



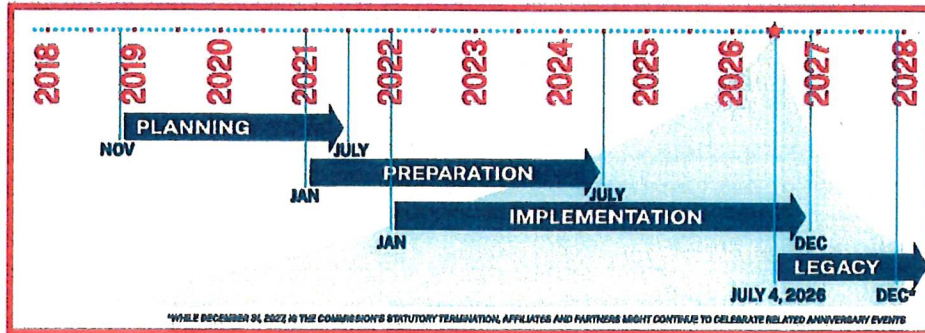
Report to the America250 In Idaho Advisory Council

Janet L. Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho State Historical Society
December 18, 2024

Background:

Public Law 114-196 (H.R.4875), established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, known as the America250 Commission, effective July 22, 2016. It is scheduled to terminate December 31, 2027. The Commission comprises congressional members, private citizens, and ex-officio members. The current chair of the Commission is Rosie Rios. Staff includes individuals responsible for operations & communications, federal partnerships, IT, logistics & archives, government affairs, legal, and administration.

AMERICA250 SCHEDULE



The America250 Commission is following the schedule outlined to execute tasks and initiatives supporting this national commemoration. America250 focuses on a multi-year, national public awareness, and engagement effort to reach Americans in every corner of the country.

These initiatives will be executed closely with federal, state, local, and private sector partners. Additionally, states and territories nationwide are planning grassroots programming to ensure that this historic milestone meets all Americans where they are. The America250 Commission is hosting national convenings with state planners.

National Context:

The America250 Commission has developed several national tentpole programs to serve as the core of national efforts in the leadup to July 4, 2026, built to educate, engage, and unite.

- **America's Culture:** An opportunity to highlight American art forms, creative expressions, and cultural touchstones, and

National Tent Pole Initiatives



AMERICA 250 ID

IDAHO'S JOURNEY, AMERICA'S LEGACY

increase access to and awareness of the arts in America.

- **America Innovates:** A traveling tech expo that will display America's greatest innovations and our aspirations for the future, asking the next generation of creators what innovations they want to create that will be critical for the next 250 years.



- **America Waves:** A unique way to create moments for all Americans to come together with their communities, wave their American flags, celebrate America's 250th, and honor the contributions of those who brought us to where we are today.

- **America's Field Trip:** a contest that invites students across the country in grades 3–12 to be part of America's 250th anniversary by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the opportunity to earn an unforgettable field trip experience at some of the nation's most iconic historic and cultural landmarks. Students are asked to submit writing or original artwork in response to the contest's prompt: "What does America mean to you?"

For the 2024-2025 America's Field Trip contest, 25 first-place awardees from each grade level category and a chaperone will receive airfare and lodging for a 3-day, 2-night trip to a select historical or cultural site. Second-place awardees will receive a \$500 cash award. The teacher associated with the top-scoring student submissions in each grade level category will receive a \$1,000 cash award.

State Activities and Actions:

Executive Branch Action

- 2022: in consultation with the Governor's Office, the Idaho State Historical Society began meeting with other state agencies to create a recommendation and portfolio of work for the state's efforts to commemorate this national milestone.
- 2024: Governor Little officially established the America250 in Idaho Task Force via a proclamation on July 1, 2024. The proclamation established the Idaho State Historical Society as the lead agency for commemoration and responsible for leading the Task Force.



Task Force Members include ISHS, ICIL, ICfA, IDPTV, IDPR, IDC, SDE, SOS, Governor's Office, IDOL, SDA, BSU, and ITD



The Task Force is empowered to develop guiding principles, legacy initiatives, outreach efforts, and liaison committees.

Legislative Action

- 2024: The Idaho State Historical Society supported the development of H.C. Resolution No. 31 with Representative Pickett, establishing the America250 in the Idaho Advisory Council and establishing the commemorative period to run from 2024-2027. The Council and Task Force will coordinate to promote events and activities for this commemoration. The official start of this Council's work is December 18, 2024. Members include Senator Guthrie, Senator Adams, Representative Mitchell, Secretary of State Phil McGrane, Treasurer Julie Ellsworth, and Idaho State Historical Society Director Janet L. Gallimore.

Legacy Projects And Task Force Initiatives

The legislature approved the governor's budget recommendation of \$1.65 million for the following legacy projects and initiatives via S.B. 1386, March 18, 2024. All funded projects are in progress.

- Idaho State Historical Society
 - *History Grants*: \$600,000 to support projects that enhance history, culture, literacy, records management and preservation practices, economic development, the arts, and civic dialogue.
 - *Oral History Initiative*: access unlimited users across the state to oral history software called TheirStory™ that streamlines the process of recording, transcribing, and managing oral history projects. Using TheirStory™ users will capture and preserve a rich tapestry of stories, experiences, and traditions with individuals in their local communities.
 - *Website and Promotion*: funds to support communications and promotion and information access related to the America250 in Idaho commemoration.
- Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
 - *"Idaho Places" Book*: print resource about rural Idaho towns, historic places, scenic byways, and state parks.
- Idaho Public Television
 - *"Idaho Places" (working title) Broadcast*: a broadcast and series of digital and social media content, and a multi-platform video series based upon the similarly named book that highlights historic places, scenic byways, and state parks in Idaho.
 - *Idaho History Series for School-Aged Children*: A redesigned multi-platform educational resource that updates a well-used series from the 1990s and aligns with the newly released supplemental curriculum from the Idaho Department of Education, resources historic resources from ISHS, and the themes of the America250 in Idaho commemoration.
- Institute for Advancing American Values, Boise State University
 - *Civics Education*: development of a one-credit workshop as an introduction to Idaho and American history and civic values and a three-credit course as an in-depth, comprehensive study of American history and civic values with potential for future collaboration with the sister four-year universities.



- *Collaboration:* stipends to faculty to integrate American examination of values, history, and civics into their current coursework or to develop new courses for widespread use to combat the declining knowledge of the expression of American values through civics and history.
- National Initiatives in development
 - Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred on the overnight of April 18 – 19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses the imagery of that shining light today as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.



Planning, Framework, and Communications

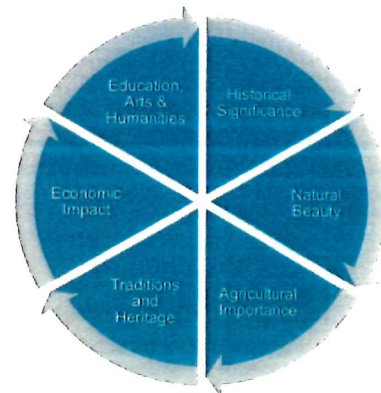
With the guidance of the Office of the Governor, legislators, and state agency partners, the Task Force established guiding principles, values, and focus areas to serve as the framework for this commemoration.

America250 in Idaho Guiding Principles

Mission: To advance the ideals of the American Revolution - equality, liberty, and justice – through meaningful community engagement and recognize, appreciate, and commemorate Idaho’s journey in America’s legacy.

Vision: To celebrate American history and the invaluable contributions of Idahoans to our region, nation, and world.

The America250 in Idaho Focus Areas represent the depth and breadth of Idaho. This framework ensures that all Idahoans can see themselves in this commemoration.





Additionally, the commemoration aligns with the following values:

Patriotism, Heritage, Resilience, Education, and Respect.

These communications embody the spirit, significance, and goals of the America250 in Idaho commemoration.



PRESERVING IDAHO'S HISTORICAL LEGACY

America250 in Idaho offers a platform to honor and preserve the state's historical significance, emphasizing its role in shaping the nation's story and ensuring Idaho's unique contributions to America's growth are recognized and cherished for future generations.



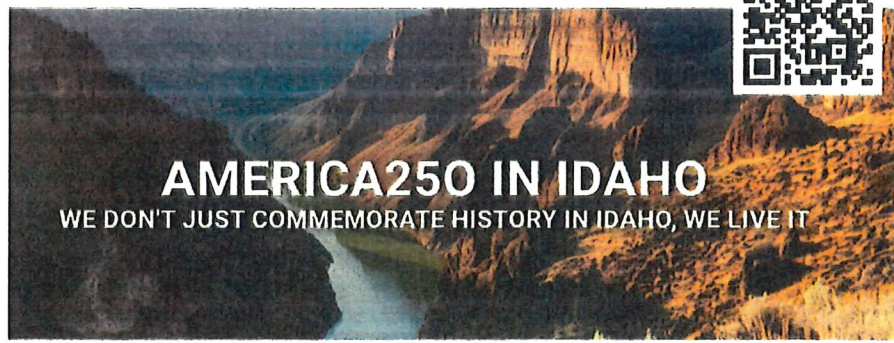
HONORING OUR FOUNDING IDEALS

America250 in Idaho celebrates the spirit of freedom, honors our nation's founding principles and history, and fosters a deep sense of patriotism by emphasizing Idahoans' shared values.



CONTINUING THE REVOLUTION'S LEGACY

America250 in Idaho is an opportunity to ignite a renewed sense of civic duty by calling on Idahoans to continue advancing the ideals of the American Revolution— liberty, justice, and equality. It inspires ongoing efforts to ensure that these foundational principles persist and evolve for future generations of Idahoans.





Past Commemorations:

1976 Bicentennial

- Projects: Centennial Farm and Ranch Program; Cataldo Mission Restoration; Lenore Archeology Dig; Publications; Veteran's Memorial and Malad Canyon State Parks, Acquisition of Old Idaho Penitentiary as historic site; oral history initiative.

2003-2006 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial

- Projects: Sacajawea Center, Salmon, Idaho; Weippe Discovery Center, Weippe, Idaho; trail restoration; Jean Baptiste Charbonneau gravesite restoration; grants; publications and events.

2013 Territorial Sesquicentennial

- Abraham Lincoln exhibition at the Idaho State Archives, Lincoln statues, Lincoln Auditorium at statehouse, program and events.

2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial

- Spirit of Idaho statue, Idaho Public TV Documentary, Before Her Time; Women's veterans medallion, Women's anthology book; Trailblazing Women of Idaho exhibition; programs and events.



**TWO LIGHTS
FOR TOMORROW**

A Nationwide Call to Action Two Lights for Tomorrow April 18 – 19, 2025

What Is Two Lights for Tomorrow

Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred on the overnight of April 18 – 19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses the imagery of that shining light today as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.

How to Participate, Part I

On April 18, 2025, we're calling for two lights to be displayed in every statehouse in the nation. They will be a reminder that the visual of a light shining out in the darkness on Revere's ride is not just something that mattered then; it's something that matters today, and for our collective tomorrow.

Some commissions are planning a public program as two lights are lit at the statehouse. This is an opportunity to not only raise public awareness of the upcoming 250th and how that visibly will be marked, but also to communicate the meaning of Revere's ride as history and remind our citizens of their part in the perpetual building of a "more perfect union."

How to Participate, Part II

The day following, states can promote a day of service on April 19th. At the community level, citizens will be called to serve their communities with volunteer projects ranging from park and cemetery clean-ups (especially with the close proximity to Earth Day) to community builds, food drives, and card writing to residents of care facilities, etc. The possibilities for service can be tailored to the needs of our citizens and in partnership with service organizations.

Projects Are Scalable for Communities and Individuals

From two spotlights at a state capitol building beaming in the darkness to smaller displays at municipal buildings, and lights in individual homes, every citizen can participate.

For state-level displays, there isn't a specific kind of light, duration of display, or location because we want it to be approachable and achievable for everyone given that each state-level commission will need to coordinate the approval processes within their own systems.

Some governor's offices are considering issuing executive orders to encourage government department buildings, municipalities, and every citizen to participate.

We encourage participation at as many locations as possible – community centers, municipal and county administrative buildings, and private residences.



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capital
Boise

WHEREAS, in the year 2026, the United States of America will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country's founding and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776; and

WHEREAS, the founding of the United States of America is one of the most extraordinary and providential events in human history and should be celebrated accordingly; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded that it is our responsibility as Americans to keep our Republic by preserving self-governance, pursuing happiness, inspiring gratitude and patriotism, and passing down patriotic traditions to future generations; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 114-196, passed by the 114th U.S. Congress and signed by the president in 2016, established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to direct the national commemoration of America's founding – known as America250 – and encouraged similar state and local efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho shall participate in this national commemoration as "America250 in Idaho"; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's representation on the Congressional America250 Caucus by U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson and U.S. Sen. Jim Risch underscores our state's commitment to this historic milestone; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho provides an opportunity for Idahoans to participate in commemorating the ideals of the American Revolution: advancing liberty, equality, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Idaho, known as the "Gem State," occupies a unique place in the mosaic of American history, with significant historical milestones, eras, innovations, and advancements; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will make Idaho's unparalleled history, distinctive attributes, and the invaluable contributions of its residents the foundation on which Idahoans understand their place in this region, the country, and the world; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will commemorate our national founding while recognizing Idaho's historical significance, natural beauty, agricultural importance, traditions and heritage, economic impact, and education, arts, and the humanities; and

WHEREAS, learning about Idaho's history builds honor in our great state and strengthens Idahoans' shared values of family, integrity, self-reliance, patriotism, and community belonging; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Idaho Legislature invites partners, communities, organizations, and all Idahoans to participate in America250 in Idaho throughout the commemorative period.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby order and direct the following:

Section 1. The Idaho State Historical Society is hereby the lead agency for executing the America250 in Idaho Commemoration.

- 1. The Idaho State Historical Society shall plan, encourage, develop, and promote initiatives and activities to be held in Idaho to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding.*
- 2. The Idaho State Historical Society shall coordinate the work of the America250 in Idaho Task Force in executing the commemoration.*
- 3. The Idaho State Historical Society shall inform and seek guidance from the America250 in Idaho Advisory Council created by House Concurrent Resolution 31*

Section 2. *The America250 in Idaho Task Force will serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall consist of the following:*

1. *The First Lady of Idaho, honorary*
2. *The Idaho Secretary of State*
3. *The Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction*
4. *The Director of the Idaho State Historical Society, serving as Chair*
5. *The Idaho State Historian, serving as Vice Chair and Secretary*
6. *The Executive Director or a representative from:*
 - a. *Idaho State Department of Agriculture*
 - b. *Idaho Commission on the Arts*
 - c. *Idaho Department of Commerce*
 - d. *Idaho Department of Education*
 - e. *Idaho Commission for Libraries*
 - f. *Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation*
 - g. *Idaho Public Television*

The Task Force will meet on a minimum quarterly cadence in coordination with the Idaho State Historical Society. The Task Force shall have the authority to establish liaison subcommittees to execute the commemoration.

The Task Force Chair shall develop reports on major commemoration initiatives and public outreach efforts for the Advisory Council.

Section 3. *The Council shall provide guidance and recommendations to key America250 stakeholders, including the Office of the Governor, to ensure a successful and impactful commemoration in Idaho. The Council shall foster statewide engagement of commemoration activities in local communities and enhance awareness of Idaho's history, values, and contributions to American history.*

Section 4. *The America250 in Idaho Commemoration shall commence in July 2024 with events, projects, and activities celebrating our nation's founding, triumphant history, and promising future.*

Section 5. *The Council and Task Force shall coordinate and promote programs and activities throughout the state to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the history and valuable contributions Idaho and its people have made to the fabric of our nation.*

Section 6. *The Council and Task Force shall complete its work and be dissolved and repealed on June 30, 2027, with a prior report to the Governor and Idaho Legislature to be maintained in the State Archives for a potential tricentennial commission to use in preparation for its work in 2076.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-eighth, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirty-fourth.



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR



PHIL MCGRANE
SECRETARY OF STATE