



Dear Friend,

I am a 10 year old boy living in Lebanon. Lebanon is a country that is north of Israel and south of Syria. To our west is the Mediterranean Sea. It is a beautiful country! Lebanon is about 120 miles from north to south, and about 50 miles from east to west. It is 4,015 square miles. I can be at the beach in the morning and in the mountains in the afternoon!

My family is getting ready to move to North Carolina. I need to know more about your customs and holidays. In Lebanon, we like to celebrate special holidays. Here are some of our favorites:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| New Year's Day        | January 1  |
| Feast of Saint Maron  | February 9   |
| May Day and Labor Day | May 1  |
| Martyrs' Day          | May 6  |
| All Saints' Day       | November 1   |
| Independence Day      | November 22  |
| Christmas             | December 25  |
| Easter                | March or April   |
| Ramadan               | Ninth month of the Islamic calendar  |
| Eid al-Fitr           | End of Ramadan   |
| Eid al-Adha           | 10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> of the twelfth month of the Islamic Calendar |

Which of these holidays do you celebrate in the United States and North Carolina? What holidays do you have that we do not celebrate? Which of your holidays always fall on the same date? Which ones do not, and how do you know when they will fall each year?

What are foods and customs around holidays in North Carolina? What do you celebrate other than holidays, like sporting events, and how do you celebrate them? We want to participate and be respectful of your celebrations.

Thanks so much for helping me! My family will be so grateful.

Sincerely,

Riyad