



National Magic Week October 25th to 31st, 20--

History

The Society of American Magicians, S.A.M., adopted the idea of National Magic Week as a way of promoting the art of magic by performing shows at orphanages, hospitals, and nursing homes for those unable to travel to a theatre to a live performance. S.A.M. members who participate in these shows find it a rewarding activity.

The roots of National Magic Week go back over 90 years. Before there was a National Magic Week there was a National Magic Day. Mrs Houdini participated in the first radio broadcast about National Magic Day which occurred over radio station KQW on July 20, 1927 with Mr Caryl S. Fleming, President of P.C.A.M.

It all started with a "Houdini Day" in the summer of 1927, less than one year from the death of Harry Houdini. A Houdini trophy in honor of Houdini, who was known for aquatic feats and who served as the President of the S.A.M. for nine years until his death on October 31, 1926, was presented by Mrs. Harry Houdini in New York City to an underwater contest winner at Miramar Pool at 207th St New York on July 25th, 1927

Many other "Houdini Days" followed, but it was not until 1938 that Les Sholty, a Chicago S.A.M. member sought official sanction for a "Houdini Day." October 31 as National Magic Day in honor of Houdini was proclaimed.

Many newspapers carried the story about National Magic Day and various magical societies kept the idea alive. It was not long before National Magic Day became National Magic Week.

Magic displays can be found at libraries, stores and malls throughout the country during National Magic Week.

National Magic Week is the S.A.M.'s way of sharing with others a great art form that is deeply loved by those who participate in it. We can use the love of our art to bring our art to those who may not have ever seen live magic.

How to Celebrate National Magic Week:

- Assembly chooses a Chairperson.
- Chairperson schedules venues.
- Chairperson publicizes event to encourage attendance.
- When Magic Week over, submit an event report at MagicSam.com.

Suggested Celebrations:

1. Perform or display magic in locations such as nursing homes, churches, libraries, child care centers, Veteran's Administration, Senior Citizen's, etc. Your local Chamber of Commerce will



have list of charitable groups who could use entertainment for their clients. Call the directors and discuss the options with them before you commit magicians. Compile a scrapbook. Bring a photographer.

2. Take Pictures Send pictures to your assembly web page, National, and M.U.M.
3. Contact magic enthusiasts and associate members to join National and your assembly.
4. Donate Magic Books to library.
5. Volunteer to help local S.Y.M. groups.
6. Start a convention fund to send members to the National Convention.
7. Submit press releases for activities. Typically allow a minimum six weeks for shows and three weeks for dinners and banquets.
8. Contact Good and Welfare or Houdini Fund for any assistance needed.

9. Contact local politicians to proclaim the week and perform magic at meeting. Send them a sample Proclamation.
10. Plan activities for Veteran's Day. Contact Veteran Chair JR Russell jr@jrrussellfamily.com

Log onto MagicSAM.com to learn more:
Search for "National Magic Week"

When Magic Week over, compile the activities and submit an event report at MagicSam.com.

How to obtain Proclamations:

-Governors, Mayors, Alder and Select boards may be willing to declare October 25th to 31st, 2019 Magic Week and issue a proclamation.

-Contact these governing officials at least three to five weeks to give the official time to set up the appointment

-Ask the governing board's office, for the signing. Leave a sample proclamation with the secretary so that a new one can be typed to reflect

- 2019 National President Steven A. Spence -

-Contact these governing officials at least three to five weeks before October 25-31, 2019 in order to give the official time to set up the appointment for it to be placed on the agenda.

-Offer to do some magic at these signings contact the local media.

-Contact the media or provide a news alert to get photographers to the site and you could have a member of your assembly present with camera to photograph the event.

-Send a summary and photo to M.U.M. and remember the five W's:
Who? What? Where? When? Why?
They/You/Magic/S.A.M. will be publicized and receive good will.

Sample Proclamation:

In the year of Two Thousand and Nineteen, Resolutions in Honor of National Magic Week

Whereas, The Society of American Magicians each year memorializes the deeply mourned death on October Thirty First, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty Six of Harry Houdini, Past National President; and

Whereas, Professional and Amateur magician members give generously of their time and talent for charitable purposes at hospitals, schools, military bases, churches, nursing homes, etc.; and

Whereas Magic, as a hobby for teenagers, has demonstrated itself to be a positive activity; and

Whereas, The National President of the Society of American Magicians, *Steven A. Spence* has declared that Halloween, October

Thirty First, Two Thousand and Nineteen shall be National Magic Day and the week beginning October Twenty five, Two Thousand and Nineteen shall be National Magic Week and

Whereas, Magic is an ancient and delightful form of entertainment, which continues to give much pleasure to young and old; now therefore be it,

Resolved, that the town/city/state governing body joins with the citizens of the town/city/ state in recognizing the week of October Twenty Fifth through October Thirty First, Two Thousand and Nineteen as National Magic Week.

Modified December 2019

National Magic Week

October 25th to 31st, 20--



