

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

All PTA bylaws contain the requirement that PTA, whether national, state, district, council, or unit, be nonsectarian. The Purposes of PTA acknowledge the importance of spiritual faith in the development of children, however, PTA does not support one religion over another and accords each faith equal respect and consideration. Adherence to PTA's nonsectarian policy precludes PTA's celebration of religious holidays in a manner that indoctrinates or advocates any one religion or that serves as a worship service or religious observance.

PTA welcomes into membership people representing a diversity of cultures, ethnic backgrounds and political and religious beliefs. PTA's should be hospitable to all those with a belief as well as those without. In planning the PTA calendar, consideration should be given in the following areas:

Inspirational messages may be used to open or close a PTA meeting.

- Use poetry
- Quote great men and women
- Repeat uplifting anecdotes
- Share moments of quiet meditation
- Do not use as a vehicle for promoting religious belief

Schedule PTA meetings and events to be inclusive.

- Review religious holidays for all cultures in the community
- Avoid scheduling meetings and events on important holidays

Holiday activities may be planned to understand the heritage of all groups within the community.

- Activities of cultural and historical nature are appropriate
- Involve parents and teachers from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds

PTA leaders should be familiar with their school district's policy regarding celebration of religious holidays and should work closely with school administrators to observe the guidelines that have been established.