



# CALIFORNIA 175 & AMERICA 250

## COMMUNITY TOOLKIT

### BACKGROUND

California continues to celebrate 175 years of statehood through summer 2026 as the United States prepares to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. The Governor's Office and 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 encouraging civic literacy and engagement, storytelling and creative partnerships. As part of this 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. 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 [Branding Toolkit Request Form](#).
2. Incorporate commemorations into [parades, festivals, community gatherings, and fairs](#) by uplifting the anniversaries and/or using one of the official logos at these events.
3. 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.



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4. Become a [Clean California Community](#). Please reach out to [cacelebrates@gov.ca.gov](mailto:cacelebrates@gov.ca.gov) for a connection.
5. Create a **time capsule** for your own community to keep.
6. Encourage your local **library, museum, historical society, or tourism center** to uplift the anniversaries through programs and CA 175/America 250 branding.
7. **Collect and share stories** of what it means to be a Californian, American, or member of your community.
8. Encourage students to submit an entry to [America's Field Trip](#), an initiative by America250. Submissions due March 30, 2026.
9. Promote America250's [America's Startup](#), a competition for undergraduate students whose ideas could advance U.S. progress and highlight American ingenuity. Submissions due March 31, 2026.
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. Participate in [America's Potluck](#), an initiative spearheaded by America250 Utah to encourage communities across the country to gather together to share a meal - building community and a sense of belonging on Sunday, July 5, 2026 - or a day of your choosing.
12. 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.
13. Purchase America250 branded **flags and signage** from their licensed vendors: [Pacific Coast Flag](#), [America250 Wholesale Store](#), or [AMI Graphics](#).

