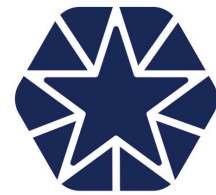


Semiquincentennial News



TEXAS
AMERICA
250

Greetings

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Texas America250 Newsletter! This newsletter is designed to keep you informed on how Texas plans to mark the 250th anniversary of America's founding by sharing updates, events, and initiatives leading up to July 4, 2026. Look forward to quarterly newsletter distributions as we work together to celebrate this historic milestone!



About Texas America250

★ Greetings, readers, and many thanks for your interest in America's Semiquincentennial (semi-quin-centennial), Texas-style, or the 250th, for short!

With America's human history dating much further back than 1776 and extending well-beyond the original 13 Colonies, one can't truly discuss the founding of the United States without including Texas. The Texas America250 Commission hopes that Texans of every age will celebrate, commemorate, and reflect upon this momentous anniversary. By sharing news from the nation, we invite you to be inspired. Make your involvement uniquely your own in communities across this beautiful state — find ways to bring people together, enhance your civic knowledge, promote new research, plan events, and recognize the sacrifices and roles Texans have played in gaining and preserving our independence through the centuries. We look forward to hearing all about it and are here to help you spread the word. To learn about existing resources anyone can use, visit the America250 website [here](#).

Margaret Koch

Presiding Chair, Texas America250 Commission

★ In 2021, the 87th Texas Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 creating the Texas America250 Commission. The Commission is tasked with helping celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Led by six designated commissioners and an advisory panel of history-minded organizations from around the state, the Texas America250 Commission's mission aspires to promote a deeper understanding of the founding of the United States and the contributions of Texans as we strive towards a more perfect union for future generations.

The Texas America250 Commission goals to carry out this mission are to:

- ★ Enhance civic knowledge of the founding principles of the country and the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- ★ Encourage Texans to unite in commemorating the Semiquincentennial.
- ★ Promote scholarship and research that illuminates the history of the American West and Texas' role in the formation of the nation.
- ★ Recognize the service and sacrifices of veterans and their families, who have protected our liberties and independence for future generations.
- ★ Collect, track, and share information about Texas events and activities planned for the 250th, and assess and report to the state on their impact.

Get Involved

★ America's Field Trip

The America's Field Trip contest invites students in grades 3–12 to submit artwork based on the prompt: “What does America mean to you?” Winning entries will have the opportunity to select a field trip to historic sites across the country. Prize packages this year include a Texas field trip with special access to the historic Alamo and LBJ Presidential Library. Don't miss out— submissions are open until April 16, 2025. This is a fantastic way to engage students in celebrating America's 250th!

To learn more, visit <https://america250.org/fieldtrip/>.

★ Two Lights for Tomorrow

[Two Lights for Tomorrow](#) is a public lighting program inspired by Paul Revere's famous ride. The initiative calls for two lights to be displayed in state houses, courthouses, and even homes across the country. Gathering state commissions to join the public lighting program on April 18, 2025, ensures history is remembered by making it relevant, meaningful, and engaging to the public today. The following day, April 19, 2025, is being dedicated as a nation-wide Day of Service, inviting individuals to take part in community volunteer projects.



★ Greatest American Cleanup[®]

In honor of America's 250th birthday, Keep America Beautiful (KAB) has launched the Greatest American Cleanup. This nationwide initiative aims to pick up 25 billion pieces of litter, increase recycling rates, and beautify 25,000 communities across America by July 4, 2026. In Texas, Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) encourages participation through programs such as Texas Trash Off and Keep Texas Water Ways Clean. Visit [KAB's Greatest Communities](#) and [KTB's Great American Cleanup](#) for more opportunities to get involved and make a difference!

★ Harrison County Texas America 250

The TXAM250 Commission is excited to highlight Harrison County, Texas and their efforts in celebrating the Semiquincentennial at a local level. Steven McFarland, Chair of the Harrison County Texas America250 Commission is a welcome participant at monthly TXAM250 meetings and has been leading the county's celebrations with much enthusiasm! Appointed by Harrison County Judge Chad Simmons, Steven has hit the ground running by creating a shareable website template and a dedicated Harrison County Texas America250 [social media page](#). He recently published an article discussing the effectiveness of intertwining various America250 initiatives to engage as many citizens of Harrison County as possible. To read more on his efforts, please visit: <https://www.hcta250.org/>



★ National Park Service Grants

NPS recently announced it is accepting applications for a fourth round of funding for the Semiquincentennial Grant Program for the preservation of sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation. Find more info here:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/semiquincentennial.htm>

Advisory Council Spotlight

★ Order of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

The Order of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez was established to educate the public on Spain's critical contributions to the American Revolutionary War. Led by General Bernardo de Gálvez, who served as governor of Louisiana, Spain played a pivotal role in supporting the colonies and their fight for independence. Founded during the Bicentennial in 1976, the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez is dedicated to sharing this important contribution and will once again join the celebrations in 2026.

One of their exciting commemoration initiatives is an educational coloring book titled *American Independence: The Spanish Secret*. This book will highlight Spain's part in the revolution in a fun and engaging format.

The Texas America250 Advisory Panel includes several members from various Granaderos chapters across the state.

★ Texas Public Broadcasting Association (Texas PBS)

Kierstan Schwab, Executive Director of Texas Public Broadcasting Association (Texas PBS), represents Texas PBS on the Texas America250 Commission Advisory Panel. PBS plays a vital role in serving the community, offering a variety of programming through local partnerships, statewide reach, and national affiliations. With 10 PBS stations throughout the State, Texas PBS connects viewers to meaningful content across multiple platforms. For the 250th, PBS will premiere *The American Revolution*, a film by Ken Burns. Additionally, there will be a national focus on civics education with PBS Kids programs such as *Rosie's Rules*, *City Island*, and *Together We Can!*

The Advisory Panel consists of participants representing historically minded and community-centric organizations from across Texas who have committed to collaborating and amplifying 250th efforts on the local, state, and national levels.

Texas Members of The Congressional America250 Caucus

On the national level, the bi-partisan Congressional America250 Caucus includes more than 250 Members of Congress, providing a forum for lawmakers to participate in and promote the anniversary on Capitol Hill. The Caucus also serves as a resource for lawmakers as well as Congressional staff interested in being a part of the effort. As of December 2024, 23 Texas Members have committed to participating :

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19)

Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX-36)

Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX-26)

Rep. John Carter (R-TX-31)

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20)

Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX-30)

Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R-TX-15)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX-37)

Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX-06)

Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX-16)

Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX-07)

Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX-29)

Rep. Al Green (D-TX-09)

Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-TX-38)

Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-TX-08)

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX-10)

Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX-22)

Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX-11)

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX-21)

Rep. Keith Self (R-TX-03)

Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX-24)

Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX-33)

Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX-25)



Texas America250

To share news, ask questions, request logo licensing information, or to receive a shareable slide deck about the commission, email us at contactTXAM250@thestoryoftexas.com