



# Karva Chauth

Hinduism

[kaar·vuh chaath](#) 

A festival celebrated annually by Hindu women of Northern and Western India. On Karva Chauth, married women, especially in North India, observe fast from sunrise to moonrise and pray for the safety and longevity of their husbands. The festival is also observed by unmarried women who pray in hope of securing a desired life partner.

The word Karva Chauth is made up of two words, "Karva," which means an earthen pot with a spout and "Chauth," which means fourth. The earthen pot is of great significance as it is used by the women to offer water to the moon as part of the festival rituals.



This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M's Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu).

## Date

- Karva Chauth falls on the fourth day of the dark fortnight (waning phase of the moon) in the month of Kartik of the Hindu lunar calendar. This is usually between mid to late October.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

## Greetings

Wishing a celebrant a "Happy Karva Chauth" is welcome.

## Common Practices and Celebrations

- Women keep a 'Nirjala' fast by neither eating nor drinking throughout the day.
- Women apply mehendi henna art and other cosmetics to themselves and each other.
- Celebrating the special bond of friendship between a mother-in-law, a sister and a bride.

## Common Dietary Restrictions

- Some Hindu practitioners adhere to a lacto-vegetarian diet which excludes meat, fish, and eggs.

## Impact to U-M Community

- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages - Hindu](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

## Information Sources

- [Indian Culture](#), Government of India
- [Wikipedia](#)

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