

## COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATIONS



Columbus Day and Italian Heritage and Culture Month are filled with parades, wreath-laying and flag-raising ceremonies, dinners and other activities. Nationwide, UNICO chapters participate in the observance of Columbus Day and Italian Heritage and Culture Month throughout their local communities to promote the positive contributions that Italians and Italian Americans have made.

Proclamations by governors, mayors and city councils take place during the month of October. UNICO is at the forefront of these celebrations. Chapters encourage their local communities to erect overhead street banners in order to raise awareness that “October is Italian Heritage and Culture Month.” This theme is incorporated nationally into related events.

The New York City Columbus Day Parade has been our national flagship parade since 1986 and is the world’s largest celebration of Italian American culture. The parade is a televised global event with millions of viewers and nearly one million spectators.

There are several states that issue proclamations for Columbus Day and recognize October as Italian American Heritage and Culture Month.

However, there are approximately 17 states that do not recognize Columbus Day or Columbus’ discovery of America.