

*This calendar is designed primarily for school personnel as they schedule events and activities such as exams, assemblies, field trips, special events, evening programs and other activities.*

The Jewish day begins and ends at sunset, not at midnight. The year is based on a lunar-solar cycle. This is why Jewish holidays always fall on a different calendar day each year. It also explains why consulting most commercial calendars for a specific Jewish holiday results in confusion—each holiday really begins at sunset the evening before. Some commercial calendars note this, some don't.

Abstaining from school, work, and other secular activities is part of the observance of the Holy Days listed inside this calendar.

Depending on the degree of personal observance, the Jewish holidays and Sabbath might include abstention from work, school, and other secular activities such as special events, dances, and sports events.

While calendar-coincident in some years, Chanukah and Christmas are not comparable or related holidays in any way.

## **Shabbat (Sabbath)**

The Jewish Sabbath is observed every week. It begins every Friday at sunset and concludes at sunset on Saturday. Since it reflects God's rest on the seventh day of the week following the events of the creation, Shabbat is considered to be a day different from the work week, dedicated to prayer, reflection, and rest.

Observant Jews are unable to participate in secular events occurring between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday.



**Jewish Federation**  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH) is the central communal organization for the New Hampshire Jewish community. JFNH is dedicated to preserving and enriching Jewish life throughout New Hampshire, and perpetuating our identification with the State of Israel.

JFNH is the only community body with representation from almost every formal Jewish organization: large and small, religious and secular, social, political, cultural and educational.

JFNH is the mechanism through which the New Hampshire Jewish community is connected to other Jewish communities and the broader Jewish agenda throughout the world. Through The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), the NH Jewish community is connected to more than 800 other Jewish communities across the continent.

JFNH is viscerally connected to the State of Israel in a number of ways including the New Hampshire-Hof Hacarmel Connection, Israel Experience, and Israel Emissary program.

**2015 - 2018**  
5776 - 5778



# **Calendar of Jewish Holy Days**

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of New Hampshire**  
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# Calendar of Jewish Holy Days for School Years 2015- 2018 / 5776-5778

During observance of most of these major holidays, work is traditionally prohibited. As a result, Jewish individuals may be absent from work and school.



All Jewish holidays begin at sunset and extend until the next sunset.

The holidays marked with (\*\*\*) *do not* require abstaining from secular activities. However, these holidays frequently involve family, community, or synagogue events.

*Sensitivity in avoiding conflicts is always appreciated.*

	2015 / 5776	2016 / 5777	2017 / 5778
<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> - Jewish New Year, begins Ten Days of Penitence	Sun. eve Sept. 13, Mon. Tue. Sept., 14-15	Sun. eve Oct. 2, Mo., Tue. Oct. 3-4	Wed. eve Sept. 20 Thu., Fri. Sept. 21-22
<b>Yom Kippur</b> - Day of Atonement, the most solemn Holy Day devoted to prayer and fasting.	Tue. eve Sept. 22 Wed. Sept. 23	Tue. eve Oct. 11 Wed. Oct. 12	Fri. eve Sept. 29 Sat. Sept. 30
<b>Sukkot</b> - Festival of Booths, harvest festival of thanksgiving	Sun. eve Sept. 27 Mon., Tue. Sept. 28-29	Sun. eve Oct. 16 Mon. Tue. Oct. 17-18	Wed. eve Oct. 4 Thu., Fri. Oct. 5-6
<b>Shemini Atzeret</b> - Conclusion of Sukkot	Mon. Oct. 5 Tue. Oct. 6	Mon. Oct. 24 Tue. Oct. 25	Thu., Oct. 12 Fri. Oct. 13
<b>Simchat Torah</b> - Celebrates the end of the year- long cycle of reading of the Torah			
<b>Chanukah</b> *** - Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after regaining independence from the Syrians in 165 b.c.e.	Dec. 6-14	Dec. 24 - Jan. 1	Dec. 12-20
	2016 / 5776	2017 / 5777	2018 / 5778
<b>Purim</b> *** - Celebrates the rescue of Jews in ancient Persia from annihilation	Wed. eve March 23 Thur., Fri., March 24-25	Sat. eve March 11 Sun., Mon., March 12-13	Wed. eve Feb. 28 Thur., Fri., March 1-2
<b>Pesach (Passover)</b> - Festival of Freedom, recounts the deliverance from slavery  This eight day observance includes special dietary rules. The first two and last two days are observed as Holy Days.	Fri., eve April 22 Sat., Sun., April 23-24 Fri., Sat., April 29-30	Mon., eve April 10 Mon., Tue., April 11-12 Mon., Tue. April 17-18	Fri. eve March 30 Sat. March 31 – Sun. April 1 Fri., Sat., April 6-7
<b>Yom Hashoah</b> *** - Commemorates the Holocaust of the 6,000,000 Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis	Wed., eve. May 4 Thur. May 5	Sun. eve April 23 Mon. April 24	Wed. eve April 11 Thur. April 12
<b>Shavuot</b> - Festival of Weeks, marks giving of the law (Torah) on Mount Sinai	Sat. eve June 11 Sun., Mon. June 12-13	Tue. eve May 30 Wed. May 31 – June 1	Sat. eve May 19 Sun., Mon. May 20-21