



Illinois State Organization NSDAR
Marria Blinn, State Regent

CLUB 250 Guidelines
America 250! Committee
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Let's Celebrate! *America 250!*

July 4, 2026, is an important date in the history of the United States. It's our semiquincentennial! As Illinois Daughters, it is our job to bring the celebration to our members and communities. So "Let's Celebrate" **America 250!** in our chapter, community, with our veterans and our youth!

Join Club 250

An exciting part of "Let's Celebrate" is the creation of **Club 250**, an exclusive club available to all DAR chapters in the State of Illinois, and our goal is to have 100% participation! Membership and a certificate will be presented at State Conference to chapters who publicize **America 250!** in one or more of the suggested categories:

- **Chapter**
- **Community**
- **Veterans**
- **Youth**

Chapters must complete at least one activity in at least one category. Send a photo of your activity along with a caption describing the activity, date completed, district and name of your chapter to this chairman's address listed above. Photos submitted by March 1 will be on display at the luncheon at State Conference. Below are the categories and suggested activities.

Chapter

- Read a Patriot Minute at each chapter meeting.
- Create a library or store display.
- Author an article for your local newspaper.
- Make social media posts on your city, town, or village's social media platforms to share the news of the Semiquincentennial.
- Create Semiquincentennial bookmarks for chapter members to pass out at events such as libraries, expos, businesses, schools, sporting events, celebrations, parades, and other community events and places.
- Do you make or sell a product? Package it with a card that says "Made in honor of the United States' 250th Birthday".

Community

- Arrange for a business or library to display "Happy 250th Birthday To America!" on their display sign.
- Create and maintain a garden in a public place for the public to enjoy. Invite local garden clubs to help with this project. Post a sign that says "DAR Celebrates **America 250!**, July 4, 2026."
- Host a community highway, roadway, or park clean-up in honor of the Semiquincentennial.
- Place a historical marker at a park or historic site in honor of **America 250!**
- Invite members of your community to identify themselves if they have any ancestors who played a role in our nation's efforts for independence. Present them with a chapter "Patriot Certificate" acknowledging their ancestors' contribution to independence.

Youth

- Encourage children grades K-12 to participate in a poster contest based upon a theme such as **“What is Great About Our Nation.”**
- Work with local libraries to show a Saturday movie of historic significance for local children.
- Host a youth book club with your local library, suggesting age-appropriate books with historical stories, and offer incentives for the more books each child reads. Local businesses may be interested in providing incentives.
- Host a Black Friday or other “school’s out” activity day for kids and plan historical activities such as crafts, dress up in historical outfits, story time with historical books being read by community leaders and DAR members, or other activities to demonstrate the wonderful things about our nation.
- Create a local history scavenger hunt for kids in your community with prizes awarded.

Veterans

- Arrange for a VFW, American Legion, or other veteran facility to display “Happy 250th Birthday America!” in their windows or on their road sign.
- Host an **America 250!** Bingo Bash or trivia game at a veterans hospital or facility.
- Provide a library of books on the Revolutionary War for a veterans hospital or facility.
- Host a booth at a veterans fair or at a facility promoting **America 250!**
- Write 250 Honor Flight mail call letters. Be sure to include “In honor of our nation’s 250th birthday celebration, we would like to thank you for your service.”
- Mail 250 Christmas cards to active service men and women

The list above is of suggested activities, but certainly not the only activities that your chapter can do to join **Club 250**. Questions? Please ask by contacting this chair, Jacqueline Joines by email at jsjoines@gmail.com or by phone at 217-246-0355.

~ Begin planning your Semiquicentennial “Let’s Celebrate” activities today! ~

Remember . . . All service hours spent on veterans, community & education are eligible to be added to the online tally for **Service to America!**

