SAMPLE PROCLAMATION PROCESS

* Contact the appropriate office (i.e., governor or mayor’s office) and find out the process.
* Fill out any necessary forms and include a letter stating your request.
* See the sample proclamation, on the next page, if you’re asked to supply language.
* Send the information well in advance of the requested dates.
* Find out the procedure for picking up the proclamation. You may be able to arrange to have it presented to your group at an official meeting, and you can invite local news media to cover it. Take photos and issue a press release after the event.
* Be sure to send a letter to thank the official who sponsored your proclamation.
* Share your proclamation with the Lupus Research Alliance

WHEREAS: Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system inexplicably and randomly attacks the body's own tissues and vital organs, including the kidneys, brain, heart, lungs, blood, skin, and joints. It is a leading cause of premature cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and stroke among young women; and

WHEREAS: Lupus directly affects millions worldwide; according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a conservative estimate suggests 322,000 Americans have definite or probable SLE. Lupus is two to three times more common and its symptoms tend to be more severe among African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, Native Americans and Asians than Caucasians. 90% of people who have lupus are women; typically diagnosed during childbearing years, ages 15-44.

WHEREAS: Lupus is one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose because its symptoms come and go, mimic those of other diseases, and there is no single test that can definitively identify the illness. Yet early diagnosis and treatment usually lessen the progression and severity of the disease and are vital to preserving health and preventing further complications, organ damage, and death; and

WHEREAS: Many healthcare professionals are unaware of the symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before obtaining a correct diagnosis and medical treatment, demonstrating the need for increased public and professional awareness of lupus. Increasing public awareness and focusing public attention on lupus and its devastating impact on patients’ lives will provide hope for a better future for those affected; and

WHEREAS: The [Organization Name] works to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of lupus and to promote education, research, social support, and quality medical care for our citizens who live with, or care for, someone who struggles with this disease. This month, let us recommit ourselves to supporting the research that will lead to better, targeted, treatments and a cure for this devastating illness that affects so many women in the prime of their lives

Therefore, I, the [Mayor/Governor of \_\_\_\_\_] declare May to be Lupus Awareness Month in the [City/State of \_\_\_\_\_\_].