



Sikh Council on Religion and Education
11521 Swains Lock Terrace, Potomac, MD 20854

To Whom It May Concern

Vaisakhi is an annual Sikh festival that holds immense importance in the Sikh faith as it commemorates the birth of the Khalsa, the community of initiated Sikhs, in 1699 by the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Vaisakhi is a celebration of courage, sacrifice, and unity, and it reinforces the core values of Sikhism, such as equality, justice, and selfless service. This celebration is deeply connected with the Sikh identity of turban and unshorn hair. Turban symbolically represents all of the above mentioned values of the Sikh faith.

Sikhs have been living in Ohio from last 5 decades and have numerous places of worship all over the state. Sikhs have contributed immensely in the field of education, medicine, IT, and business and have made this state strong. We will continue to serve this state and this great nation.

For Sikhs, Vaisakhi is not only a religious festival but also a cultural one that connects them to their heritage and identity. It is a time for Sikhs to reflect on their history, express gratitude for their blessings, and renew their commitment to living a righteous life. Vaisakhi also serves as a platform for Sikhs to showcase their rich culture and traditions to the world.

In the last three decades since 9/11, Sikh have faced violence, discrimination and prejudice due to ignorance and misunderstanding about turban and the Sikh identity. Sikh children face bullying in the school system in Ohio and throughout the nation. One survey showed over 65% of Sikh children face bullying. Creating awareness about Vaisakhi and its significance for Sikhs can help people understand the Sikh community better and appreciate their contributions to society. It can also promote cultural diversity and foster interfaith harmony. By celebrating Vaisakhi, Sikhs can share their heritage and identity with others and build bridges of understanding and respect.

Please feel free to ask us any question. We will be

Sincerely,

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