

# AMERICA



# ALABAMA

## Community Digital Toolkit

---

**GO**

Overview

**GO**

A250AL Vision, Mission and Goals

**GO**

How to Form a Local A250AL Committee

**GO**

Become a Sequincentennial Community

**GO**

Become a Made in Alabama Brand Partner

**GO**

Semiquincentennial Schools

**GO**

How Can I Help?

**GO**

Upcoming Events

**GO**

Helpful Links

## Overview



On July 4, 2026, the United States will mark the 250th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, the birth of our Nation.

The mission of the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission is to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States' Declaration of Independence by supporting and promoting a multitude of programs and events that educate, engage, and unite Alabamians around the nation's founding principles.

*"From Concord Bridge in 1775 to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965 and beyond, the quest for liberty has resonated through the generations."*

— Tom Walker, Founder and President Emeritus, American Village

### One Nation. Many Stories.

Your story, a part of America's rich tapestry, joins diverse voices responding to America's Invitation. Your reflections on our past, present, and future contribute to the creation of history's most inclusive commemoration.

**We hope this Grassroots Community Toolkit will help you plan your celebration.**

America250 Alabama has put together this easy-to-use Digital Toolkit to provide information, downloadable and sharable flyers, links to web-based content, suggested hashtags, and ways for you and your community to engage in the celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

We also want you to share your ideas, stories, photos and videos with us, and to encourage other Alabamians to participate.

**What does America mean to you? We want to know. This could be:**

- ★ A short video talking about your hopes and dreams for our country or showing local or cultural traditions, activities, places, foods, or dances
- ★ Old photos or videos of sentimental moments
- ★ Artwork, a poem, a song, or an essay
- ★ Images from a special place in your community, a family treasure, a recipe, a milestone, or whatever you consider your own slice of Americana

Share your story by visiting: <https://america250al.org/share-your-personal-story/>

**We want to provide you with the tools you need to:**

- ★ Honor America's Veterans and celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthdays of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps in 2025
- ★ Encourage your local schools to participate and become official Semiquincentennial Schools
- ★ Celebrate Flag Day in your community
- ★ Celebrate Independence Day in your community
- ★ Encourage local businesses to become Made in Alabama Brand Partners
- ★ Encourage local schools to become Alabama Semiquincentennial Schools
- ★ Participate in America Gives – the largest national day of service in America's history
- ★ Tell us about your local celebrations and commemorations so that we can share them with all of Alabama (and America!) <https://america250al.org/events-map/create-event/>

**Would you like to form your own county, city, museum, or organization semiquincentennial committee?**

- ★ We have information in this toolkit on how to do that

**Do you have questions? Contact us here:**

<https://america250al.org/contact/>



*“From Concord Bridge of 1775, to the Edmund Pettus Bridge of 1965, and beyond, the quest for liberty has resonated through the generations. It is in liberty that we have been united as one people. So as we celebrate America's 250th birthday, let us together be the "we" in "we the people.”*

Tom Walker  
Founder and President Emeritus  
American Village Citizenship Trust

## VISION

For Alabamians to understand the importance of their role as active and responsible citizens united in their dedication to the founding principles of our nation, and the pursuit of a more perfect Union.

## MISSION

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States' Declaration of Independence by supporting and promoting a multitude of programs and events that educate, engage, and unite Alabamians around the nation's founding principles.

## GOALS

### The 4 Goals of the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission:

- 1** Enrich the awareness and understanding of the principles of our Declaration of Independence, how we achieved independence in the American Revolutionary War, and how we established our system of constitutional self-government.
- 2** Promote Semiquincentennial events and celebrations that will enhance historic and civic knowledge and practice, thereby advancing the cause of liberty and American self-government.
- 3** Educate students and the public to increase knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the centuries long quest for “liberty and justice for all”. Share the stories and contributions of all the people who have inhabited our Alabama land.
- 4** Emphasize the service and sacrifices of veterans of all generations who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encourage Alabamians to honor them through our State's Veterans' Register of Honor.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

- **Spread the word!**

Let your local community know that A250AL is approaching and they should participate!

- **Get involved!**

Your support is crucial! Forming local committees and advisory groups is a great way to start.

- **Advocate for America250AL**

Talk to your local representatives and tell them how important this commemoration is to you.

[www.America250AL.org](http://www.America250AL.org)



# How to Form a Local A250AL Committee



## *Planning America's 250th at the Local Level*


As we approach America's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026, every community in Alabama has an opportunity to contribute to this historic celebration. A **Local A250AL Committee** can lead the way by organizing programs, events, and initiatives that reflect your community's history, culture, and civic pride.

### **1. How Do We Form a Committee?**

Start by identifying a **lead sponsor**—this could be the mayor, a county commissioner, a civic organization, or a group of engaged citizens. Pass or adopt a **Local A250AL Resolution** to officially establish the committee and signal your community's commitment to participating in the statewide celebration.

#### **Steps to get started:**

- Use the sample resolution included in this toolkit to propose local formation.
- Appoint or recruit 8–15 members to serve on the committee.
- Establish regular meeting times (monthly or quarterly).
- Assign roles such as chair, co-chair, secretary, and communications contact.

 *Tip: This can be formed as a temporary ad hoc committee under your city or county government, or as a subcommittee of an existing group such as a chamber of commerce or historical society.*

---

### **2. Who Should Be Involved?**

A successful A250AL committee should reflect the diversity and spirit of your local community. Consider inviting representatives from:

- Local government (mayor, council, commissioners)

- Historical societies and museums
- Chambers of commerce and business leaders
- Libraries and cultural institutions
- Schools and educators
- Veterans' organizations
- Churches and faith-based groups
- Tourism, hospitality, and parks/recreation departments
- Media and communications professionals
- Youth leaders and student representatives

👉 *Aim for broad representation—both in demographics and in sectors. This ensures inclusive and well-rounded programming.*

---

### **3. What Can the Committee Do?**

Your Local A250AL Committee will guide planning, promote engagement, and serve as the local point of contact with the Alabama Semiquincentennial Commission. Activities can begin in 2025 and continue through July 4, 2026.

#### **Sample Ideas:**

##### **Educational Programs**

- Make sure local schools have signed up to participate as official Semiquincentennial Schools for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Host school essay or art contests about American history.
- Do a book report on one of America's Founding Fathers or Founding Mothers.
- Partner with educators to teach about the Declaration of Independence or local Revolutionary War figures. Utilize activities and lesson plans from the A250AL Digital Toolkit for Schools.
- Organize a student-led reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th.
- Design and suggest flower varieties for a red, white and blue flower garden at a local school.
- Hold a "Dress like a Patriot" day.
- Make a fly a kite, honoring Dr. Benjamin Franklin.
- Add a Colonial game like hoops or trap ball to field day.

##### **Public Celebrations**


- Plan a special July 4th event in 2026—parade, concert, or fireworks.
- Organize a community picnic, flag-raising ceremony, or historical reenactment.
- Organize a community walk the equivalent of the length from Lexington to Concord, or hold a patriotic 5K run.
- Partner with local festivals to add a Semiquincentennial component.

##### **Legacy Projects**

- Place a historical marker or time capsule.

- Restore a historic site or building in partnership with civic groups.
- Plant 250 trees or create a mural reflecting your community's journey.
- Design and paint a commemorative A250AL mural.

### Storytelling & History Sharing

- Collect oral histories or family stories and share them through a website or exhibit.
- Submit stories to the state's "Share Your Personal Story" platform:  
 <https://america250al.org/share-your-personal-story>


### Community Engagement

- Recognize local veterans and service members.
  - Highlight the contributions of underrepresented communities.
  - Host town halls or civic forums on "What does freedom mean today?"
- 

## 4. Stay Connected

We encourage all local committees to stay in touch with the **Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission** for resources, recognition, and statewide promotional support. We're here to help!

- Share your events and initiatives so we can spotlight them.
- Look out for branding materials, banners, and event toolkits.
- Reach out to coordinate timing and themes across communities.

 **Contact us:**      Natalie Steed  
  
Executive Officer, A250AL  
  
[nstead@americanvillage.org](mailto:nstead@americanvillage.org)

 **Learn more:**      <https://america250al.org>



## Local A250AL Committee Formation Checklist

Use this checklist to guide the creation and activation of your community's Local A250AL Committee.

### ◆ Step 1: Get Organized

- ☐ Identify a lead sponsor (mayor, council member, civic group, or citizen leader)
- ☐ Adopt a local resolution to officially form your A250AL Committee
- ☐ Determine the host entity (e.g., city government, chamber of commerce, historical society)
- ☐ Set a timeline for committee activity (recommended: now through July 4, 2026)

### ◆ Step 2: Form the Committee

- ☐ Recruit 8–15 members representing diverse sectors of the community
- ☐ Include representatives from:
  - ☐ Local government
  - ☐ Schools/educators
  - ☐ Historical organizations
  - ☐ Veterans' groups
  - ☐ Civic, faith-based, or business groups
  - ☐ Youth/student leaders
  - ☐ Tourism/media/arts representatives
- ☐ Elect or appoint roles (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, etc.)

### ◆ **Step 3: Begin Planning**

- ☐ Schedule regular meetings (monthly or quarterly)
- ☐ Brainstorm event and project ideas
- ☐ Assign subcommittees or task forces if needed (e.g., education, events, legacy projects)
- ☐ Choose a signature event or legacy initiative to anchor your efforts

### ◆ **Step 4: Connect & Communicate**

- ☐ Register your committee with the Alabama Semiquincentennial Commission
- ☐ Sign up for A250AL updates and announcements
- ☐ Attend monthly A250AL Zoom calls
- ☐ Promote your plans locally and share them with <https://america250al.org>
- ☐ Submit local stories or events for statewide recognition

### ◆ **Step 5: Celebrate & Reflect**

- ☐ Host your official 250th events between now and July 4, 2026
- ☐ Document your community's celebration through photos, video, and news coverage
- ☐ Share a summary of your efforts with A250AL to be included in the state's commemorative materials
- ☐ Consider leaving a lasting legacy—such as a historical marker, tree planting, or time capsule



## **A RESOLUTION For Alabama Counties/Cities/Towns/Communities**

A resolution of the ( \_\_ County/ \_\_ City/ \_\_ Town/ \_\_ Community) of \_\_\_\_\_, Alabama, supporting the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission (AMERICA250AL) for the commemoration and celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

WHEREAS, The Alabama legislature and Governor created AMERICA250AL by joint resolution in 2021 to plan, promote, and implement where appropriate public celebrations and commemorations of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026 and of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, AMERICA250AL hopes to engage ALL Alabamians and ALL 67 counties through their many signature and officially recognized programs, projects and events over the next two years by inspiring future leaders and celebrating all Americans and Alabamians contributions to the nation over the last 250 years;

WHEREAS, by adoption of AMERICA250AL's educational outreach toolkits, we hope to educate, engage, and unite citizens across the state in celebration.

RESOLVED, \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_ County/ \_\_ City/ \_\_ Town/ \_\_ Community) officially establishes an AMERICA250AL Committee made up of a diverse group of citizens to work with AMERICA250AL on any and all activities within \_\_\_\_\_. The participants of the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee will be strictly voluntary roles and there will be no compensation for participation.

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_ County/ \_\_ City/ \_\_ Town/ \_\_ Community) legislative delegation and AMERICA250AL Commission.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the ( \_\_ County/ \_\_ City/ \_\_ Town/ \_\_ Community) of \_\_\_\_\_, Alabama, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/  
( \_\_ County/ \_\_ City/ \_\_ Town/ \_\_ Community) COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Become an Official Semiquincentennial Community



## Semiquincentennial City/Town Participation Guidelines

### Become an Official Semiquincentennial Community – Celebrating 250 Years of American History

---

As we approach America's 250th anniversary in 2026, the Alabama Semiquincentennial Initiative invites cities and towns across our state to join in a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate our shared history. Our goal is to educate citizens about our nation's founding, engage communities in meaningful observances, and unite Alabamians around the values and stories that connect us.

To be recognized as an ***Official Semiquincentennial City or Town***, we invite communities to commit to a few simple and meaningful actions that honor our nation's 250th anniversary and encourage civic engagement.

#### **Minimum Participation Requirements (choose at least 3):**

- **Support Semiquincentennial School Participation**  
Encourage local schools to take part in the Semiquincentennial Schools Initiative through educational programs, student projects, or community engagement.
- **Fly the American Flag**  
Proudly display the U.S. flag at municipal buildings and public spaces throughout the commemorative year, especially on national holidays.
- **Host or Promote a Commemorative Ceremony or Event**  
Organize or support at least one public event or ceremony that highlights the nation's 250th birthday, such as a community gathering, historical presentation, or veterans' recognition.
- **Honor Veterans and Service Members**  
Share information, host events, or create displays recognizing the contributions of veterans and those currently serving in the Armed Forces.
- **Promote Civic Engagement and History**  
Encourage community-wide participation in activities that celebrate local history, community service, or the nation's founding values.



- **Public Recognition of Participation**

Pass a simple resolution or proclamation declaring your municipality's participation in the Semiquincentennial celebration.

- **Create a local committee to coordinate activities.**
- **Collaborate with neighboring towns or local organizations.**
- **Highlight Semiquincentennial efforts in newsletters or social media.**

Become a Made in Alabama Brand Partner



**Alabama Businesses: Help Alabama Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
— Become a Made in Alabama Brand Partner!**

In 2026, the United States of America will commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence – America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday. *America 250 Alabama* wants your company to be a partner in Alabama's celebration of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Although America's official 250th birthday will be July 4, 2026, events have already begun!

*America 250 Alabama*, the state commission charged with planning and promoting America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday here in Alabama, is working with the assistance of the American Village, a nonprofit American history and civics education campus in Montevallo, AL.

We invite you to become a ***Made in Alabama Brand Partner***. Through this partnership, you and your company can participate in the celebration of America's semiquincentennial (250<sup>th</sup>) by branding one or more of your products distributed in Alabama with the official America250AL logo. In return, America250 Alabama will highlight your company and product(s) on the website and in social media.

*America 250 Alabama* (A250AL) is already partnering with state and local government, academia, the business community, historic and destination attractions, and diverse communities to drive research, build content, develop programming and events, and enhance historical assets throughout our state.

The *vision* of A250AL is for Alabamians to understand the importance of their role as active and responsible citizens united in their dedication to the founding principles of our nation, and the pursuit of a more perfect Union. Our *mission* is to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States' Declaration of Independence by supporting and promoting a multitude of programs and events that **educate, engage, and unite** Alabamians around the Nation's founding principles.

## **Guidelines of the A250AL Partnerships Program**

Partners will benefit from a host of opportunities, including expertise, promotion, resources, and co-branding. They will have access to the A250AL Partner Logo and other brand elements, signifying their official participation in, and support of, Alabama's commemoration. ***There is no fee to participate.***

This document outlines A250AL Partnership details such as:

- The value of the A250AL Partnership;
- The benefits of becoming a Partner;
- Who can become a Partner;
- How you can use the A250AL brand; and
- How to become a Partner.

### **The Value of the A250AL Brand**

The A250AL Logo is an earned designation that signifies official participation in Alabama's commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The commemoration is an opportunity to bring together people from all walks of life, to explore America's revolutionary history, and Alabama's role in it. Our goal is to commemorate the 250th in a way that resonates with the tapestry that makes up our nation.

### **The Benefits of Being an A250AL Partner**

- Official endorsement by A250AL.
- Use of brand elements, including a logo and certificate that indicates official participation.
- Visibility of the A250AL brand to local, regional, statewide, and national and international audiences.
- Connecting your audiences to your sites, events, content, and programming.
- Participation in cooperative advertising and marketing opportunities led by A250AL, including a product listing on the A250AL website (America250AL.org).
- New revenue streams from A250AL merchandise.

### **Who Can Become an A250AL Brand Partner**

- Companies based in Alabama or who produce a product or products distributed in Alabama.

### **How You Can Use the A250AL Brand**

- On your product packaging.
- On your Website and Social Media Pages.
- In your product marketing.
- On your own product or company merchandising as "An Official A250AL Product."

## Signage

- Window Decal – A window decal designating your business as an America250Alabama Brand Partner will be supplied at no cost.
- Counter Sign/Certificate – A counter sign designating your business as an America250Alabama Brand Partner will be supplied at no cost.
- Additional signage:
  - Exterior Signage – The production of co-branded signage that uses the official A250AL mark is the responsibility of the approved partner. The brand design guidelines must be followed to maintain the integrity and consistency of the mark.
  - Additional window decals and counter signs may be ordered at the Brand Partner's expense.

## Merchandise Sales

- There will be a collection of official A250AL merchandise that may be purchased for personal use or for resale.

## How to Become an A250AL Brand Partner

Submit an application online here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12r\\_gtCsahk\\_Lx0RPcLdAjiMQ8ENThKjaegMi2NRdkJM/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12r_gtCsahk_Lx0RPcLdAjiMQ8ENThKjaegMi2NRdkJM/edit)

Any business approved to be an A250AL Brand Partner shall use the A250AL logo (following partner logo guidelines) in conjunction with any A250AL-branded products, and actively promote A250AL initiatives when possible.

We look forward to having you and your company as partners in the America250 Alabama initiative, and in celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Sincerely,



[www.america250al.org](http://www.america250al.org)

**Natalie Steed**  
Executive Director  
Alabama Semiquincentennial  
Commission

American Village  
P.O. Box 6  
Montevallo, AL 35115

205.665.3535 x1072  
@nstead@americanvillage.org



## Semiquincentennial Schools

### ***What is an Alabama Semiquincentennial School?***

As we approach America's 250th birthday celebration, it is an ideal moment for schools in Alabama to place a renewed focus on the values of patriotism and civic duty in our state and nation. An America250Alabama semiquincentennial school would not only celebrate this historic milestone but also offer whole school coursework and opportunities for students to understand the importance of participating in and contributing to their communities, state and country.

### ***How do Alabama schools participate?***

To become an Alabama Semiquincentennial School, administration, students, and staff agree to:

1. Incorporate America's heritage across the curriculum in all core subjects and the arts.
2. Commit to encouraging both mental and physical student health habits.
3. Participate in America 250's *America Gives* program - the largest national service initiative in American history.

### ***How are Alabama Semiquincentennial Schools recognized?***

Each school earning the Semiquincentennial School designation will be given an America250Alabama Semiquincentennial School flag to display, as well as a commemorative certificate. Alabama legislators from each school's district are encouraged to take part in the flag presentation and photo shoot. A sample press release will be provided to each school.



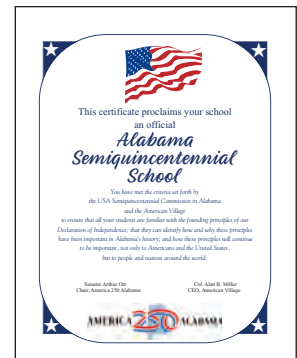
### ***Where do schools apply?***



***For more information, contact:***

Alabama USA Semiquincentennial /  
America250AL

Natalie Steed, Executive Officer  
nstead@americanvillage.org



## America-Themed Books



**Check out the featured books for all ages on the A250AL website:**

**<https://america250al.org/feature-book-of-the-month/>**

**Suggest these children's books to your local library or school;  
read them to your children:**

- Picture Books
  - *Revolutionary Friends: General Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette* – Selene Castrovilla and Drazen Kozjan
  - *Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution* – Don Brown
  - *Cloaked in Courage: Uncovering Deborah Sampson, Patriot Soldier* – Beth Anderson
  - *Revolutionary Prudence Wright: Leading the Minute Women in the Fight of Independence* – Beth Anderson
  - *Her Name was Mary Katharine: The Only Woman Whose Name is on the Declaration of Independence* – Ella Schwartz
  - *They Called Her Molly Pitcher* – Anne Rockwell
  - *The Dreadful, Smelly Colonies* - Elizabeth Raum
  - *Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History* – Don Brown
  - *Squanto's Journey* – Joseph Bruchac
  - *Thank you, Sarah* – Laurie Halse Anderson
  - *All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom* – Angela Johnson
  - *Colonial Voice: Hear them Speak* – Kay Winters
  - *Let it Begin Here!* – Dennis Brindell Fradin
  - *Eliza: The Story of Eliza Hamilton* – Margaret McNamara
  - *Worst of Friends: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and the True Story of an American Feud* – Suzanne Tripp Jumain
  - *Thomas Jefferson: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness* – Maria Kalman
  - *Before She was Harriet* – Lesa Cline-Ransome

- *A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent* – Anne Rockwell
- *Roanoke: The Lost Colony* – Jane Yoeln and Heidi Elizabet Yolen Stemple
- *The Journey of York: The Unsung Hero of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* – Hasan Davis
- *Dear Benjamin Banneker* – Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Molly Bannaky* – Alice McGill
- Chapter Books
  - The Virginia Mysteries Series – Steven K. Smith
    - *Summer of the Woods*
    - *Mystery on Church Hill*
    - *Ghosts of Belle Island*
    - *Secret of the Staircase*
    - *Midnight at the Mansion*
    - *Shadows at Jamestown*
    - *Spies at Mount Vernon*
    - *Escape from Monticello*
    - *Pictures are the Protest*
    - *Pirates on the Bay*
    - *Danger on the Stage*
  - Who was? – Various Authors
    - *Who was Alexander Hamilton?*
    - *Who was Ben Franklin?*
    - *What is the Declaration of Independence?*
    - *Who was Abigail Adams?*
    - *What was the Boston Tea Party?*
    - *What is the Constitution?*
    - *Who was Betsy Ross?*
    - *Who was George Washington?*
    - *Who was Paul Revere?*
  - *Blood on the River* – Elisa Carbone
  - *Poison in the Colony* - Elisa Carbone
  - *Fever 1793* – Laurie Halse Anderson
  - *I Survived: The American Revolution, 1776* – Lauren Tarshis
  - *Dolley Madison and the War of 1812* – Libby Carty McNamee
  - *Susanna's Midnight Ride: The Girl who won the Revolutionary War* – Libby Carty McNamee
  - Magic Tree House – Mary Pope Osborne
    - *Thanksgiving on Thursday*
    - *Revolutionary War on Wednesday*
  - *My Brother Sam is Dead* – James Lincoln Collier
  - *Johnny Tremain* – Esther Hoskins Forbes



## How Can I Help?



### **What can you and your group do to participate in Flag Day?**

- Fly America's flag
- Say the Pledge of Allegiance
- Educate yourself on flag etiquette
- Learn about the history of the Stars and Stripes
- Craft a flag with your children
- Decorate for Flag Day
- Hold a ceremony or commemoration at a public office
- Attend the Flag Day event at American Village in Montevallo, AL

### **What can you and your group do to honor America's Veterans?**

- Participate in your local *Wreaths Across America*, *Memorial Day* and *Veterans Day* activities
- Join a local cemetery support committee
- Contact the Alabama Blue Star Salute Foundation for volunteer opportunities
- Contact a local VFW or American Legion post and ask how you can help
- Plan a 250<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the U.S. Army, Navy or Marine Corps in your community
- Hold a cake-cutting ceremony (instructions in this toolkit)
- Bake and take cookies to your local VA Hospital or Veterans Home
- Make patriotic crafts and take them to your local VFW or American Legion post
- Involve school groups in commemorative activities
- Have a school assembly and invite Veterans for a celebration
- Say "Thank You for Your Service"
- Support the families of active-duty servicemen and women
- Attend official cake-cutting ceremonies at American Village in Montevallo, AL

## **What can you and your group do to participate in the Made in Alabama Brand Partnership?**

- Share the information contained in this toolkit with local businesses
- Ask your local Chamber of Commerce to reach out to business members
- If you know someone who makes a product in Alabama, give them the information and ask them to apply
- Buy Made in Alabama products

## **What can you and your group do to participate in America Gives?**

- Volunteer for an already-established cause
- Create a project in your community and ask for volunteers
- Volunteer with a veterans' service organization
- Donate to charitable organizations
- Go to [www.america250.org](http://www.america250.org) to find out more

Bottom Line:

## *HOW CAN I HELP America250Alabama?*

### **• Spread the word!**

*Let your local community know that A250AL is approaching and they should participate!*

### **• Get involved!**

*Your support is crucial! Forming local committees and advisory groups is a great way to start.*

### **• Advocate for America250AL**

*Talk to your local representatives and tell them how important this commemoration is to you.*



## Upcoming Event Support Materials



### **Celebrate all the Upcoming A250AL Events Around the State**

**Flag Day – June 14 (every year)**

**The 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the U.S. Army - June 14, 2025**

**Independence Day – July 4 (every year)**

**America Gives – September 11, 2025 and MLK Day, January 19, 2026**

**Constitution Day – September 17 (every year)**

**The 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the U.S. Navy – October 13, 2025**

**The 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps – November 10, 2025**

**Veterans' Day – November 11 (every year)**



# Our Flag

## a Graphical History



The "Union Jack" displays a star for each state. \*



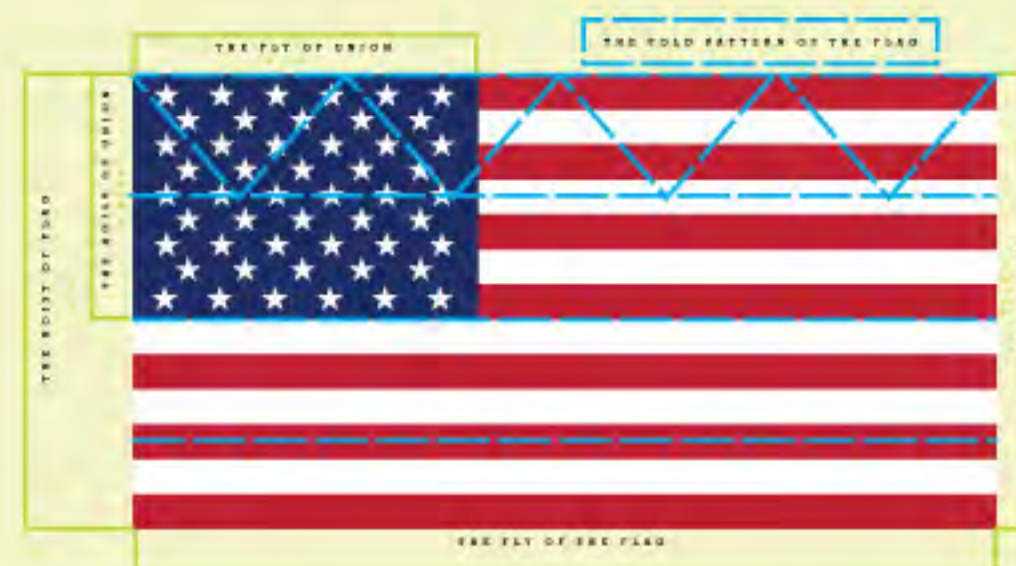
There are thirteen stripes for the original thirteen colonies. \*

**Old Glory Red** Hardiness and Valor  
**White** Purity and Innocence  
**Old Glory Blue** Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice

The official dye colors of the flag.

Officially the five pointed star is meant to represent a single state, but it is speculated that Betsy Ross was making reference to "The Heavens".

### Flags of The Revolution



## 50 Stars & 13 Stripes

The flags put atop Mt. Everest in 1963 and on the surface of the moon in 1969 both had 50 stars.

In 1949 President Truman makes June 14 "Flag Day". Completing a proposal put forth by President Wilson in 1916.

The flag hoisted over Iwo Jima in 1945 had 48 stars.

In 1942 President Roosevelt approves the federal flag code for display and respect of a shown flag.

In 1912 President Taft issues and executive order that establishes proportions and specifies the arrangement of the stars into rows.



Not until 1916 did a law establish that there should be seven red stripes and six white stripes on the flag.

First unofficial national flag of the Continental army merged the British "Union Jack" and the 13 stripes of the colonies.



Grand Union  
"The Continental Colors"

First official national flag, June 14, 1777



13

"The Stars and Stripes"

When Vermont and Kentucky were granted statehood in 1791 and 1792, the flag was altered to have both 15 stars and stripes.



15 Stars & 15 Stripes

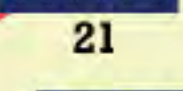
"The Star Spangled Banner"

In 1818 the Congress ruled that 13 stripes were officially apart of the flag's design and were to represent the original 13 colonies and the first states.



20 Stars & 13 Stripes

New states would be added into a "constellation" of stars to form the union.

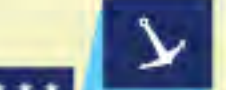


21



23

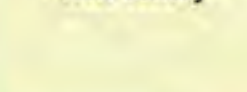
The stars in the blue field are referred to as the "Union Jack". "Jack" is a term used to describe Naval flags.



24



25



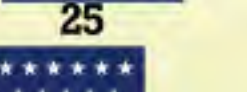
26



27



28



29



30



31



32



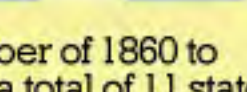
33



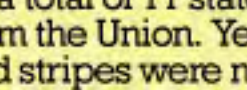
34



35



36



37

From December of 1860 to April of 1865 a total of 11 states seceded from the Union. Yet their stars and stripes were not officially removed from the U.S. flag.

"A person gets from a symbol the meaning he puts into it."

-Robert H. Jackson

Associate Justice of The Supreme Court  
 West Virginia State Board of  
 Education v. Barnette (1943)



46

The flag placed at the North Pole had 46 stars.



45



44



43

Francis Bellamy writes the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892 and it is first used in public schools to mark the 400th anniversary of the voyage by Christopher Columbus to the New World.

During the U.S. Centennial in 1876 37 stars were on the flag.



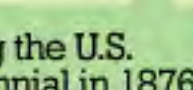
38



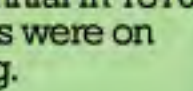
39



40



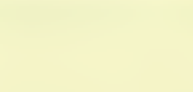
41



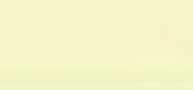
42



43



44



45

\* This is not an official representation but, rather a visual hypothesis of the many symbols and meanings behind the U.S. flag. The graphics attempt to map states and colonies to the stars and stripes on the American flag by annexation into the union.





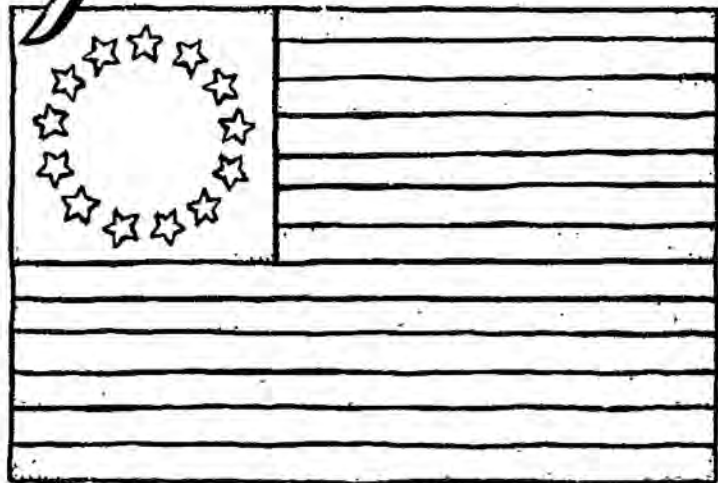
# Flags of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION

AMERICAN VILLAGE CITIZENSHIP TRUST

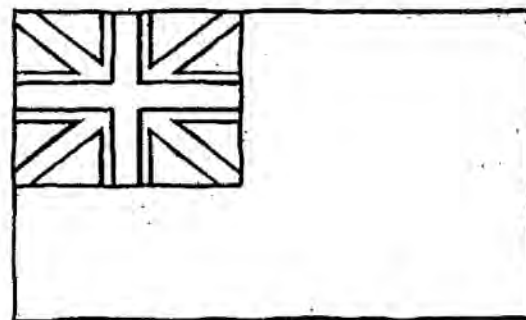
**F**lags have long been important elements in American history, especially during the American Revolution. From the first days of European exploration and settlement to the Continental Army's victory at Yorktown, flags have symbolized our passion for independence, have identified us with a nation or group, and have served as instruments of communication on the field of battle or at sea. The stirring sight of the waving flag has led many people to courageous sacrifice for their country. Flags have made political statements, connected soldiers and sailors to home, inspired patriotism, and decorated homes and public buildings.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new Constellation."

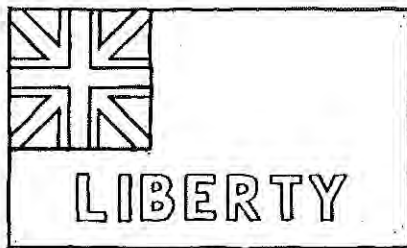
Out of the many flags flown during the American Revolution emerged what was to become one of the world's most powerful and widely recognized symbols—the Stars and Stripes, the national flag of the United States of America. Two hundred years of shapes, patterns, local flavor, wars, committees, personal fancy, and old-world heraldry came together to create the look of our nation's first flag.\*



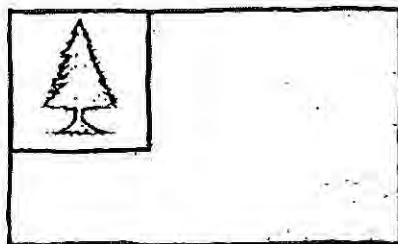
**Francis Hopkinson Flag.** Continental Congress member Francis Hopkinson designated the first Stars and Stripes, also known as the Betsy Ross Flag. Stars on the flag may have formed rows or a ring—the exact design is not known. In a resolution of 1777, the stars were said to represent "a new constellation." According to legend attributed to General George Washington, *"We take the stars from Heaven, the red from the Mother Country, separating it by white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."*\*



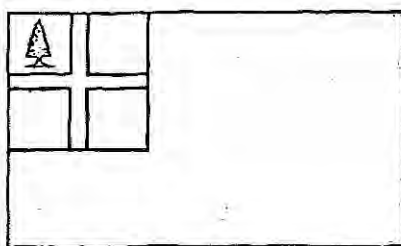
**British Red Ensign.** In 1707, Queen Anne adopted a new flag for the United Kingdom. This flag, also known as the Meteor Flag and carried by the King's Foot Guard Regiments, featured a crimson field with the Union Jack in the corner. Lord Charles Cornwallis surrendered under this flag at Yorktown in 1781.\*



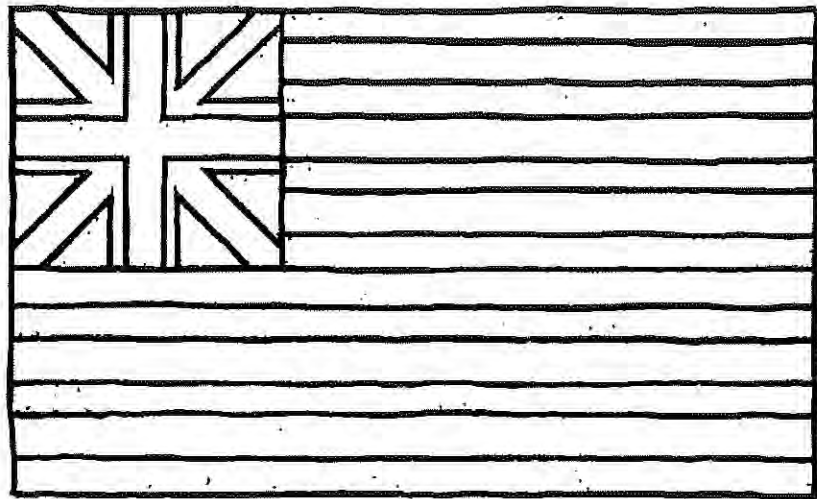
**Taunton Flag.** A local flag flown in the mid-1770s by the patriotic residents of Taunton, Massachusetts. Townspeople simply added the defiant words "Liberty and [Union]" to the field of the British Red Ensign.\*



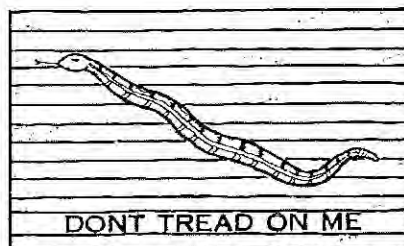
**Bunker Hill Flag.** This flag with either a red or blue field was believed to have been carried at the Battle of Bunker Hill, the first battle of the American Revolutionary War. According to legend, this flag was hoisted on Breed's Hill, near Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. The pine tree in the upper corner was a favorite symbol of regiments formed in the New England area.\*



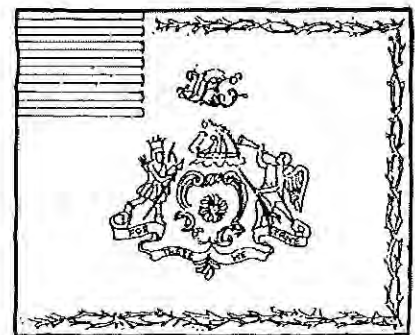
**Continental Flag.** Similar to the Bunker Hill Flag, the Continental Flag was believed first carried by Colonists at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Its appearance closely resembled that of the British Red Ensign with a New England pine tree replacing the Union Jack canton. The Continental Flag is depicted in Colonel John Trumbull's painting, "The Death of Warren." Trumbull, who witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill, was an artist, who documented the leaders and battles of the American Revolution.\*



**Grand Union.** The first unofficial national flag of the United States. It was raised in 1776 to celebrate the official status of the newly formed Continental Army by General George Washington, whose camp was then in Cambridge. Also known as the Cambridge Flag, it combined elements of British and Revolutionary flags. It bore a remarkable resemblance to the flag of the British East India Company, whose taxation and politics contributed to the Revolution.\*



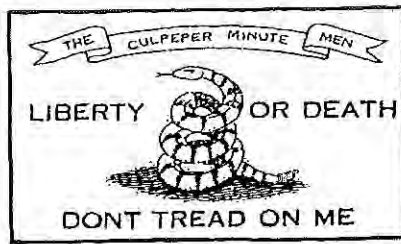
**First Navy Jack.** The first Continental Navy Jack, also called the Rattlesnake Flag, flew on most American vessels often, alongside the Grand Union and state flags. Its thirteen stripes and sprawling rattlesnake were favorite symbols of Revolutionary land and sea forces.\*



**Philadelphia Light Horse Flag.** The ornate standard of the Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse, the cavalry that escorted General George Washington on his trip in 1775 from Philadelphia to Cambridge where he took command of the Continental Army. This was one of the earliest flags to carry a thirteen-stripe design.\*



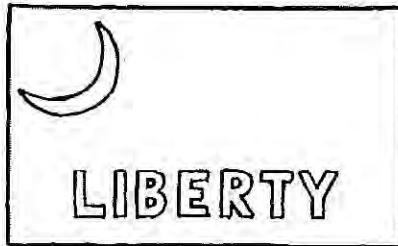
**Bedford Flag.** Carried by the Bedford Minutemen at Concord Bridge. Note the armored hand of God and ribbon scroll with the motto "VINCE AUT MORIRE" (Conquer or Die).\*



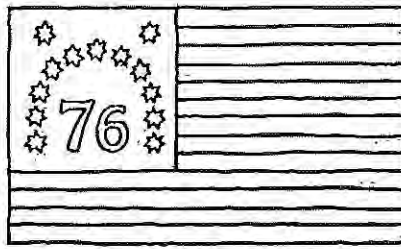
**Culpepper Flag.** This rattlesnake flag was carried in battle by a patriotic group of local militia known as Virginia's Culpepper Minutemen. The group formed part of Colonel Patrick Henry's first Virginia Regiment of 1775. Colonel Henry's famous words "Liberty or Death" were used across the flag. Like many flags of the Revolution, only a written description of the Culpepper Flag remains.\*



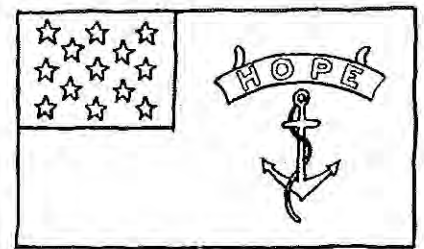
**Gadsden Flag.** Colonel Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina presented the Gadsden Flag to the Continental Congress. This flag was flown early in 1776 by Commodore Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island, first commander-in-chief of the Continental Fleet. Its inscription and menacing coil represented a warning from the Colonists to the British.\*



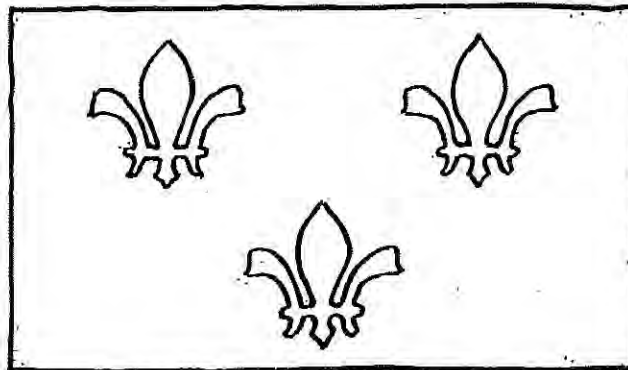
**Fort Moultrie Flag.** In September 1775, Colonel William Moultrie of South Carolina designed a flag for troops under his command. It was first flown during the Battle of Charleston at Fort Sullivan, later called Fort Moultrie, June 28, 1776. Colonel Moultrie saw the need for a flag to signal troops in the field. No state or national flag existed at that time.\*



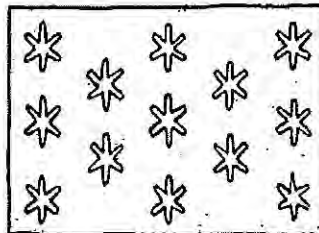
**Bennington Flag.** The Bennington Flag brings with it two differing accounts of origin. One claims that the flag was carried by General John Stark's Vermont Militia in the Battle of Bennington in August 1777. It was going to be the first Stars and Stripes used by all Continental land forces. The second account traces the flag's history to the War of 1812 or possibly to 1826 when it was created to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.\*



**Rhode Island Regiment Flag.** Adapted and used by Rhode Island troops in 1781 in the Battles of Brandywine, Trenton, and Yorktown. The anchor on the white field was the symbol of the state of Rhode Island; the thirteen stars on a blue background in the upper corner of the flag represented the thirteen colonies. A Colonial era motto, "In God We Hope," was displayed on a scroll above the anchor. A Latin version of this was used in early Colonial currency.\*



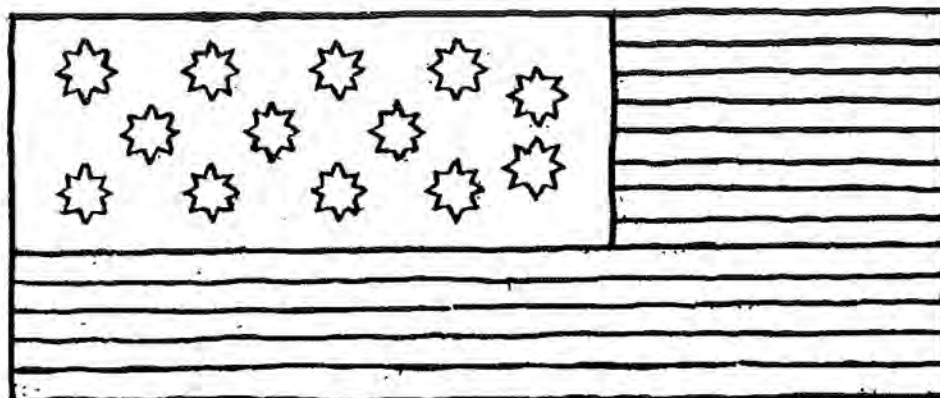
**French Fleur-de-Lis.** By war's end, France had contributed more than 50,000 land and naval troops to the Revolutionary cause. On ceremonial occasions, both forces flew the blue and white-fielded flag that was sprinkled with yellow fleurs-de-lis. The French Fleur-de-Lis, also known as the *Lilly Banner*, originated in the Middle Ages and was the banner of French exploration in the 1600s.\*



**Washington's Flag.** This flag created in 1775 was also known as the Commander-in-Chief's Flag and was the personal flag of General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. It flew at his winter encampment at Valley Forge. Historians believe this flag was the origin of the stars in the Stars and Stripes.\*

*George Washington*





**Guilford Flag.** The Guilford Flag, raised over the Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina (March 19, 1781), is an excellent example of the lack of uniformity prevalent in early flag design.\*

**Fact:** Detailed specifications for the design of our nation's flag were not established until 1912.

\*

**Fact:** Most Revolutionary flags were made of silk; others were made of linen and wool.

\*

**Fact:** Symbols and images that appear on Revolutionary flags include the sun, moon, stars, angels, a beheaded king, beehives, lions, bears, beavers, body parts, rifles, rattlesnakes, idioms, arrows, trees, plants, flowers, women, and children.

\*

**Fact:** Flags carried by land forces were usually square while naval flags known as ensigns were rectangular.



Texel Flag  
(ensign)  
1779

## Flag Facts

**Fact:** Most Continental armies carried regimental banners into the field—not the Stars and Stripes.

\*

**Fact:** The story that Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross designed and made the first flag has never been verified.

\*

**Fact:** Early Colonial flags displayed a Union Jack canton out of respect to king and country. This was later modified to thirteen stripes and later to thirteen stars.

\*

**Fact:** Early flag symbols and mottoes copied Colonial money.



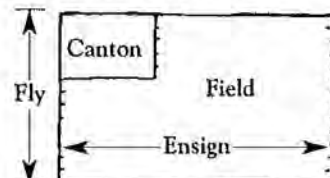
**Fact:** Paul Revere and Benjamin Franklin may have designed the earliest striped flags. They first appeared 25 years before the Revolutionary War.

\*

**Fact:** A jack is a small flag flown at the bow of a naval vessel.

\*

**Fact:** The upper corner of a flag near the staff is called a canton. Special designs often appear in the canton.



**Fact:** Being the flag bearer was both an honor and a danger. Enemy soldiers targeted this individual to disrupt communications and diminish morale.



Post Office Box 6 • Montevallo, Alabama 35115 • (205) 665-3535

[www.americanvillage.org](http://www.americanvillage.org)

# Flags of the United States



1776-1777  
the Grand Union Flag



1777-1795



ca. 1820  
Bennington Battle Flag



1777-1795  
the Betsy Ross Flag



ca. 1843  
Cowpens Flag



1795-1818  
Star Spangled Banner



1818-1819



1818-1819  
alternate design



1819-1820



1820-1822



1822-1836



1836-1837



1837-1845



1837-1845  
alternate version



1845-1846



1846-1847



1847-1848



1847-1848  
alternate version



1848-1851



1851-1858



1858-1859



1859-1861



1859-1861  
Fort Sumter Flag



1859-1861  
alternate version



1861-1863



1863-1865



1865-1867



1865-1867  
alternate version



1867-1877



1867-1877  
alternate version



1877-1890



1877-1884  
The Department of Alaska



1890-1891



1891-1896



1896-1908



1908-1912



1912-1959



1959-1960



1960-Present



# FLAG ETIQUETTE

**The fundamental rule of flag etiquette is: treat all flags with respect and common sense.**

The Stars and Stripes takes precedence over all other flags when flown within the United States. It should not be flown lower than another flag nor should it be smaller than another flag flown with it. Other flags may, however, be flown at the same height and in the same size. Other national flags should not be smaller nor flown lower than the Stars and Stripes when displayed together. If it is not possible to display two or more national flags at the same height, it is not proper to display them together at all.



The point of honor is on the extreme left from the standpoint of the observer ("the flag's right"). The order from left to right of flags flown together is: the Stars and Stripes, other national flags in alphabetical order, state flags, county and city flags, organizational flags, personal flags.



It is not illegal or improper to fly any flag (state, ethnic group, organization etc.) alone but it is always preferable to display the Stars and Stripes at the same time.



If one flag is at half-staff in mourning, other flags flown with it should be at half-staff. First raise the flags to their peaks, then lower to half-staff. The Stars and Stripes is raised first and lowered last.



It is proper to fly the Stars and Stripes at night, but only if it is spotlighted.



In a public gathering (lecture hall, church, etc.) The Stars and Stripes should be to the right of the speakers or on the wall behind them.



The Stars and Stripes should be in the center of a group of flags only when the center pole is taller than the others or when a fan-like arrangement makes the center pole higher than others.



**Displaying flag with canton on the left** (canton is the blue field with the 50 stars). The canton of the flag should always be to the observers left.

Over a Street - when the U.S. flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat or suspended so its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending on the direction of the street.



On a wall - when displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is to the observer's left. In a window, the union should be to the flag's right when viewed from outside.



**Display flag with canton on the right** (canton is the blue field with the 50 stars). Display canton facing right when displayed on a casket, when displayed as a decal on the right side of a vehicle (bus, truck, plane, etc.) When worn as a patch on the right arm (but use on left arm is preferable).



A salute (hand over heart for those not in uniform) should be rendered when the flag is raised, lowered, or carried by on parade; when the Pledge of Allegiance is played (unless the flag is not present).



# UNITED STATES FLAG ETIQUETTE



American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. The Flag Code answers many of the most common questions:

- ★ The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.
- ★ The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- ★ The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- ★ The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind placed on it, or attached to it.
- ★ The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- ★ When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.
- ★ The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- ★ When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.



Celebrate the 250th Birthdays of these branches of the United States Armed Forces.

Official cake-cutting ceremonies will be held at **American Village in Montevallo.**

Look for other celebrations in your community.

For more information, visit [America250AL.org](http://America250AL.org).

**HOOAH! HOOYAH!**  
**OORAH!**



**United States Army**  
**June 14**



**United States Navy**  
**October 13**



**United States**  
**Marine Corps**  
**November 10**

# Consider holding a cake-cutting ceremony or other celebration of the veterans in your community.

The U.S. Army's birthday cake-cutting ceremony is a time-honored tradition that symbolizes the Army's rich history and the passing of experience from one generation to the next. While there isn't a standardized script like the Marine Corps' version, a typical ceremony includes the following elements:

1. **Introduction:** The ceremony begins with a brief welcome and an explanation of the significance of the event, highlighting the Army's history and traditions.
2. **Guest of Honor:** The first piece of cake is traditionally presented to the guest of honor, acknowledging their contributions and presence.
3. **Oldest and Youngest Soldiers:** The next pieces of cake are presented to the oldest and youngest soldiers present. This act symbolizes the continuity of experience and the passing of knowledge within the Army ranks.
4. **Cake Cutting:** The cake is often cut using a ceremonial saber (Army Officer Saber), emphasizing the Army's role as a band of warriors committed to defending the nation.

While the specific script can be tailored to fit the occasion and audience, incorporating these traditional elements will help honor the Army's legacy and foster a sense of unity and continuity among its members.

## 30 Minutes Before the Ceremony

- Ensure the ceremonial saber and cake are ready at the designated area.
- Confirm the presence of key participants (oldest soldier, youngest soldier, guest of honor).
- Conduct a quick walkthrough with participants to explain their roles.

## Master of Ceremonies (MC):

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the [insert year] celebration of the United States Army's [insert number] Birthday. Today, we commemorate the Army's legacy of selfless service to the nation and honor its soldiers—past, present, and future. Thank you for joining us in celebrating this special occasion."

## National Anthem and Invocation

- Play or sing the National Anthem.
- Chaplain or designated individual delivers a brief invocation or prayer.

### Example Prayer:

*"Almighty God, we thank You for the proud history and legacy of the United States Army. Today, we honor the men and women who have served and continue to serve with dedication and courage. Bless this ceremony, and may we never forget the sacrifices made in defense of our nation's freedom. Amen."*

## Tips:

- Contact a local bakery or grocery store in your area to create a cake with the Army's branch of service seal as decoration.
- Add red, white and blue cupcakes or cookies for children and others in attendance.
- Contact SAR for a Color Guard to present the colors (flags of the United States, State Flag, and Army Flag)

## Historical Reflection—MC:

"This year, we mark the 250th anniversary of the Army's establishment on June 14, 1775. Over the years, the Army has played a vital role in securing liberty and defending democracy around the globe. As we celebrate today, let us remember the brave soldiers who have answered the call to serve."

## Recognition of Participants—MC:

"It is a tradition in the United States Army to cut the birthday cake with the participation of the oldest and youngest soldiers present. This represents the Army's past and future and signifies the timeless bond between all soldiers."

- Introduce the guest of honor (if applicable).
- Introduce the oldest soldier and provide a brief bio (e.g., name, rank, years of service).
- Introduce the youngest soldier and provide their details (e.g., name, rank, time in service).

## Cake Cutting Ceremony—MC:

"And now, it is time to cut the Army's birthday cake. The first slice will be presented to our guest of honor. Following this, the cake will be cut by the oldest and youngest soldiers using a ceremonial saber, symbolizing the Army's history, traditions, and the passing of knowledge and experience from one generation to the next."

- The guest of honor receives the first slice of cake.
- The oldest and youngest soldiers cut the cake together using the saber.
- The oldest soldier takes the second slice and presents it to the youngest soldier.

## Closing Remarks—MC:

"Thank you for joining us today to celebrate the United States Army's 250th Birthday. Let us continue to honor the legacy of the Army and the incredible service of its soldiers, who remain steadfast in their duty to our nation. Please enjoy the refreshments and fellowship as we commemorate this special day. Army Strong!"

## Reception

- Cake and refreshments are served to all attendees.
- Allow time for photos with the ceremonial saber, the cake, and the key participants.

## Additional Notes

- Adjust timing based on your audience and available time.
- Include Army music (e.g., "The Army Goes Rolling Along") during transitions.
- Ensure the ceremonial saber is safely handled and appropriate for use.



## Hashtags



### **Tag your social media posts for America250AL**

#america250al  
#A250AL  
#America250Alabama

**Celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthdays of these three branches of the military in 2025.  
Share stories, photos and videos of your celebration to your social media sites and use these  
hashtags.**

### **U.S. Army 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday – June 14, 2025**

#Army250  
#ForgedInService  
#250YearsStrong  
#Army250AL

### **U.S. Navy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday – October 13, 2025**

#Navy250  
#SeaOfLegacy  
#AnchoredInHonor  
#Navy250AL

### **U.S. Marine Corps 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday – November 10, 2025**

#Marines250  
#Semper250  
#LegacyOfValor  
#Marines250AL





**CITY/COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. [ ]**

**RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARIES OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS AND ENCOURAGING LOCAL COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, and as part of the national celebration, the Alabama Semiquincentennial Commission (America250AL.org) has launched a statewide initiative to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Army was established on June 14, 1775, the United States Navy on October 13, 1775, and the United States Marine Corps on November 10, 1775—each playing an essential role in the founding and enduring defense of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the year 2025 marks the 250th anniversaries of these three distinguished military branches, whose contributions have upheld our Constitution, defended our freedoms, and ensured the safety of American citizens for two and a half centuries; and

**WHEREAS**, [CITY/COUNTY NAME] is home to veterans, active-duty service members, reservists, and military families who contribute greatly to the fabric of our community through their leadership, commitment, and patriotism; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper for our local government and community to recognize the historical significance of these milestones and to honor all who have served or are serving in the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the [City Council/County Commission] of [City/County Name], Alabama, that we do hereby commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps and express our deepest gratitude to those who have served and continue to serve in these branches of the United States Armed Forces.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage all residents, civic organizations, schools, veterans groups, and local institutions to participate in commemorative activities, including cake-cutting ceremonies or community events on the following dates:

- June 14, 2025 – U.S. Army Birthday
- October 13, 2025 – U.S. Navy Birthday
- November 10, 2025 – U.S. Marine Corps Birthday

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be made available to local veterans' organizations, military families, and civic leaders to encourage widespread participation in this meaningful observance.

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**



## America Gives

**The largest-ever national service initiative in American history.**

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of the United States, we hope to build on America's legacy of giving back by reinvigorating a year-round culture of service through our latest programming effort: **America Gives**.

America Gives will be a year-round program anchored to the two federally recognized days of service, **September 11** and **MLK Jr. Day** in January, with the goal of 2026 being the **largest-ever year of service** in history.

**Rooted in America's rich history of service  
and focused on three key pillars:**

### Charitable Giving



### Volunteerism



### Public Service including Military Service



America Gives is working with an incredible group of **Founding Partners** to engage Americans from sea to shining sea and invite them to join our service family.



## Follow America250



@250america



@America250



facebook.com/America250/

## Follow America250AL



@america250al



facebook.com/America250AL

## Helpful Links



### **Alabama website**

<https://america250al.org/>

### **National website**

<https://america250.org/>

### **What is America250?**

<https://america250al.org/about-america250-alabama/>

### **Share Your Story**

<https://america250al.org/share-your-personal-story/>

### **Educational Resources**

<https://america250al.org/educational-resources/>

### **Honor Our Veterans**

<https://america250al.org/honor-our-veterans/>

### **Find a Celebration Near You**

<https://america250al.org/events-map/>

### **Get the latest News**

<https://america250al.org/news/>

### **Join us on social media**



Instagram: **@america250al**



Facebook: **facebook.com/America250AL**