

AMERICA 250 - COLORADO 150

Opportunities for National and Statewide Engagement

2026 marks the 150th anniversary of Colorado statehood and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is excited to share many of the opportunities, both statewide and national, that organizations and individuals have created in observance of these milestone anniversaries.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS LED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES

America's Potluck



A national initiative originating in Utah that is planning potlucks around the US on July 5th, 2026. Invites neighbors to join with one another to share a fun, communal meal, creating a sense of connection and belonging and fostering interactions among people from all walks of life.

Resources:

- America's Potluck [website](#)
- Full resource [toolkit](#)
- [Sign up](#) to host a potluck
- Pin your potluck on the [national map](#)

Sharing the Spirit of America



Organized by Hawaii's America 250 Commission, Americans across the country - from the Caribbean, across North America, to the western edge of the Pacific - will read the Declaration of Independence, together. Start time is based on 6 pm (EDT), July 8, 2026 - Please Join Us!

Resources:

- Sharing the Spirit of America [website](#)
- [Map](#) of reading locations
- [Share your](#) reading location
- [Informational flyer](#)

Light To Unite



The National Flag Foundation asks all of America, to the extent possible, to light red, white, and blue on July 4th, 2026 as a national evening of unity to celebrate our nation's 250th Birthday.

Denver's City and County building, along with many others across the country, will be contributing to this national initiative.

Resources:

- Light to Unite [website](#) and list of participating locations
- Informational [flyer](#)



STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Statewide Calendar of Events



The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is excited to share the many local events happening across Colorado in honor of our state's dual anniversaries.

Resources:

- View the [calendar](#)
- [Submit](#) an event

Longer Tables



Celebrating 150 years of our Centennial State, Longer Tables is inviting individuals, organizations and cities across the state to set a long table of any size between May and November 2026, bringing people from all walks of life together to share a meal, spark connection, and create a Colorado where everyone feels like they belong.

Resources:

- Learn about [Longer Tables](#)
- Learn about the [150 Tables Across Colorado initiative](#)

Golder 150: Cross Colorado Bikeride



The Golden 150 is a three-week bike ride across Colorado from border to border, east to west, in honor of our Centennial State's 150th birthday! The route follows the Colorado section ([Section 3](#)) of the Adventure Cycling Association's newly-launched [Golden Gravel Trail](#).

Cyclists will be traveling this itinerary self-supported from Aug 1 – 21, 2026 and invite other Colorado-loving bikepackers to join on a drop-in basis.

Resources:

- Learn about [the trip](#)
- Follow along on Instagram [@littlemissbiketour](#)

150 Dark Sky Parties



In honor of Colorado 150, Dark Sky Colorado is hosting 150 Dark Sky Parties across the state. Come observe the night sky in one of Colorado's certified International Dark Sky locations, where minimal light pollution allows the stars to shine.

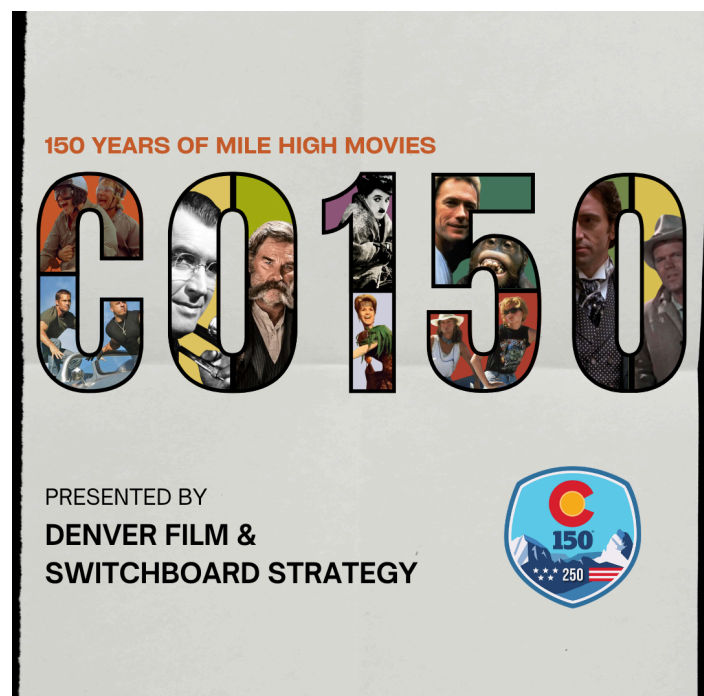
Resources:

- Learn about [Dark Sky Colorado](#)
- Access the Dark Sky [event calendar](#)



STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Colroado 150 Film Festival



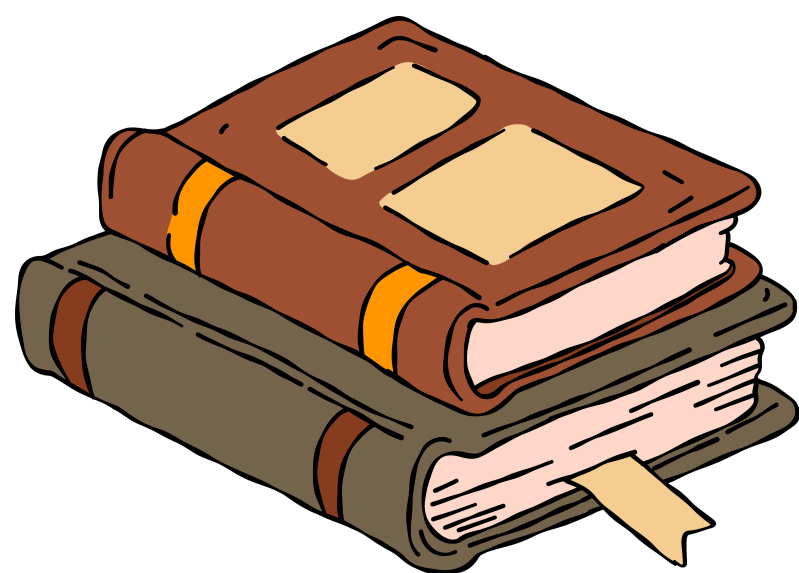
150 films. 150 screenings. Historic venues from the mountains to the plains. Watched together, in person, the way movies are meant to be seen.

The CO150 Film Festival is a collection of the best cinema ever made in Colorado, about Colorado, or by Coloradans – past and present. It's a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. And it's a genuinely good excuse to get off the couch.

Resources:

- Learn about the [statewide film fest](#)
- View the [screenings schedule](#)

Statewide Bookclub



The Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Humanities, Denver Public Library, History Colorado, and local community expert, Mark McGoff, invite you to explore the history of the United States and Colorado through these thoughtfully curated reading lists during the 250/150 commemoration events through December 2026.

Resources:

- View the [reading list](#)

American Discovery Trail - Relay Across the US



This 6,800-mile relay from California to Delaware will carry a copy of the Declaration of Independence from coast to coast, crossing the Golden Gate Bridge on the 4th of July and ending on Thanksgiving at the Atlantic Ocean. Join the celebration by participating for a day or more in a relay, attending some of the locally-hosted events, or sharing your story of personal growth and adventure. Together, we commemorate America's past and shape our future.

Resources:

- Learn about [the relay](#)
- View the relay [map and calendar](#)



AMERICA 250 - COLORADO 150 COMMISSION

SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is proud to share its signature initiatives. Below are key programs that you can engage with right now. Join us in commemorating these anniversaries through historic preservation, education and community engagement.

Digital Passport Program

A statewide digital passport in partnership with the Colorado Tourism Office. Participants can “check-in” at sites to earn rewards, badges, and exclusive offers. Sponsored by United Airlines, this digital passport program is designed to encourage both locals and visitors to explore Colorado’s hidden gems, diverse businesses, and rich heritage. [Learn more.](#)

Statewide Storytelling: A Portrait of Colorado at 150

Stories are powerful vehicles that shed light on collective histories. They can convey personal backgrounds, shift perspectives, and uncover the ways in which our experiences shape our identities. Stories connect people.

This storytelling initiative, seeks to increase representation and voices in Colorado's documented history; equip communities with skills, tools, and training; and empower local communities to collect and share stories through oral history. Together, we will co-curate at least 150 stories representing every region of our state. [Learn more.](#)

American History Exhibition

This marquee exhibition at the History Colorado Center, “Moments That Made US”, features more than 40 artifacts that witnessed the moments that shaped America. At these turning points, visitors will encounter the struggles, setbacks, resilience, and triumphs that made this nation. Our story was never inevitable. We shaped it at every point. [Learn more.](#)

Free, Print-On-Demand Exhibition

Built off of the in-person exhibition, “Moments That Made US” is a free, customizable, print-on-demand exhibition exploring the ideals at the heart of the Declaration of Independence through moments in our history that have defined their meaning. It does so in a user-friendly format that organizations can adapt, afford, and make their own ensuring that every interested institution can access compelling content in 2026. [Learn more.](#)



SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

Historic Marker Program: History Where it Happened

Created in partnership with History Colorado and funded by the [William G. Pomeroy Foundation](#), this signature initiative will place up to 150 new historic roadside markers across the state.

Local organizations, historians, and residents are invited to identify, research, and propose sites for historic markers that recognize important moments where they occurred—expanding the stories currently represented in Colorado’s historic marker system and ensuring that more voices and experiences are reflected across the state. [Learn more.](#)

Drone Shows: Stories in the Sky

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is taking its milestone celebrations to new heights with Stories in the Sky, a series of nearly 150 community drone shows lighting up Colorado's skies from September 2025 through December 2026, creating unforgettable moments for millions of Coloradans and visitors alike. This sweeping effort was developed in partnership with the Commission, Colorado Tourism Office and Visit Denver. [Learn more.](#)

Publications on Colorado History

During the 150th anniversary of our state, History Colorado will publish books, podcasts, and articles, and support the expansion of The Colorado Encyclopedia. These publications will inform new research establishing a renewed shared narrative of our state’s history. [Learn more.](#)

The Freedom Plane Exhibition: Moments That Forged a Nation

Brought to us by the National Archives and Records Administration, for the first time ever, a collection of remarkable documents from our nation’s founding is going on tour together. From an original engraving of the Declaration of Independence to a rare draft printing of the U.S. Constitution – this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the most fundamental documents in our country’s history.

Colorado is one of only eight museums receiving this special collection. [Learn more.](#)

Historic Preservation: Colorado Heritage For All

By 2026 History Colorado aims to list 150 new and revised historic sites to the State Register. Historians are working to engage with communities to identify, research, nominate, and plan for preservation of eligible sites. [Learn more.](#)

