



August is

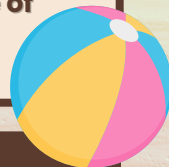
DIVERSITY DIGEST
AUGUST 2026

National Civility Month

What is Civility?



The word 'civility' originated in the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans, around 509 B.C. The term is derived from 'civis' or 'citizen', which at the time referred to men with property. In the French courts, the word 'civilité' shifted focus to proper behavior, attire, speech, and service between French lords and their servants. During the Renaissance and the Age of Enlightenment, civility was redefined to include being humane and treating others with respect. This concept influenced various historical events, including the rise of democracy, women's empowerment, and civil rights movements. Today, civility is deeply ingrained in our society, connecting our actions and promoting love, care, and courtesy towards others. There is still progress to be made in creating a world free of incivility, which is the purpose of National Civility Month.¹



Sources:

¹National Today (June 11, 2026). National Civility Month – August 2026. <https://nationaltoday.com/national-civility-month/>

²Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan (n.d.) August is National Civility Month. Retrieved August 11, 2026 from https://www.3rdcc.org/files/DiversityAndInclusionCalendar/DiversityAndInclusionCalendar_Aug2024.html

Reminders



Civility is crucial to building a healthy society, where each individual feels accepted and respected. It helps diverse groups come together, reducing disputes and conflict. Around the world, there are increasing complaints about uncivil behavior. A world in which individuals are at odds with one another is not conducive to communal cohesion and growth. National Civility Month emphasizes building more respectful, empathetic, and constructive interactions, both in our personal and professional environments.

How Can We Practice Civility?



National Civility Month was established to remind us to treat others the way we wish to be treated: with kindness, empathy and respect. Here are some tips for practicing civility not just this month, but every single day:²

- **Be Observant & Considerate:** Try to appreciate what other people may be going through.
- **Acknowledge Other People:** Make time to recognize others, whether by remembering their name, congratulating a team member or simply saying thank you.
- **Be inclusive:** No one likes to feel left out. If you realize you've unintentionally excluded someone acknowledge the mistake and apologize.
- **Practice active listening and daily acts of kindness.**
- **Engage in and support civil discourse, even with differing viewpoints.**

