

Journey to Juneteenth: What Does Freedom Mean Today?

Clara Assumpta Bunao

3rd grade at Hill Elementary School in Troy, MI

Freedom means being able to make choices and be yourself. I think freedom is very important because it helps people learn, grow, and be happy. Freedom means I can share my ideas, play with my friends, and try new things without being scared, as long as I am kind and respectful to others.

Freedom does not mean doing whatever you want all the time. It also means being responsible for your choices. For example, I can choose what books I want to read, what activities I want to join, and how I want to help other people. I like using my freedom to do good things for my community.

For me, freedom means being able to help people and animals. I like making toys for animal shelter through Humane Society of Macomb, writing cards for children in hospitals with Cards for Hospitalized Kids Foundation, playing board games and making crafts with seniors in Oakmont Senior residents home, raising money to buy food supplies for the Troy Center for Transition food pantry and sharing my time and resources to people not only in my local community but also globally like when I visited Manuel Y Garrza elementary school in Asia with my family and we helped them rebuild their school library that was damaged by typhoons and flooding . I also was happy that I had the freedom to tell my parents to use my birthday money to buy the elementary students with hot meals and first aid kits the day I visited their school. I also loved the chance to be able to freely donate my new and gently used school supplies to the students which gave me a happy feeling.

Freedom also lets me learn new things in Girl Scouts since I was kindergartener until now that I am a 3rd grader , STEM programs, church, and school. I enjoy learning about my culture and spending time helping others in my language school

Freedom means feeling safe and supported so I can try my best and learn from mistakes. It helps me become more confident and independent. I think freedom is a gift because it gives children the chance to grow into caring, thoughtful, and responsible people.

That is what freedom means to me.