



Lag B'Omer

STARTS

SUNDOWN
Monday
5.24.27
17 of Iyar

ENDS

SUNDOWN
Tuesday
5.25.27
18 of Iyar

What it IS...

Lag B'Omer is a joyful pause in the *Omer* period and is observed on the 33rd day between Passover and Shavuot.

There are several contested explanations for this minor holiday:

1. Commemorates the end of a historic plague among Rabbi Akiva's students.
2. Honors the *yahrzeit* (death anniversary) of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who was one of Rabbi Akiva's students and who is credited with the mystical work, the *Zohar*.
3. The *Omer* is a time of semi-mourning, which means certain activities are forbidden, including cutting one's hair. This may symbolize the period in early spring that people exercised restraint to symbolize their concerns about the growth of their crops.

What the OMER IS...



Omer means "sheaf."

The *Omer* period is observed between Passover and Shavuot. This period signifies when Jews would bring the first sheaves of barley to the temple at the beginning of the barley harvest.

This period is observed by counting the *omer*. Counting begins on the second night of Passover and is counted each evening after sundown until the end of seven weeks.



Some use a *sefirah* counter to help them count the *omer*.

What to DO...

Lag B'Omer is a day that breaks up the period of mourning during the *Omer*. It invites celebration and community as it brings people together in a spirit of light, tradition, and renewal.

Bonfires



Music

Parades



Outdoor gatherings



Haircuts *

Playing with bows and arrows



Weddings *



* During the *Omer*, observant Jews do not get married or cut their hair. Because Lag B'Omer is a break from mourning, it has become a day for weddings and haircuts.