



Affiliated Faith: Pan-African

# Kwanzaa

[kwann-zuh](#) 

The name “Kwanzaa” comes from the Swahili phrase “**matunda ya kwanza**,” meaning “first fruits,” reflecting the African tradition of celebrating the harvest. It’s a way to celebrate African culture, heritage, and identity.

## Date

December 26-January 1.

## Greetings

“Happy Kwanzaa!”

## Common Practices and Celebrations

Lighting the Kinara (candle holder), celebrating the 7 principles, feasts, cultural activities (dancing, story-telling), gift-giving.

## Common Dietary Restrictions

None.

Feedback is welcome; please visit [northwestern.edu/diversity](https://northwestern.edu/diversity).

**Impact at Northwestern University will be closed.**

If you would like to learn more or need help navigating accommodations, please visit the Office of the Provost’s [Policy on Academic Accommodations for Religious Observance](#).

## Campus Resources

- [northwestern.edu/msa/](https://northwestern.edu/msa/)