

MAY IS

National Foster Care Month



Learn. Advocate. Give.

PROCLAMATION GUIDE

Use this step-by-step guide to request that your State, City, University or Workplace recognize May as National Foster Care Month through an official proclamation.

What is a Proclamation?

Ever heard of a proclamation? It's when someone makes a big official announcement about something important. So, when a VIP (Very Important Person or People) makes a proclamation that recognizes May as National Foster Care Month, it's a great way to raise awareness about foster care!

Imagine this: You are able to get a VIP to talk about foster care. It's like shining a spotlight on our mission to help make foster care better for kids and their families. These proclamations aren't about making new laws, but they ARE super powerful because they remind everyone about the importance of foster care.



1

Identify Your VIP

Before you decide who to contact, get clear about your reasons for asking the VIP to issue a proclamation to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. Which community do you want to influence? Which community do you want to highlight? Thinking through these questions will help you decide who to pick as your VIP.

There are many options for people to ask for a proclamation. After reflecting on your motivations for asking for a proclamation, pick a VIP based on who will help you reach your goals. For example, if you want to raise awareness among your coworkers, ask the CEO of the organization you work for. If you want to highlight the foster care community where you grew up, ask the local mayor, city council, or county commissioner.

But those aren't the only options for proclamation requests! You can even ask your state governor or the director of your state's child welfare agency. And get creative when thinking about who to choose for your VIP: University presidents, religious leaders, or the heads of extracurricular organizations could also make great picks.

2

Create Your Proclamation Template

When reaching out to your chosen VIP, it helps to have a proclamation template ready-to-go. You use the sample proclamation in this toolkit as-is, or you can edit it to reflect your group's priorities.

Even if you decide to use the sample proclamation as-is, you'll need to fill in the blanks that indicate who is issuing the proclamation and the local agency overseeing foster care in that area. You'll also want to fill in the blanks that represent missing data about foster care in your area. [You can find statistics here.](#)

When you send your proclamation template to your VIP, make sure they know they are free to edit the proclamation to align with what they want to say. Your proclamation template isn't meant to necessarily be word-for-word what goes in the official proclamation. Rather, it's a guide to make drafting their proclamation easier.



3

Reach Out with Your Request

When you're ready to reach out with your proclamation request, use our sample proclamation request letter to draft an email to your VIP. In the email, provide a link to or attach your proclamation template. Also offer to meet with the VIP, because pro tip: VIPs love meeting young people with lived experience!

Before you sign off, provide your contact info. And just like that, you're good to reach out!



4

Make a Promotion Plan

Once your VIP gives your proclamation the green light, you'll want to help promote it in order to raise the most awareness possible. Ask if you can host a photo op with the VIP and share it with the media. A proclamation is a big deal, and VIPs love having positive stories in the media as much as the media loves great photos!

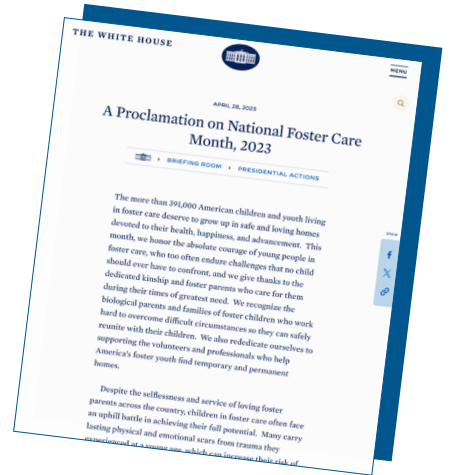
Speaking of great photos, it can be especially effective to have the VIP in a photo with young people with lived experience. But know that folks under 18 may need to get permission from a foster parent or caseworker to have their photo in the media.



5

Let FosterClub Know!

We'd love to feature your success on our social media! Let us know about the proclamation you secure by emailing us at connect@fosterclub.com.



6

Thank your VIP and CELEBRATE

Wanna know something cool about getting a VIP to issue a proclamation? You've now created allyship with a person who can help raise awareness about foster care!

Keep the convo going by following up with a handwritten thank-you note. If you have photos from a photo op event, consider framing one and providing it as a small thank-you gift.



Also, make sure to debrief with anyone who helped you along the way. What worked well in your proclamation request and promotion efforts? What will you do differently next year?

Then it's time to celebrate your success with all those involved! Be sure to thank them and let them know how much you appreciate their dedication to improving life for young people who experience foster care.

Looking for More Resources?

FosterClub is a proud partner of the Children Bureau's National Foster Care Month campaign. [Check out their toolkit](#), which includes more sample proclamations.

About FosterClub:

FosterClub is the national network for young people in foster care, leading efforts to connect, educate, inspire, and represent youth in and from care. The organization aims to realize the potential of these young individuals and empower them to improve the lives of their peers through system change and direct service. At the FosterClub website, young people discover other successful youth from foster care, share opinions about their foster care experiences, get recognition for overcoming obstacles, and connect with supportive adults. Visit www.fosterclub.com to learn more.



FosterClub

Sample Proclamation Request Letter

Dear [name of VIP]:

My name is [your name] and I'm a member of [name of your organization], an organization that [state your organization's purpose]. As a [state your affiliation to the VIP = ex. "resident of your district," "employee of your company," "student at your University"] with lived experience in the child welfare system, I would like to respectfully request that you issue a proclamation to designate May as Foster Care Month.

I've attached a sample proclamation to assist in drafting your official proclamation. Please let me know if you would like to meet to discuss the proclamation.

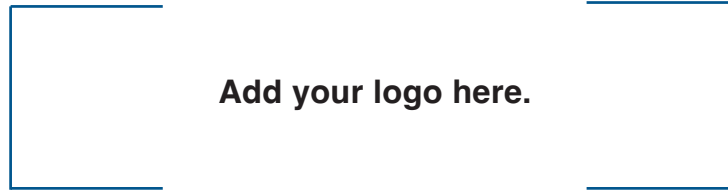
Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your phone number]

[Your email]

National Foster Care Month Sample Proclamation



WHEREAS, the family is the foundation of a strong and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, in [locality] there are [number] children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, foster parents, including relative or Kinship caregivers, serve the community through essential care for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the family structure is best served in foster homes modeling family living, not group care; and

WHEREAS, the stability and permanency for children and foster children is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, permanency is both a process and result that includes active involvement of the child or youth, and

WHEREAS, permanency is a permanent connection with at least one committed adult, which may include biological parents through reunification, or with another adult relative, fictive kin, or other important individuals in the child or youth's life committed through adoption or guardianship; and

WHEREAS, it is the entire community's responsibility to ensure each youth leaving foster care in [locality] has a permanent, lifelong connection with a caring adult; and

WHEREAS, [locality] needs dedicated care providers who striving in partnership with [agency overseeing foster care in locality] to identify and connect children and youth in foster care to permanent lifelong relationships; and

WHEREAS, dedicated care providers model strength-based and solution-focused engagement with children and youth in their care and with supportive community-based and government entities; and

WHEREAS, [locality] community-based organizations partner with [agency] to provide accessible and culturally relevant family-centered services meeting the unique needs of families and children we serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that [issuer of proclamation] proclaims May 2026 FOSTER CARE MONTH and urges all community members to volunteer their talents and energies to honor children and youth in and from foster care this month.

Signature

Signature