

IN CONGRESS JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that the reasons which impel them to the separation should be explained. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Liberty. — That the Security of the Liberty of the People shall not be so frequently violated, as to leave them without the Security of Laws; and that frequent changes of Government, arising from the frequent alterations of the Laws, shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Liberty. — That the safety and Liberty of the People require a firm and stable Government, founded on the consent of the People, and that the Laws should be such as to secure the Liberty and Property of the People, and that the Government should be such as to secure the Liberty and Property of the People, and that the Laws should be such as to secure the Liberty and Property of the People.



AMERICA 250 IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW COMMEMORATES

250 Years of America

LATAHCOUNTYHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG/AMERICA-250

What is America 250?

On July 4, 1776 the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. The document stated that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject to the British rule and that all men are created equal with unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The United States of America commemorates the semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary, of that document and the start of the American Experiment on July 4, 2026.

For more information, visit america250.org.

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America 250 in Idaho

During the 2024 session the Idaho State Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 declaring 2024 through 2027 as the commemoration period for America 250 in Idaho, encouraging anniversary activities throughout the state.

For more information, visit america250.idaho.gov.

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America 250 in Moscow

The Moscow America 250 Commission, led by the Latah County Historical Society, and comprised of key stakeholders and partners, will plan commemorative activities throughout the community through 2027. Information and a calendar of events can be found at latahcountyhistoricalsociety.org/america-250.

Community Partners:

- University of Idaho
- Latah Library District
- Moscow Chamber of Commerce + Visitor Center
- Moscow School District
- Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre
- City of Moscow & Latah County
- Idaho Humanities Council
- and others



The Committee for America 250 at the University of Idaho

The University of Idaho has also created a committee to encourage student-led research, conversation, and programming in honor of the commemoration. Drawing on university expertise, student perspectives, and community partners, this committee seeks to bring unique contributions to the broader state and national efforts. Co-chaired by Dulce Kersting-Lark and Dr. Rebecca Scofield, the committee is committed to providing resources and guidance for anyone at the university looking to incorporate America 250 themes into events or activities over 2026. For more information, visit uidaho.edu/ui/america250-idaho.

The Moscow America 250 Commission will partner with the Committee for America 250 at the University of Idaho when appropriate. The committee chairs are also members of the commission.

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Local Commemoration Has Already Begun!



From August 23 to October 3, 2025 the Latah County Historical Society hosted the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America* exhibition at the University of Idaho Library, supported by the Idaho Humanities Council. The exhibit and public programming launched local commemoration efforts.

Select Moscow America 250 Activities

Moscow League of Women Voters Speaker Series talk: April 22, 2026

Moscow America 250 info sessions at the Moscow Farmers Market: First Saturday of the Month 9 am - 12pm

Moscow's Carnegie Library 120th Anniversary Exhibit & Ribbon-Cutting: May 8, 2026
5:30pm

Dryland Agriculture History Exhibit, Moscow Chamber of Commerce + Visitor Center:
June 12 - July 28, 2026

Booth and Student Portraits at the ArtWalk Season Finale Street Fair: June 13, 2026

America 250 Week at the Latah Library District Summer Reading Program:
June 30 - July 7, 2026

Fourth of July in Friendship Square at the Moscow Farmers Market: July 4, 2026

"MMS Presents Heroes Without Headlines" Common Read podcast, Moscow Middle School Library Ambassador Takeover - MSD #281 Community Schools Podcast

Latah County Historical Society Community Oral History Initiative

Details forthcoming:

University of Idaho Student Projects

Idaho Humanities Council Film Festival at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre

50 Years of the Moscow Farmers Market exhibit at the Moscow Chamber of Commerce

McConnell Mansion Museum 140th Anniversary

Community volunteer days with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Alliance

How Can You Participate?

Want to incorporate America 250 into your business, event, or program? Think about ways you can integrate the commemoration's themes into your activities. The America 250 in Idaho Advisory Council has identified focus areas to make the semiquincentennial meaningful to Idahoans. Add your event to our Moscow community calendar, share the commission's commemorative programs on social media, and reach out to the commission for other ways to support the anniversary.

America 250 in Idaho Focus Areas

- Historical Significance
- Natural Beauty
- Agricultural Importance
- Traditions & Heritage
- Economic Impact
- Education, Arts & Humanities

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Why America 250 Matters

In the past, commemorations around anniversaries have been a uniting force, bridging community divides and bringing attention to important history. The Bicentennial was a driving force for historic preservation and oral history collecting amid strife following the Vietnam War.

The anniversary of the Declaration offers chances to have nuanced and complex conversations about history and our founding principles that are needed to understand our current context. The Moscow America 250 Commission seeks to understand how our region has changed in fundamental ways over the past 250 years. These changes have in turn helped create change at the state and national levels. We will examine this history with programs that add approachable, educational, and thoughtful discussions to the commemoration.

Organizations across the country anticipate a surge in tourism in 2026 related to America 250 events. Similarly, the Route 66 Centennial brings additional attention to cross-country travel. Many outlets are already reporting boosts in early bookings for 2026 and estimating one of the biggest travel years in recent history.^{1,2} This means opportunities for local economies to harness the momentum of the commemoration for their communities.

Moscow America 250 Commission

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Other Resources

Many cultural organizations are providing support and developing resources for the semiquincentennial intended for public use. There are also many additional resources for educators beyond those listed below.

Idaho

[America 250 in Idaho](#)

[PBS/Idaho Public Television](#)

[Idaho Humanities Council](#)

Idaho State Historical Society - [“Moment’s that Made Us” customizable exhibit & Oral History Initiative](#)

National

[American Association for State and Local History](#)

[National Archives](#)

[National Constitution Center](#)