



Celebrating Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month (SAAM)

Updated March 2026

For many years, sangats across the United States have engaged their elected officials to recognize April as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month (SAAM) and the local and state levels.

SAAM is typically recognized with a proclamation, resolution, or citation. These are all roughly the same thing: an official government recognition that celebrates or acknowledges an important event or community. While your state, school board, county, or city may have declared SAAM in the past, the recognition needs to be repeated every year—and you shouldn't miss out on the opportunity to create new relationships with the policymakers who influence our lives.

Sangats have also used SAAM as a way to raise awareness about Sikhs in their local communities. SAAM resolutions or proclamations can help to create a dialogue between Sikhs and their government officials to address concerns, as well as help Sikhs demonstrate their faith and reduce misconceptions and ignorance.

Here are some examples of how volunteers have recognized and celebrated SAAM:

- Distribute literature and materials about Sikhs in schools, libraries, community centers, police departments, or other public spaces. [Poster: [Who Are The Sikhs](#) | Brochures: [The Resources for Educators](#)];
- Conduct [Sikh Awareness Presentations](#) with schools, government offices, law enforcement, or even private employers;
- Encourage school officials to disseminate [anti-bullying and educational resources](#);
- Honor a Sikh that has made important contributions to the local community; or
- Host interfaith events such as a gurdwara [open house](#).

If you would like to discuss ways you can celebrate SAAM, please contact community@sikhcoalition.org; if you have questions about how to request a proclamation, please email advocacy@sikhcoalition.org. Finally, if you need printed copies of our resources, please fill out the [resource form](#) on our website.



How to Request a SAAM Recognition

1. Identify a government office (Governor, state legislator, city council, county board, or school board member) and find their contact information at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>.
2. Send a short message, including the draft proclamation language to their office. Below is a sample draft email; see further below for draft proclamation language (in blue).

Dear [Official Name]:

I am a resident of [city/county/school district] and am writing on behalf of the local Sikh community in this area. As you may know, April is Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month across the United States. We are interested in working with you to introduce a proclamation to raise awareness about Sikhs. [You may include information about your local Sikh community here].

To assist you, I am providing draft language for a proclamation below. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [email/phone]. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Respectfully,
[Your name]*

3. Make sure to follow up in one week if you have not heard back from the office. It may help to follow up with a phone call, after bumping your email.
4. Once a recognition is issued, take pictures of the resolution/proclamation and any community events where it is presented. Share your success and pictures to media@sikhcoalition.org so that we can highlight them on our social media channels!



Draft Proclamation Language:

WHEREAS: Sikhism, or Sikhi, originating in the Punjab region of South Asia, is the fifth-largest religion in the world, and today, there are more than 25 million Sikhs worldwide and roughly 750,000 Sikhs in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 125 years, and during the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Western Pacific Railroad lines; and

WHEREAS: Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including significant contributions to our great nation in agriculture, information technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking, medicine, technology, and public service; and

WHEREAS: The United States has long served as a place of refuge for Sikh people who, having endured oppression, sought the opportunity to live with dignity, liberty and tolerance; and

WHEREAS: Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves by fostering respect among all people through the Sikh tradition of humanitarian and selfless service; and

WHEREAS: This year marks the 25-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks and the wave of discrimination and hate violence that followed, particularly targeting Sikh and Muslim communities as evidenced by the hate motivated murder of Sikh American Balbir Singh Sodhi being one of the first deadly post-9/11 hate crimes; and

WHEREAS: This year marks the 14-year anniversary of the August 5, 2012, mass shooting at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, wherein a neo-Nazi gunman murdered six Sikh Americans and permanently injured several more at a gurdwara (Sikh house of worship) in Oak Creek, Wisconsin;

WHEREAS: This year marks the five-year anniversary of the devastating mass shooting at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, which led to the death of eight people (four of whom were Sikh) at a facility known for employing significant numbers of Punjabi immigrants; and



WHEREAS: Based on the annual hate crimes data compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Sikh people continue to be one of the most targeted religious minorities in the United States and Sikhs in the United States continue to face transnational threats; and

WHEREAS: “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month” (SAAM) is necessary to address anti-Sikh hatred, discrimination, and misconceptions by celebrating the accomplishments of Sikh Americans and highlighting their contributions in strengthening the fabric of American society; and

WHEREAS: [Jurisdiction] is committed to educating citizens about the world’s religions, the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of mutual understanding, and the diminution of hate violence; and

WHEREAS: Today, [Jurisdiction] seeks to further the diversity of its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history, culture, heritage, and lived experiences of Sikh Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I [Name of Official], [Title], on this [number] day of [Month] 2026, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 to be SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH.