

AMERICA



America's Field Trip

2024-2025 CONTEST TOOLKIT



2024-2025 America's Field Trip Contest: Digital Toolkit

On behalf of America250, I'd like to thank you for your enthusiasm and support as we prepare to celebrate and commemorate the historic 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Together, we have an incredible opportunity to unite communities across the country around our shared history and aspirations for the future.

We look forward to your participation as we roll out exciting new programs in the year ahead, but in the meantime there are several ways you can get involved and make an impact **right now** by spreading the word about America250's nationwide student contest, [America's Field Trip](#), which is already underway. This contest invites students across the country in grades 3-12 to answer the question, "What does America mean to you?" through artwork or writing for the chance to earn an unforgettable trip to one of our nation's most iconic landmarks where they will participate in behind-the-scenes tours and special experiences.

We have put together several resources to make it as easy as possible for you to help promote **America's Field Trip**, from posting on social media to sharing information about the contest with schools in your district or state. In this toolkit you'll find everything you need to share the America's Field Trip contest with your constituents—it covers topics like the contest rules, outreach to schools and families, and educator resources, and provides downloadable flyers, sample social media posts, and digital graphics.

Thank you for championing **America's Field Trip** and helping students, educators, and communities connect with America's incredible history.

Let's celebrate America's 250th anniversary by inspiring today's students to dream big and discover the wonders of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosie Rios".

Rosie Rios
Chair, America250
U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

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[America's Field Trip](#) is a nationwide student contest sponsored by **America250**, the official nonpartisan entity charged by Congress with planning the nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026, also known as the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America's Field Trip invites students in grades 3–12 to be part of this historic milestone by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the chance to earn a once-in-a-lifetime field trip experience at an iconic American landmark or cultural site, including the Smithsonian's National Zoo, National Archives Museum, Kennedy Space Center, and Yellowstone National Park — just to name a few.

Visit America250.org/FieldTrip/Rules for Official Rules.

- **Submission Deadline:** April 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. ET
- **Eligibility:** Any student in grades 3–12 who is a legal resident of any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the U.S. territories is eligible to enter. First- and second-prize awardees from the America's Field Trip pilot contest, which ended on May 17, 2024, are not eligible to enter or win.
- **Requirements:** Students at each grade level may create artwork, including physical artwork, that is submitted through a high-res photo, digital drawing, or an essay.
- **Judging Criteria:** A panel of current and former educators will evaluate submissions based on **Clarity of Idea** (25%), **Student Voice** (50%), and **Presentation** (25%).
- **Prizes:** 25 first-place awardees from each grade level category and their designated chaperone will receive travel and lodging accommodations for a three-day, two-night trip to a select historical or cultural site. 25 second-place awardees from each grade level category will each receive a \$500 cash award. Award recipients will be announced in May 2025, and field trips will take place in July and August 2025.

How to Enter the America's Field Trip Contest

Students at each grade level will respond to the prompt, **"What does America mean to you?"** with artwork or an essay. Students must develop submissions individually.

Students must have a teacher, parent, or legal guardian submit their entry through the application portal at America250.org/FieldTrip/Application. A teacher may only submit an entry on behalf of a student with written permission from that student's parent or legal guardian.

For more information about America's Field Trip, including official contest rules, 2025 field trip locations, judging criteria, submission thought starters, classroom activities, and Spanish-language resources, please visit America250.org/FieldTrip or scan the QR code.



Visit America250.org/FieldTrip or scan the QR code to learn more.

Resource Bank

1. [Downloadable Contest Flyer](#): Overview of the contest rules and instructions for parents and educators on how to submit an entry. This flyer is also included on the previous page of this packet.
2. [America's Field Trip Website](#): Students, teachers, and parents can access materials, learn more about the contest, and submit an entry through the online application portal.
3. [America's Field Trip 2024-2025 Contest Video](#): See the promotional video for this year's contest and share it with your network.
4. [Full List of Field Trips](#): See all field trip descriptions for the 2024-2025 America's Field Trip contest, spanning 12 states and Washington, DC.
5. [Educator Resources](#): America250 partnered with Discovery Education to develop custom educational programming to support educators in bringing America's Field Trip to their classroom and help students deepen their understanding of America's 250th anniversary. Discovery Education's award-winning platform provides instructional inspiration through unique lesson plans and ready-to-use activities that are designed to have different levels of investigation and discovery through models that are familiar to students and easily incorporated into any lesson cycle. All ready-to-use activities are interactive when accessed through the free [Discovery Education Experience](#) platform. *Lesson plans are available in both English and Spanish.*
 - [Educator Guide](#)
 - [Classroom Activities](#)

English Lesson Plans

- [Grades 3-5: America's Future](#)
- [Grades 6-8: Civic Power](#)
- [Grades 9-12: We the People](#)

Spanish Lesson Plans

- [Grados 3-5: El futuro de América](#)
- [Grados 6-8: El poder cívico](#)
- [Grados 9-12: Nosotros, el Pueblo](#)

Promoting America’s Field Trip on Social Media and in Your Network

There are a number of ways that you can help share information about the America’s Field Trip contest—on your social media channels, with your professional network, and with parents and teachers in your network. The following copy should be used as a guide, so feel free to personalize the language to reflect your own voice or that of your organization.

Draft Email or Newsletter Copy

Please feel free to customize this suggested copy to your organization and include graphics. [Download America’s Field Trip graphics here.](#)

Students in grades 3-12 can earn a chance to go behind-the-scenes at some of America’s most well-known historical landmarks! [America’s Field Trip](#) is a nationwide contest designed to engage elementary, middle, and high school students around America’s upcoming 250th anniversary in 2026. Students are invited to submit an essay, artwork, or poem answering the question “What does America mean to you?” First-place awardees will get to experience one of several unforgettable field trips to places like Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Ohio, the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and more. Second-place awardees and teachers can also earn cash awards.

Don’t miss out on this chance to be part of America’s 250th anniversary! Submit your entry by **April 16:** <https://america250.org/fieldtrip>

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest ends at 5:00 p.m. ET on 4/16/25. Open to U.S. students (3rd – 12th grade), with Submission by parent or teacher (unless age of majority). First Prize awardees must travel with parent on designated dates. Visit <https://america250.org/fieldtrip/rules/> for Official Rules & full details including how to enter, eligibility restrictions, prize description/restrictions and judging procedure. Void where prohibited.

Draft Social Media Copy

*All posts can be shared with an accompanying graphic of your choice. [Download America’s Field Trip graphics here.](#) **Note: All posts must include a version of the abbreviated rules disclaimer. The disclaimer is **NOT** needed if your post includes one of our graphics. If you choose to create your own posts or do not use the graphics provided, please use the following abbreviated rules disclaimer (depending on the platform you post on).***

X/Twitter

NO PURCH NEC. Ends 4/16/25. U.S. students (3rd – 12th grade).

Rules: <https://america250.org/fieldtrip/rules/>

Facebook/Instagram

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest ends 5:00 p.m. ET on 4/16/25. Open to U.S. students (3rd – 12th grade); student’s parent/legal guardian or teacher with parental permission must submit entry on student’s behalf (unless student is the age of majority). Submission includes grant of license rights to entry’s content. First Prize awardees must travel with parent/legal guardian on designated dates. See Official Rules for full details including how to enter, eligibility requirements, prize description/restrictions and judging procedure. Void where prohibited.

LinkedIn

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest ends at 5:00 p.m. ET on 4/16/25. Open to U.S. students (3rd – 12th grade), with Submission by parent or teacher (unless age of majority). First Prize awardees must travel with parent on designated dates. Visit <https://america250.org/fieldtrip/rules/> for Official Rules & full details including how to enter, eligibility restrictions, prize description/restrictions and judging procedure. Void where prohibited.

X/Twitter

📣 Calling all students grades 3–12: You’re invited to submit writing or artwork to the #AmericasFieldTrip contest from @America250 for the chance to explore some of our nation’s iconic historic and cultural landmarks!

Enter by April 16: <https://america250.org/fieldtrip>

[I’m/We’re] proud to support @America250’s #AmericasFieldTrip contest! **[I/We/organization name] [invite/invites]** 3rd to 12th-grade students to submit writing or artwork that answers the question “What does America mean to you?” by April 16 for the chance to go behind-the-scenes at some of our nation’s most iconic landmarks!

Facebook

[I/We/organization name] [is/are] thrilled to support @America250’s #AmericasFieldTrip contest 🇺🇸

This nationwide contest invites 3rd to 12th-grade students to dive deep into the heart of our nation’s story and express what America means to them. Students can earn extraordinary field trips and travel to iconic destinations like the Kennedy Space Center, the National Museum of American History, Yellowstone National Park, and more.

Don’t miss out on this chance to be part of America’s 250th anniversary! Submit your entry by April 16: <https://america250.org/fieldtrip> #America250 #AmericanHistory #Semiquincentennial

📣 Calling all **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]** students, educators, and parents! As America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, you're invited to get involved.

#AmericasFieldTrip is a nationwide contest for students to win travel and a behind-the-scenes experience at some of our nation's most prominent landmarks, including @RockHall, @NASAKennedy, and @YellowstoneNPS.

As partners of @America250, we encourage students across **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]** to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by answering "What does America mean to you?"

Submit your entry by April 16: <https://america250.org/fieldtrip>

Instagram

As official partners of @250America, we're proud to support the #AmericasFieldTrip contest, and there is still time left to submit an entry!

Whether through captivating artwork or heartfelt essays, we're inviting **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]** students to express their unique perspectives on what America means to them.

Enter by April 16 for the opportunity to explore our nation's iconic landmarks, historical sites, and cultural treasures like @YellowstoneNPS, @NASAKennedy, and @RockHall.

Follow @250America to learn more and submit. #America250 #StudentEngagement #AmericanHistory #Semiquincentennial

Calling all **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]** students, educators, and parents! As America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, you're invited to get involved.

#AmericasFieldTrip is a nationwide contest for students to win a behind-the-scenes experience at some of our nation's most prominent landmarks, including @RockHall, @NASAKennedy, and @YellowstoneNPS.

Learn more about #AmericasFieldTrip and what America means to our next generation. Follow @250America to learn more and submit an entry today! #America250 #StudentEngagement #AmericanHistory #Semiquincentennial

LinkedIn

For students across **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]**, there's still time to submit an entry to #AmericasFieldTrip!

@America250's nationwide contest invites 3rd to 12th-grade students to dive deep into the heart of our nation's story and express what America means to them. Students can earn extraordinary field trip experiences to iconic destinations like the Kennedy Space Center, the National Museum of American History, Yellowstone National Park, and more.

As official partners of America250, we want to encourage students and educators across **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]** to participate in this opportunity to shape America's future. Don't miss out on this chance to be part of America's 250th anniversary!

Submit by April 16: <https://america250.org/fieldtrip> #America250 #AmericanHistory #Semiquincentennial #StudentEngagement

In **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]**, we're proud to champion education for our students that fosters community, examines our nation's history, and empowers a culture of learning.

#AmericasFieldTrip is a perfect example of this, providing a nationwide contest for students to win a behind-the-scenes experience at some of our nation's most prominent landmarks, including @RockHall, @NASAKennedy, and @YellowstoneNPS.

Learn more about #AmericasFieldTrip and what America means to our next generation. As official partners of @America250, we encourage students and educators across **[INSERT STATE IF APPLICABLE]** to participate in this chance to be part of America's 250th anniversary!

Submit your entry by April 16: <https://america250.org/fieldtrip>

2025 Field Trips



- Behind-the-scenes tour of the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center and sleepover at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in **Washington, DC**
- Exclusive visits to two **Washington, DC**, institutions: a trip into the National Archives Vault on the National Mall and private tour of the Smithsonian's National Zoo
- Exclusive tour of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, **Virginia**, and visit to the Library of Congress in **Washington, DC**
- Storytelling, history, and commemoration under the stars at Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- Private tours of Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, the International African American Museum, and the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, **South Carolina**
- Exclusive tours of the Alamo in San Antonio and the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, **Texas**
- Backstage tour of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, **Ohio**
- Beyond the ropes tour of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, **Pennsylvania**
- Guided visit to Angel Island Immigration Station and candlelight tour of Fort Point at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, **California**
- Private guided tour of Yellowstone National Park in **Montana** and **Wyoming**
- Ranger-led hikes and tours of the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park in **Colorado**
- Private tour of the Kennedy Space Center in **Florida**