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Semiquincentennial School
CEREMONY TOOLKIT

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Congratulations on being named an Alabama Semiquincentennial School!

To help you celebrate and launch this historic year, we've created this Kick-Off Ceremony Toolkit—a flexible guide filled with suggested activities, sample language, and creative ideas to make your school's celebration meaningful and memorable.

This toolkit is just a starting point—we encourage you to adapt it, expand it, and make it your own. Every school and community is unique, and we're excited to see how each of you brings the Semiquincentennial spirit to life in your own way.

This is your school's moment to shine. Whether you host a full assembly, a classroom activity, or a community-wide celebration, this toolkit is here to help spark ideas and provide support.

We can't wait to see how your school kicks off this once-in-a-generation celebration. Be sure to take photos, share your moments on social media, and tag @America250AL so we can celebrate with you!

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SAMPLE
Agenda

A suggested outline of activities that can be included in your kickoff event, such as:

- Welcome remarks from school leadership or student representatives
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Singing of the National Anthem
- A short talk explaining the significance of being a Semiquincentennial School—why it matters and why it’s exciting for your students and community
- A video message from Gov. Kay Ivey officially launching the 2025-2026 Semiquincentennial School Year in Alabama
- Recognition of any special guests, such as elected officials or community leaders

Optional Enhancements

To personalize and enhance your ceremony, consider:

- Student performances (e.g., choir, band, poetry readings)
- A flag-raising ceremony with your America250 Alabama flag
- A student art or essay contest related to America’s history or future
- Time capsule creation to be opened at America’s 300th birthday

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Invitations

[Click here for an editable invitation.](#)

A Canva Account is required.

To edit for your school, go to file and make a copy.

Guest Invitation Suggestions

A curated list of individuals and groups you may want to consider inviting to your ceremony, such as:

- Local and state legislators
- School board members
- Parent and teacher leaders
- Local veterans and first responders
- Civic and cultural leaders
- Alumni and student families

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Communication

Ideas for promoting your event to your school community and local media, including sample newsletter blurbs and press release language.

Click [here](#) for the sample press release.

Newsletter blurb:

As we enter the 2025–2026 school year, we are proud to recognize our school as a Semiquincentennial School, joining the statewide and nationwide celebration of America250 — the 250th anniversary of the United States. This milestone offers a unique opportunity to honor our shared history, reflect on the values that shape our nation, and inspire the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and citizens. Throughout the year, we will celebrate with special events, classroom projects, and community activities that connect our school's story to the rich tapestry of American history. Let the celebration begin!