



**January
18th
MLK Day**

The third Monday in January is a federal holiday designated to honor Martin Luther King Jr. It is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service.

This day is to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Dr. King recognized the power of service!

Service brings people together of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. All types of service are encouraged.

Ideas for Day of Service:

MLK Day of Service is a way to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service to help solve social problems.

1. Provide Job Readiness Training
 - a. Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Dressing for Success
2. Provide Food Assistance
 - a. Service meals at a homeless shelter or bring meals to homebound neighbors
 - b. Organize a food donation drive
 - c. Teach healthy eating on a budget
3. Improve Quality of Life for Others
 - a. Build a playground
 - b. Volunteer at an animal shelter to clean, play, groom or walk them.
 - c. Read to Senior Citizens or Children
4. Provide Assistance to Families and Neighbors
 - a. Help low-income families find free tax preparation services.
 - b. Help an elderly neighbor with yard maintenance or housework.
 - c. Participate in or create a neighborhood watch program
5. Provide Items for the Homeless or Individuals in a Shelter
 - a. Make hygiene kits
 - b. Host a Teddy Bear & Friends Drive (Collect stuffed animals for homeless shelter children)
 - c. Collect unused make-up, perfume and other cosmetics for women in shelters/homeless.
6. Beautify the Community
 - a. Remove graffiti from a building and/or paint a mural
 - b. Create community green spaces by planting trees, grass and flowers.
 - c. Reclaim a park or abandoned space for community use
7. Prepare the Community for Emergency & Crisis Situations
 - a. Make and distribute disaster preparedness kits.
 - b. Host workshops on how to prevent foreclosures in communities disproportionately affect.
8. Keep the Community Connected
 - a. Create online and offline community discussion forums.
 - b. Teach neighbors how to surf the Internet and use email.
 - c. Make a public space accessible for the disabled neighbors.



The Nobel Peace Prize of 1964
Awarded to:
Martin Luther King Jr.
"for his non-violent struggle for civil rights for the Afro-American population."

Biography

(In part from: www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/biographical/Nobelprize.org)

<https://thekingcenter.org/>

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/>

<https://www.civilrights museum.org/>

Michael King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. When Michael was young, his father returned from a trip across Europe and the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Germany. During his time in Berlin, King Sr. witnessed the beginnings of Nazi Germany and Adolf Hitler and was taken back by the uprising and discrimination he witnessed. Upon his return he adopted the name of Martin Luther instead of Michael, after the German Protestant leader. In addition, he adopted the same name change to his son Michael. After many years, In July 1959, Michael King Jr. legally became Martin Luther King Jr.

His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors. His father was Senior Pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. From 1960 until his death Martin Luther King Jr. acted as co-pastor. Martin attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received a B.A. degree in 1948 from the distinguished institution Morehouse College. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

Always a strong worker for civil rights for members of his race, King was a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In December, 1955, he was ready to accept the leadership of the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States, the bus boycott described by Gunnar Jahn in his presentation speech in honor of the laureate. The boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Blacks and whites rode the buses as equals. During these days of boycott, King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was subjected to personal abuse, but at the same time he emerged as a Black leader of the first rank.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", a manifesto of the Black revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Black voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement. On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.