



INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 4, 2026

July 4, 2026, will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone is an opportunity to 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.

We encourage every community in the state to mark this occasion by augmenting their normal Fourth of July activities with a few easy-to-implement suggestions listed on the back.

Why July 4?

Independence Day is July 4 because that's the day in 1776 when the Continental Congress officially approved the text of Declaration of Independence. The vote on the decision to become independent was actually two days earlier, on July 2, but because July 4 is printed at the top of the Declaration document itself, it became the date Americans celebrate independence.

My town doesn't have a July 4 event. What do we do?

For communities that don't usually host a July 4 event, we encourage something simple and achievable to mark this historic occasion. Ask your mayor and city council if your community can participate in some of the ideas listed on the back.

Can't afford a traditional parade or fireworks? You can still participate! Consider a kids parade with bicycles, tricycles, and wagons or host a community potluck meal.



More ideas and resources are available on our website
www.America250WA.org

INDEPENDENCE DAY IDEAS

How You Can Participate



Read the Declaration of Independence Aloud

Any community can host a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, ideally with young people involved. Get a copy here: <https://america250wa.org/declaration-transcript>



Host a Community or Neighborhood Potluck

Encourage people in your community to gather with family and friends over the holiday weekend as part of America's Potluck, being organized by the State of Utah. We encourage everyone to drag those folding tables out of the garage and have a meal with your neighbors, or host a community potluck in a local park. You can even use our the commemorative apple pie recipe, courtesy of the Washington Apple Pie Commission. Visit: <https://america250.utah.gov/americaspotluck/>



Flag Retirement Ceremony

Work with your local American Legion or VFW Post to host a flag retirement ceremony. A flag retirement ceremony is a dignified way to dispose of worn or damaged flags. For more information: <http://america250wa.org/flag-retirement>



Plant a Tree

The Liberty Tree was a famous tree in Boston, Massachusetts as an early symbol of resistance against British rule in the years before the American Revolution. Communities can honor that tree by planting a tree in their community which will be a living legacy for America's 250th. To learn more about the original Liberty Tree, visit: <https://www.america250wa.org/liberty-tree>



Community Photo

Mark this historic occasion with a community photo. Try and get as many people in your community together in one place for a group photo. This photo can be displayed at city hall or other locations as a memento of 2026.



Wave a Flag

At 2:50 p.m. (PT) on July 4 we encourage people to stop what they are doing, go outside, and wave an American flag. Encourage community members to capture this moment in photo or video with their mobile phones, or, make it your official community photo for 2026.



Create a Wish Wall

Create a mural of wishes on a wall for your community. People can write their own message of "What I Wish for America" on a post-it note and add to the wall to create a mosaic of community wishes. For more information: <https://thecivicseason.com/wish-walls>



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