



America250 in Idaho Task Force Report

August 18, 2026 – Janet Gallimore, ISHS Executive Director

America250 in Idaho Task Force Administration

The America250 in Idaho Task Force's July meeting provided time to reflect on the extensive statewide programming, public engagement, and partnerships that took place throughout June and July. Task Force members noted the extraordinary pace of activity surrounding Independence Day and the strong public response to America250 events across Idaho. From civic celebrations and educational activities to heritage programs, public-lands events, arts initiatives, and national partnerships, agencies and community partners helped connect Idahoans to the nation's 250th anniversary in meaningful and visible ways.

The conclusion of the July 4th holiday period marks an important transition in America250 in Idaho (and nationally), not an endpoint. America250 in Idaho continues through June 2027, giving it an opportunity to sustain public interest, complete remaining signature initiatives, document the year's accomplishments, and strengthen existing partnerships.

Documentation & Archiving

The breadth of America250 in Idaho programming makes this documentation especially important. During the summer activation period, Idahoans participated in public celebrations, heritage programs, arts and cultural events, civic-learning activities, oral-history efforts, public-lands initiatives, and national America250 programs. Together, these materials will help preserve the story of how Idaho marked the nation's 250th anniversary through civic participation, local pride, stewardship, creativity, service, and community connection. The Task Force will coordinate the consolidation and archiving of records and materials throughout the remainder of the commemoration period.

Website, Events, and Communications

The America250 in Idaho website remains the central statewide platform for America250 events, agency initiatives, public resources, and participation opportunities. Events remain one of the website's most-used features. Task Force agencies and partners will continue to submit and promote America250-related events, activities, and programs through the federal America250 calendar map, and share relevant information through existing communication channels.

Move250 Activation and Collateral

The statewide "Move250" health and engagement campaign has been live since January, and submissions are arriving via the website form thanks to promotion by multiple agencies and partners. The America250 website now features a cumulative mileage counter on the Move250 page, providing a visible measure of statewide participation. ITD and IDPR collaborated to develop toolkit materials for partners, and the America250





Task Force printed stickers as participant incentives. ITD is working with the Office of Highway Safety on a social media campaign to further promote this initiative through the rest of the year.

Idaho's Liberty Bell Statewide Tour

The State Treasurer's Office, Kendall Ford, Idaho State Historical Society, Idaho Transportation Department, and State Risk Management are collaborating to prepare the bell for public presentation, transport, and statewide travel. The Liberty Bell restoration stands as an enduring America250 legacy—preserving an important public artifact, celebrating Idaho's connection to the national story, and inviting all Idahoans to participate in the ongoing work of liberty. The tour will start in September, and the bell will come home to Boise for a November 19 event on the Capitol steps.



September 11th Commemoration Planning

The America250 in Idaho Task Force is coordinating with the Idaho Department of Education, Idaho State Historical Society, and the Commission on the Arts to develop plans to recognize the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. The proposed initiative, “September 11 at 25: Remember. Learn. Serve.” will connect the anniversary to America250 in Idaho’s broader goals of civic learning, historical understanding, service, and community engagement.



The proposed approach recognizes that September 11th is a historical event, not a lived memory, for current K–12 students. It would provide schools with accessible, age-appropriate opportunities to examine primary sources and first-person accounts; remember those killed in the attacks; recognize survivors, families, first responders, service members, veterans, and others affected by the attacks and their aftermath; and reflect on civic responsibility, service, courage, and community.

The Task Force aims to develop a dedicated September 11th page on the America250 website to serve as a hub of information related to the 9/11 25th anniversary, including messaging and recorded video from

Superintendent Critchfield. The campaign would primarily encourage schools to determine locally appropriate ways to recognize the anniversary while organizing possible activities around three themes:

- Remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and recognize the individuals, families, and communities affected.
- Learn about the attacks, their historical significance, the American response, and their lasting effects on the United States and the world.
- Serve by reflecting on civic responsibility and recognizing the contributions of first responders, service members, veterans, public servants, volunteers, and local community organizations.



Available resources will include materials from national partners, including the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and 9.11 Day.

The proposal also aligns the following service, civics, and public-engagement opportunities:

1. **9/11 Day Service Challenge:** 9/11 Day, a national America250 partner, encourages participation in volunteer projects across the state. Individuals and organizations may use existing resources from this partner, including toolkits and brand assets, to help organize, promote, and amplify 9/11 Day service activities.



2. **My America 2026 Collaborative Flag Project:** In partnership with the My America 2026 project, Idaho schools, libraries, youth organizations, and community partners will be invited to create student-designed tiles reflecting what America means to them, their families, and their communities. Individual tiles will contribute to collaborative American flag installations, providing a creative and accessible way for students to participate in the nation's Semiquincentennial commemoration. The project will connect local student expression to larger themes of civic identity, freedom, belonging, history, community, and responsibility to future generations. The America250 in Idaho website will provide participation information and track Idaho tile and flag production as materials are completed and submitted.



3. **TheirStory Reflection Campaign:** In partnership with TheirStory, Idaho's oral-history software partner, the Task Force will launch a reflection campaign through which Idahoans may submit personal reflections related to September 11, service, remembrance, civic responsibility, and the broader American story. Selected recordings will become part of America250 in Idaho's historical record, preserving contemporary Idaho voices for future generations.

