/myncfromatoz>

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My NC from A-Z: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=j8sDY9B7V_s&feature=emb_logo

PG 19

My NC in My Backyard: United States Colored Troops with Dr. Malcolm Beech:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzlrcpLAC00&feature=emb_logo

PG 20

Learn More: <https://aahc.nc.gov/programs/freedom-roads>

Freedom Seeking Lesson Plan: <https://aahc.nc.gov/fr-freedom-seeking-lesson-plan>

Halifax Roanoke River Lesson Plans: <https://aahc.nc.gov/fr-halifax-roanoke-river-lesson-plans>

NC 35th USCT Lesson Plan: <https://aahc.nc.gov/fr-nc-35th-usct-lesson-plan>

Fighting for Freedom Lesson Plan: <https://aahc.nc.gov/fr-fighting-freedom-lesson-plan>

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View Map: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=c085ce897d2041f79e6f3d4250c9c2e5>

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View Our Website: <https://aahc.nc.gov>

Subscribe to our Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZNFbRqKIsD5xq60iEDhNUQ>

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Submission Form: <https://form.jotform.com/221074359567159>

