

APPENDIX: WVMA CUP MODIFICATION APPLICATION

The following is provided as a way of educational background on prayers and on Ramadan:

BACKGROUND: PRAYERS IN ISLAM AND PRAYING IN MOSQUES

A fundamental service offered by mosques all over the world are the five daily congregational prayers. As not everyone is familiar with prayers in Islam, the following is a brief primer.

Prayer (Salah) is second of the five pillars of Islam (after the profession of faith), and is a fundamental and required tenet for Muslims. The five daily prayers are called Fajr (pre-sunrise), Dhuhur (mid-day), Asr (afternoon), Maghrib (sunset) and Isha (night), and they have appointed time ranges based on sunrise and sunset. The prayers must be offered during these appointed times, and take approximately 10 to 15 minutes each. See table below from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salah_times.

Compulsory (fard) prayer	Prescribed or Appointed Times
Fajr	Begins at dawn, may be performed up to sunrise
Dhuhr	From when the sun has passed the zenith, may be performed up to the time of Asr.
Asr	From when the shadow cast by an object is once or twice its length, may be performed up to the time of Maghrib
Maghrib	Begins at sunset, may be performed up to the end of dusk.
Isha	Begins with the night, may be delayed up to dawn although disliked

Prayer times are based on sunrise and sunset in an area, and are calculated based on each location's latitude and longitude. Locations closer to the equator enjoy a near constant sunrise and sunset throughout the year, but as we go north or south, the sunset and sunrise times will differ significantly during winter and summer months. The congregational prayers are scheduled based on these appointed times.

Prophet Muhammad's narrations (Hadith) are well documented and given significant importance by Muslims, and some of them relating to congregational prayers and timings of these prayers are:

- “[A man's Salah in congregation is twenty-five times more rewarding than his Salah at home or in his shop...](#)”
- “[The best of deeds in the sight of Allah is salah at the beginning of its time](#)” (Bukhari)

Based on the Hadith, congregational prayers are scheduled as early as possible within the appointed time range. However, for the pre-sunrise prayers, mosques in US, including WVMA, try to balance this to be somewhere in the middle of the allowed time period. For WVMA, this typically falls between 5 AM and 6:30 AM.

Based on the sunrise and sunset times around the year, WVMA has scheduled the congregational prayer times for their mosques. The prayer times for specific days of the year in the Gregorian calendar are almost the same, regardless of the year, so for example, these times will not vary based on whether it is the year 2024 or year 2030. We have provided representative times for the congregational prayer, and a [detailed day-by-day calendar is available on our website](#). The congregational prayer time is denoted by a “_jamah” suffix in the column header (“jamah” means congregation).

Representative times of the congregation prayers year round

Date	Fajr (pre-sunrise)	Sunrise in Los Gatos	Dhuhr (mid-day)	Asr (afternoon)	Maghrib / Sunset	Isha (night)
January 15	6:30 AM	7:21 AM	12:30 PM	3:45 PM	5:17 PM	8:00 PM
February 15	6:20 AM	6:57 AM	12:30 PM	4:15 PM	5:50 PM	8:00 PM
March 1 (PST)	6:00 AM	6:38 AM	12:30 PM	4:30 PM	6:06 PM	8:00 PM
March 15 (PDT)	6:30 AM	7:18 AM	1:30 PM	5:45 PM	7:19 PM	8:40 PM
April 15	5:50 AM	6:32 AM	1:30 PM	6:00 PM	7:47 PM	9:10 PM
May 15	5:10 AM	5:59 AM	1:30 PM	6:15 PM	8:13 PM	9:50 PM
June 15	5:00 AM	5:47 AM	1:30 PM	6:30 PM	8:33 PM	10:10 PM
July 15	5:00 AM	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	6:30 PM	8:31 PM	10:10 PM
August 15	5:30 AM	6:25 AM	1:30 PM	6:15 PM	8:07 PM	9:40 PM
September 15	6:10 AM	6:50 AM	1:30 PM	5:45 PM	7:17 PM	8:40 PM
October 15	6:30 AM	7:16 AM	1:30 PM	5:15 PM	6:36 PM	8:00 PM
November 1 (PDT)	6:30 AM	7:33 AM	1:30 PM	5:00 PM	6:18 PM	8:00 PM
November 15 (PST)	6:00 AM	6:48 AM	12:30 PM	3:45 PM	5:04 PM	8:00 PM
December 15	6:30 AM	7:15 AM	12:30 PM	3:30 PM	4:55 PM	8:00 PM

To summarize, the appointed prayer times are based on sunrise and sunset around the year, and cannot be modified. Congregational prayers are a required and fundamental service offered by every mosque, and must be held within the allotted time ranges, preferably at the start of the appointed time range.

BACKGROUND: RAMADAN, A MONTH OF FASTING AND PRAYERS

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar and holds great significance for Muslims. During this holy month, able-bodied Muslims fast from pre-dawn until sunset. This involves abstaining from eating, drinking, and marital relationships during the daylight hours. During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from what is generally allowed (eating, drinking, etc.), so they can learn

the self-discipline to avoid acts that are immoral or not permitted. In addition to fasting, other acts of worship such as additional prayer, reading the Quran, and charity are highly encouraged. This includes Daily Taraweeh (nightly) prayers. These prayers are additional prayers that start immediately after the night prayer (Isha) and last for about 1.5 hours every night during Ramadan.

[From Britannica](#): Islamic tradition states that it was during Ramadan, on the “Night of Power” (Laylat al-Qadr) - commemorated on one of the last 10 nights of Ramadan, usually the 27th night—that God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad the Qur’ān, Islam’s holy book, “as a guidance for the people.” For Muslims, Ramadan is a period of introspection, **communal prayer (salāt) in the mosque**, and reading of the Qur’ān. God forgives the past sins of those who observe the holy month with fasting, prayer, and faithful intention.

Start and End of Ramadan

The Islamic month of Ramadan is determined by the lunar calendar. The lunar calendar is ~11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar, so Ramadan moves around the year, and returns back to the same time every 33 years. Ramadan over the next few years will fall on the following dates.

Ramadan dates over the next few years				Annual Eid Days	
Gregorian Year	Islamic Lunar Year	Ramadan Starts (estimated)	Ramadan End (estimated)	Eid ul-Fitr (at the end of Ramadan)	Eid ul-Adha (coincides with Annual Hajj)
2024	1445	March 10	April 9	April 10	June 16
2025	1446	February 28	March 30	March 31	June 6
2026	1447	February 18	March 19	March 20	May 27
2027	1448	February 8	March 9	March 10	May 16
2028	1449	January 28	February 26	February 27	May 5
2029	1450	January 16	February 13	February 14	April 24
2030	1451	January 5	February 3	February 4	April 13
2030-2031	1452	December 26, 2030	January 24, 2031	January 25, 2031	April 2, 2031
2031-2032	1453	December 15, 2031	January 13, 2032	January 14, 2032	March 22, 2032
Post 2032	Dates move earlier by ~11 days each year				