

# 30 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

## National Adoption Awareness Month

### NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b> Coordinate a display of adoption books to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month at your child's school or local library.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Talk to someone who is considering adoption. Tell them about the highs, the lows, the unforgettable moments. Tell them why you'd do it all over again! Buy them a membership to <a href="http://AdoptiveFamilies.com">Adoptive Families</a>.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Get out there and vote! Let your kids accompany you inside the polling booth when you cast your ballot.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Encourage your child to contribute a portion of his allowance to an organization that works in orphanages or with local foster families.</p> 	<p><b>5</b> Ask your local television or radio station to feature a waiting child in your state's foster system. Visit <a href="http://adoptuskids.org">adoptuskids.org</a> or <a href="http://capbook.org">capbook.org</a> for more information.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Develop a family ritual to show thanks for your family and the special way you've found one another. See <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/rituals">adoptivefamilies.com/rituals</a> for ideas.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Watch a film that portrays adoption in a positive light together as a family. Click for a list of recommendations and post-viewing discussion questions.</p>
<p><b>8</b> Create a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together. Get started with tips and tools at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks">adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks</a>.</p>	<p><b>9</b> The top 100 adoption-friendly workplaces give an average of \$7,000 in reimbursement and four weeks of paid leave. Learn how to lobby your employer for benefits.</p>	<p><b>10</b> As you snap great seasonal shots during November and December, upload them to our 2015 Holiday Photo Contest at <a href="http://adoptivefamiliescircle.com">adoptivefamiliescircle.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or Scout group.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Print "The Top 10 Myths About Adoption." Distribute it in your community, school, and place of worship.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Look at family photos or watch home movies and retell your child her adoption story. Find age-by-age advice and guidance for sharing difficult details at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/talking">adoptivefamilies.com/talking</a>.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Make holiday crafts that incorporate imagery or materials from your child's heritage.</p>
<p><b>15</b> Invite local adoptive families over for hot chocolate and cookies. Announce the event in your community newspaper.</p> 	<p><b>16</b> Give an adoption talk at school. Find parents' presentation notes for educating their kids' classmates in preschool through middle school at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/school">adoptivefamilies.com/school</a>.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Find an adult adoptee or a person of color—a coach, a teacher, or a babysitter—who can serve as a mentor for your child. Arrange for them to get together monthly.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Spend an afternoon celebrating your child's heritage. For recipes, activities, and other ideas, visit <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/heritage">adoptivefamilies.com/heritage</a>. Choose a dish to include in your holiday menu.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Shop with meaning this holiday season by purchasing gifts that give back to adoption or children's charities. See the list in this issue and find more gift ideas at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/givingback">adoptivefamilies.com/givingback</a>.</p>	<p><b>21 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY!</b> Courts across the country will finalize thousands of adoptions today. See <a href="http://nationaladoptionday.org">nationaladoptionday.org</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>22</b> Learn how to celebrate La Navidad, Kwanzaa, Russian Christmas, and Chinese New Year at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/holidays">adoptivefamilies.com/holidays</a>.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Find an adoption event or support group meeting to attend at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/events">adoptivefamilies.com/events</a>.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Connect with other adoptive families or hopeful parents-to-be in the groups on <a href="http://adoptivefamiliescircle.com">adoptivefamiliescircle.com</a>. Chime in with your experiences and support.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Become an adoption advocate and speak out year round. Learn more about explaining adoption to others at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/category/talking-about-adoption/explaining-adoption">adoptivefamilies.com/category/talking-about-adoption/explaining-adoption</a>.</p>	<p><b>26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b></p> 	<p><b>27</b> Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Make a donation in your child's or his birth mother's name to an adoption-related charity or organization.</p>
<p><b>29</b> Start a tradition of taking a family photo every year on the same day. Share your shot with fellow AF readers at <a href="http://adoptivefamiliescircle.com/photos">adoptivefamiliescircle.com/photos</a>. Send a copy to your child's birth parents.</p>	<p><b>30</b> As a family, light a candle in honor of your child's birth parents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flame.</p> 					

Download this calendar as a PDF from [adoptivefamilies.com](http://adoptivefamilies.com).

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