

EID AL ADHA

A guide for foster families and staff caring for Muslim youth



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WHAT IS EID AL ADHA?

Eid al Adha means The Festival of Sacrifice. It is also known as Eid Ud-Dhuha, Eid Al Qurbaan, Qurbani Eid, or Baqr-Eid and is one of the two most significant holidays for Muslims. The celebration commemorates Prophet Ibrahim’s (Abraham) devotion to God and his readiness to sacrifice his son, Ismail. At the very point of sacrifice, God replaced Ismail with a calf or a ram/lamb, which was to be slaughtered in place of his son. Muslims mark this occasion by sacrificing animals and distributing the meat to the poor and to friends and family.

WHEN IS IT?

The day of Eid-ul-Adha falls on the tenth day in the final (twelfth) month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar; Dhu-al-Hijjah. The day follows the completion of the annual Holy Pilgrimage of Hajj. This year Eid Al Adha is likely to fall on Sunday, July 10, 2022.

HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

As with the other Eid, the most important ritual associated with Eid al Adha is the morning congregational prayer and service at the mosque. Most mosques will have an early morning prayer service which takes around an hour or so to complete. It includes congregational reciting of the praises of God, followed by congregational worship service and a sermon.

The other important ritual is the animal sacrifice that follows the morning service. Many Muslim men and older boys will head to local farms to offer the sacrifice. Other people may just purchase meat from local butchers for the afternoon meal or evening dinner.

Other important rituals are:

- Ablutions, a ritual bath/shower and personal grooming
- Wearing new clothes or your best clothes.
- Visiting friends and family
- Exchanging gifts and food
- Buying new clothes, new shoes or other personal items
- Organizing picnics
- Having a dinner feast with your family and friends with special Eid dishes (particularly meat based dishes such as pulao, biryani, kababs etc)
- Afghan people make special dishes such as Qabuli Palao, Meatballs and Shorba on the occasion of Eid.

HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

The Eid celebrations often last for 3 days. However, after the first day, children can return to school.

HOW CAN WE GREET PEOPLE ON EID?

We say "Eid Mubarak" which means "Blessed Eid". You can also say "Happy Eid".

WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS WILL YOUTH NEED ON EID?

- If Eid falls on a school day, allow the youth to have an excused absence from school.
- You may consider decorating your home or the shelter to allow the youth to have a sense of festivity and joy.
- Giving gifts – wrapped or unwrapped – is a tradition they may enjoy. This can be done after they return from the mosque.
- When they return from the mosque they may like to have a special brunch with a variety of meat based dishes.
- A picnic, outing, or a special Eid dinner with family and friends would be great.
- It would be a good idea to ask the youth in your care how they would like to celebrate Eid to get more ideas of what can be done to make this day special for them.
- They may want to speak to their family back home - so please provide them additional time to do so.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

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