



July 4, 2026
America250

The United States will mark the Semi quincentennial—250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence—on July 4, 2026, with cultural programs and national celebrations

Planning for this historic milestone, known as [America250](#), involves bipartisan partnerships among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, culminating in major events in America’s most historic cities and beyond.

Why It Matters

The Semi quincentennial will offer Americans a rare opportunity to reflect on the nation's founding values, acknowledge pivotal moments in history, and invest in cultural and educational legacies across all 50 states. The celebrations aim to foster unity, highlight contributions from diverse communities, and leave lasting civic infrastructure for future generations.

What To Know

- **Key Date:** July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the [Declaration of Independence](#).
- **Major Organizers:** The United States Semiquincentennial Commission (a nonpartisan commission created by Congress in 2016), America250 initiative, and the White House Task Force, chaired by President Donald Trump since 2025.
- **Leading Cities:** Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and Charleston will serve as primary hosts for federal events, with additional activities nationwide.
- **Semi quincentennial Tentpole Programs:** These include “America’s Invitation” (a nationwide storytelling project), “America’s Field Trip” (student contests), “America Gives” (service initiatives), “Our American Story” (oral and visual history project), “America Waves” (community flag-waving events), “America Innovates” (traveling tech expo) and “America’s Performance” (concert series).

Top 10 Must-See Events

1. **Salute to America 250**—Washington, D.C. (July 4)
Military parade, fireworks, and cultural showcases on the National Mall.
2. **[Mount Rushmore Fireworks](#)**—South Dakota (July 3)
A spectacular Independence Day celebration at an iconic landmark.
3. **[Battle of Princeton Reenactment](#)**—New Jersey (January 4)
Step back into Revolutionary history with this dramatic reenactment.
4. **[Stories in the Sky Drone Shows](#)**—Colorado (from September 2025 through December 2026)
High-tech storytelling through choreographed drone light displays.
5. **[Henry Ford Museum Celebration](#)**—Michigan (March 21-Jan 18, 2027)
A yearlong tribute to American innovation and ingenuity.
6. **[UFC Championship Event](#)**—White House Lawn (June 14)
A historic sports spectacle in an unprecedented setting.
7. **[National Archives Exhibition: "Free and Independent"](#)**—Washington, D.C. (through 2027)
Explore the documents that shaped America’s founding.
8. **[National Gallery of Art Semi quincentennial Exhibitions](#)**—Washington, D.C. (throughout 2026)
Exhibitions exploring 250 years of American creativity from across the nation.

9. [Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous](#)—Vincennes, Indiana (May 23 and 24)
"Midwest's premier revolutionary war reenactment."
10. [Copland & Twain Concert](#)—Milwaukee Symphony Center (May 8-10)
A musical celebration blending American classics and literary heritage.

Key 2026 Dates, Locations, Events, Celebrations

- **July 4:** National Independence Day with parades, fireworks, and the burial of a [national time capsule](#) in the Independence Mall in Philadelphia
- **July 5:** [America's Potluck](#)—community picnics nationwide
- **Nov 11:** Veterans Day Commemoration (Washington, D.C.)
- **Dec 25:** [Washington's Crossing Reenactment](#) (Pennsylvania and New Jersey)

What People Are Saying

America250's website said: "The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond."

What Happens Next

The core activities will ramp up as July 2026 approaches, with spring and summer seeing a surge of commemorations, exhibitions, and legacy projects.

Federal agencies such as the National Park Service are investing in historic site restorations and accessibility improvements, including the reopening of the First Bank of the United States in Philadelphia and the unveiling of an immersive museum beneath the Lincoln Memorial.

[US 250th Anniversary: 2026 Dates, Events and Celebrations](#)

Washington, DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Saturday, July 4, 2026, the National Archives will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country's founding, steps away from the original Declaration of Independence, on Constitution Avenue. For more than 50 years, the National Archives has held its [annual Fourth of July program](#), and this year the tradition continues with historical reenactors and a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence. Additional free family-friendly activities include a chance to meet reenactors portraying the Founding Fathers and Mothers, live musical performances, face painting, t-shirt giveaways, balloon artists, arts and crafts, and more.