



# CALIFORNIA 175 & AMERICA 250

## COMMUNITY TOOLKIT

### BACKGROUND

California continues to celebrate 175 years of statehood through summer 2026 as the United States celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. The Governor's Office and the California 175/America 250 Working Group are encouraging communities across the Golden State to [celebrate](#) and highlight California's ingenuity and innovation, resilience, joy and sense of belonging while uplifting community, civic engagement, volunteerism and storytelling. As part of the commemoration, the Governor's Office is also collaborating with [America250](#), a nonpartisan non-profit, encouraging residents to observe the nation's milestone anniversary through a series of initiatives.

### CELEBRATE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

To help your community commemorate the occasions we've come up with a list of ideas below - but encourage other creative ways to uplift these anniversaries!

1. Issue a proclamation recognizing July 4, 2026 as the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Review [proclamation guide](#) for inspiration.
2. Request official CA 175/America 250 logos for free and request to add your community event to the CA 175/America 250 [events page](#) by submitting a [Brand Toolkit Request Form](#).
3. Incorporate commemorations into [parades, festivals, community gatherings, and fairs](#) by uplifting the anniversaries and/or using one of the official logos at these events.



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4. Community day(s) of service - create your own, partner with [California Volunteers](#), or get ideas and record service hours at [America Gives](#). Please reach out to [cacelebrates@gov.ca.gov](mailto:cacelebrates@gov.ca.gov) for a connection to California Volunteers.
5. Participate in [America's Potluck](#), an initiative spearheaded by America250 Utah to encourage communities across the country to gather to share a meal - building community and a sense of belonging on Sunday, July 5, 2026 - or a day of your choosing. Check out the [California guide](#) with a recipe flipbook curated by CA GROWN.
6. Take part in [Sharing the Spirit of America](#), a program conceived by Hawai'i America250, which invites people across the U.S. to read the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 2026 at 3pm PT - an important reminder of the ideals our nation was founded on. Review the [California guide](#) for more info.
7. Encourage your local **library, museum, historical society, or tourism center** to uplift the anniversaries through programs and CA 175/America 250 branding. Organizations can download [Moments That Made US](#), 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.
8. Light up your municipal building or local landmark in red, white and blue. Learn more about the National Flag Foundation's [Light to Unite](#) program.
9. **Collect and share stories** of what it means to be a Californian, American, or member of your community.
10. Encourage your community members to participate in other America250 initiatives by [sharing their story](#) or [nominating an unsung champion](#) to be included in the permanent record and potentially at the Library of Congress.
11. Create a **time capsule** for your own community to keep.
12. Purchase America250 branded **flags and signage** from their licensed vendors: [Pacific Coast Flag](#), [America250 Wholesale Store](#), or [AMI Graphics](#).

