



VAISAKHI

A short guide to the Sikh holiday

WHAT IS VAISAKHI?

- Vaisakhi is one of the most important dates on the Sikh calendar
- Vaisakhi celebrates 1699, the time when Guru Gobind Singh established the *Khalsa* (collective name for initiated Sikhs)
- Many Sikhs choose Vaisakhi as the day to join the *Khalsa*
- Vaisakhi is traditionally held annually on April 13th or the 14th
- Vaisakhi also celebrates the collection of the spring harvest

HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

- Sikhs gather at *Gurdwaras* (House of Worship) which are especially decorated for Vaisakhi
- Joyous parades and colorful processions are held on streets called *Nagar Kirtans*
- Hymns and prayers are sung together by the *Sangat* (congregation)

To learn more about the Sikh-American community visit
www.SALDEF.org/Resources