

# A250West

## How to Semiquin

### Opportunities That Make It Easy to Get Involved in America's 250th

As the nation counts down to the 250th anniversary of American independence and we in the Centennial State make additional preparations to mark the 150th anniversary of Colorado joining the Union, many individuals and organizations may be looking for ways to get involved in the Semiquincentennial in 2026. Fortunately, there are numerous options designed to make it easy to get involved and ensure that everyone who wants to participate can do so in the way that feels right for them. Our fellow states, civic-minded organizations, the [America 250 Commission](#), and [Task Force 250](#) are all developing and sharing great opportunities we can plug into to supercharge our programming. **This document provides an overview of low- and no-cost, low-barrier-to-entry programs that your organization, your community, or just you can consider participating in.**

- [Our American Story](#) - Oral history project from A250 featuring Airstream trailers travelling the nation as mobile recording booths to gather Americans' stories, which will be archived in the Library of Congress. (Active now)
- [Flying the Flag](#) - An idea from the Hawaii State Commission to incorporate the official America 250 flag into color guard presentations from ROTC, JROTC, and other units presenting the colors at school or community sporting events. (Active Now)
- [Moments That Made US community exhibition](#) - An opportunity organized by the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission to make a print-on-demand version of the marquee exhibition at the History Colorado Center available free to museums, schools, libraries, and cultural organizations throughout Colorado and in other states around the country. (January 2026)
- [America Gives](#) - A year-long effort from the America 250 Commission in collaboration with multiple service organizations to inspire Americans to volunteer a record number of hours in 2026 to support our fellow Americans and improve our communities. (January 1, 2026)
- [America's Field Trip](#) - An student contest organized by the America 250 Commission, with incredible trips to some of the nation's most amazing places as prizes for those who share what America means to them. (Next contest in Spring 2026)

- [Civic Season](#) - An annual spotlight on civics education and American history from June 19 to July 4 organized by the youth-driven organization [Made By Us](#). There are multiple ways that local museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions can participate. (June 19-July 4, 2026)
- [Great American State Fair](#) - A fair on the National Mall running from the week before the Fourth of July to the week after, featuring pavilions or displays from every state and territory. Task Force 250 is organizing the logistics and providing the infrastructure (pavillions, power, etc), while each state and territory is being asked to supply content that they will install and staff during the run of the fair. More details forthcoming. (Approx June 26-July 12, 2026)
- [Two Lights for Tomorrow](#) - A nationwide effort organized by the Virginia 250 Commission encouraging states, communities, and individuals to display two lights - a reference to Paul Revere's Revolutionary ride - in state capitols and other prominent buildings on July 3, 2026. The [first Two Lights effort](#), on the anniversary of Revere's ride on April 18, 2025, saw tens of thousands of sites participate and wide social media engagement. (July 3, 2026)
- [Light to Unite](#) - An initiative from the National Flag Foundation encouraging states and communities to light significant buildings red, white, and blue on the Fourth of July in 2026 (or all month!). (July 4, 2026)
- [America's Potluck](#) - After the fireworks, an invitation that originated from the Utah 250 Commission to gather with your family, friends, and neighbors on July 5, 2026, for a communal meal that serves up a sense of connection and belonging and fosters interactions among Americans from all walks of life. (July 5, 2026)
- [Sharing the Spirit of America](#) - Recalling the moment when Americans first heard the Declaration of Independence read aloud in 1776, the Hawaii State Commission is coordinating a simultaneous reading of the Declaration across all 56 states and territories on July 8, 2026. (July 8, 2026)

[Lots of additional programming](#) remains in the works. As details emerge, we'll move them up to the list above.

- [America Innovates](#) - A series of Innovation Fairs showcasing the latest in American innovations that will shape our next 250 years. What better place to showcase innovation than Colorado? (Summer 2026)
- [Freedom Plane](#) - Harkening back to the Freedom Train that carried significant documents and artifacts from American History across the country in 1976, the Freedom Plane will bring American treasures from the National Archives to select cities in 2026. No information as yet about locations or timing. (Summer 2026)
- [Patriot Games](#) - A national competition being organized by Task Force 250 to spotlight outstanding high school athletes from across the country. (Summer 2026)

- [Youth250 Toolkit](#) - A resource from Youth250 and Made By Us designed to help you engage the younger generation in your community - the next generation of Coloradans and Americans. It includes a collection of tip sheets, templates, and guides to help institutions level up youth engagement. (Available now; and stay tuned for our Teen Toolkit, coming next month from [History Co:Lab](#))

These are a starting point. **What will be most important in 2026 is what happens in our communities,** and how we commemorate these anniversaries with our family, friends, and neighbors. Numerous programs and events - song contests, exhibitions, community quilts, festivals, and more - are already being planned in communities across the country to mark the Semiquincentennial. In some cases, longstanding community programs are being cobranded and given an anniversary focus in 2026.