



Freedom 250

Teacher Toolkit



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Low-cost, high-impact ways to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary in K-12 Schools

All Grades (K-12)

- Display the [White House Founders museum](#)
- Say the pledge every day
- “Freedom Minute” –highlight one fact for each day from American history over the last 250 years, such as: “On this day in American history”...
- Commemorate Veterans Week – invite veterans to school to talk to classes and/or the whole school about their experiences serving our nation
- Designate certain days as Red, White, and Blue day, encouraging students to wear these colors on those days (for example, every Friday or the first Friday of the month)
- American art competition or display: appropriate for each grade, such as: artwork of flags for elementary students, paintings of American landscapes for middle school students, and copies of iconic American art pieces for high school students. Could display this artwork in the hallways.
- Freedom 250 themed science fairs/innovation competitions, appropriate for grade each grade level, with a focus on the theme of building the next 250 years
- Fly the 1776 flag and/or include it in Color Guard ceremonies (The Freedom 250 Commission will have a 1776 flag available soon with “250” inside the 13 stars).

Elementary

- Memorize the Declaration, either the opening or the full document. Schools could host a recitation event for parents to attend.
- Memorize Longfellow’s Paul Revere’s Ride poem
- Memorize key excerpts of the Patrick Henry speech
- Perform patriotic songs
- Schools could host an Freedom 250 Celebration with recitations and musical performances of historical figures for parents to attend
- Highlight a different American hero each day – could be figures from government, military, business, leaders of major movements such as the Civil Rights movement, innovators, cultural and sports icons, etc.
- Living history day – students dress up as a historical figure from American history
- Freedom 250 themed field day
- Host a colonial meal
- Field trip to one of the [Great American Road Trip](#) stops

Middle School

- Memorize the Declaration, either the opening or the full document. Schools could host a recitation event for parents to attend.
- Organize a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence

- Show the White House Story of America video series (10 minutes each)
- Living history day – students dress up as a historical figure from American history
- Freedom 250 themed field day
- Perform scenes from the 1776 musical
- Field trip to one of the Great American Road Trip stops
- Write an essay about why you love America

High School

- Have a mock Continental Congress – debate the Declaration
- Perform the 1776 musical
- Perform the Cato play (Washington’s favorite play– he had it performed for the troops)
- Host orchestra concerts focused on American pieces – could be great pieces by Irving Berlin, show tunes, or masterpieces by Aaron Copland, etc.
- Participate in 1776 Presidential Award history competition (more details coming soon from the Department of Education)
- Participate in the Patriot Games (more details coming soon from the White House Task Force 250)
- Show the White House Story of America video series (10 minutes each)

These ideas are merely a starting point. Teachers are among the most creative people and we know you will have many additional ideas. These ideas are intended to provide a springboard for your own initiatives that would best serve your students.