



QUICK START ND250 PLANNING GUIDE



North Dakota will join the nation on July 4, 2026, in marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. We hope you will find ways to commemorate the event, honor our history, elevate diverse voices, and inspire civic pride.

This “Get Started Toolkit” can help communities, schools, museums, businesses, service groups, and civic organizations begin planning. Think of it as a quick-start guide: simple ideas you can act on now, with more detailed toolkits to come in the months ahead.

WHAT IS ND250?

ND250 is North Dakota’s contribution to America’s 250th birthday. Our goal is to support and inspire events, projects, and stories that reflect the Peace Garden State’s unique place in the American story. From rural towns to tribal nations, every community has a role in shaping this milestone.

MESSAGING THEMES

As part of your quick start guide, we've provided some themes to help us shine a light on North Dakota stories that connect us to the bigger national story and provide unique perspective in our role in building this nation. These themes are just a starting point and they serve to:

- **Provide focus and coherence for planning**
- **Encourage storytelling reflecting all North Dakota voices**
- **Link local and statewide events to the larger national celebration**
- **Support collaboration, coordination, and consistent branding across communities**

ND250 THEMES TO HELP GUIDE YOUR PLANS

Our four themes reflect North Dakota's heritage and values—and invite you to bring your own perspective into the celebration of America's 250th birthday.



First Peoples & Living Cultures

Highlight the traditions of North Dakota tribal nations and their people. Celebrate art, languages, sovereignty, and ongoing cultural contributions.



Land & Legacy

Explore how our rich soils, vast prairies, and rugged badlands shaped our state's identity, economy, and conservation ethic.



Innovation & Excellence

Recognize how North Dakotans have adapted and led change, from farming cooperatives and energy development to civic movements and immigrant contributions.



Celebrating Together

Create shared experiences that connect neighbors, honor history, and strengthen community pride.

QUICK THOUGHT-STARTERS BY COMMUNITY GROUPS

These are just starter ideas—please adapt them, expand them, or create your own. We want your celebration to reflect your community’s point of view on this once-in-our-lifetime event.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & CIVIC GROUPS

- ▶ **First Peoples & Living Cultures:** Invite tribal representatives to share perspectives or cultural expressions at a community ND250 event.
- ▶ **Land & Legacy:** Dedicate a mural, historical marker, or project that connects your town’s story to 250 years of American history.
- ▶ **Innovation & Excellence:** Highlight a local tradition of cooperation, industry, or community leadership through an ND250 proclamation or event.
- ▶ **Celebrating Together:** Feature an ND250 float, band, or special program in your annual community celebration.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH GROUPS

- ▶ **First Peoples & Living Cultures:** Create a student art or writing project inspired by Native American history.
- ▶ **Land & Legacy:** Start a classroom or school garden connected to North Dakota’s land and agricultural heritage.
- ▶ **Innovation & Excellence:** Students research examples of excellence from their own town or county — such as a local leader, invention, or achievement that made an impact.
- ▶ **Celebrating Together:** Organize a student-led reading of the Declaration of Independence or a service project branded with ND250.



MUSEUMS & LIBRARIES

- ▶ **First Peoples & Living Cultures:** Work with tribal communities to feature objects, oral histories, or art that highlight Native sovereignty and community connection.
- ▶ **Land & Legacy:** Create a display that shows how local landscapes and resources have shaped your community's story.
- ▶ **Innovation & Excellence:** Develop a mini-exhibit or program highlighting local industry, energy, or civic milestones tied to ND250.
- ▶ **Celebrating Together:** Host a story-sharing event where residents bring photos, artifacts, or memories for an ND250 collection.

BUSINESSES

- ▶ **First Peoples & Living Cultures:** Partner with Native artists or entrepreneurs to showcase their work as part of ND250.
- ▶ **Land & Legacy:** Feature local foods, beverages, arts and crafts in a special ND250-themed event or display.
- ▶ **Innovation & Excellence:** Share your company's history of innovation or adaptation as part of a community ND250 spotlight.
- ▶ **Celebrating Together:** Sponsor a local ND250 celebration or provide resources to support community gatherings.

CIVIC & SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- ▶ **First Peoples & Living Cultures:** Partner with tribal nations to host a community learning event about tribal leadership traditions.
- ▶ **Land & Legacy:** Organize a community service project that supports the improvement of a community shared space.
- ▶ **Innovation & Excellence:** Host a shared community meal and highlight stories of immigrant families, civic leaders, or volunteers who shaped your community's history.
- ▶ **Celebrating Together:** Host a ND250-themed challenge that raises awareness for ND civics education and continued education.





USING ND250 BRANDING

Download the ND250 logo, brand guidelines, and ready-to-use graphics from the state website. Incorporate them on flyers, posters, websites, and social media.

Hashtags to use: **#ND250**, **#America250ND**, **#America250NorthDakota**.

STAY CONNECTED

This is just the beginning. Expanded toolkits for communities, schools, museums, and businesses will be available soon with more detailed resources and templates.

Sign up at **www.ND250.com/contact** to receive email updates when new toolkits and resources are released.

Together, let's make North Dakota's role in America's 250th birthday unforgettable!

ABOUT ND250 COMMISSION

The ND250 Commission, administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, leads the state's efforts to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence which will be celebrated in 2026. Through meaningful, inclusive, and inspiring projects and events, the commission celebrates North Dakota's role in the American story.

VISIT www.nd.gov/events
FOR A LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

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