

National Handwriting Day is January 23

Beginning in 1977, in an effort to help improve the clarity of the nation's penmanship, National Handwriting Day was established. This day was designated to honor John Hancock's birthday. His large, legible and bold signature on the Declaration of Independence was not only written so that King George could plainly see it, but also that the world would take notice. His signature is so distinctive that to this day we are apt to say, "Put your John Hancock here" meaning, "Sign this."



Throughout history handwritten documents have sparked love affairs, started wars, established peace, freed slaves, created movements and declared independence. According to The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association, the purpose of National Handwriting Day is to alert the public to the importance of handwriting.

How to Celebrate National Handwriting Day: Write a note or letter to someone. Notes to those serving in the military or people who are elderly or ill will be well received. Learn more about John Hancock and the Declaration of Independence. Start an autograph book. Practice making your writing legible and neat. Bake a cake for John Hancock and sign your name in large letters with icing.

Check out the NAC website to view the alphabet, teaching tips, first grader's cursive samples, worksheet software and ways to celebrate National Handwriting Day at:

www.NewAmericanCursive.com