AMERICA MADEIN VIRGINIA



AMERICA. MADE IN VIRGINIA.

America Made In Virginia is a powerful statement based on a simple truth: from the ideas that inspired it, to the battlefields that decided it, there is simply no America without Virginia. After all, it was here where Patrick Henry cried "Give Me Liberty, Or Give Me Death!". Here where colonists first committed to resisting British tyranny. Here where Jefferson and Madison debated the rights of the individual. And here where Washington triumphed over the British at Yorktown.

As America prepares to mark 250 years since the Declaration of Independence, Virginia's American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) has already begun a multi-year commemorative journey that will conclude in 2031 with the 250th anniversary of Washington's victory. Whether this July 4 or afterward, whether you visit for a day, a week, or longer, we invite you to come reconnect with your country, in the place that made it possible.

While we honor our country's creation, we will also reflect on our shared past, examining how our founding continues to shape our present and future. Our overarching goal is to educate Americans about our history, ideals, and system of government; engage every Virginia community in events that tell a complete story; and inspire us all to commit to the values inherent in citizenship.

If our work is successful, Virginia can lead the way in helping America "To Form A More Perfect Union."

Virginia's American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) was established by the General Assembly to be the official organizing body to commemorate Virginia's role in the 250th anniversary of American Independence. <u>va250.org</u>



## **GET INVOLVED**

# SAVE THE DATE FOR EXCITING EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN 2026

VA250 and Monticello present "From Pen to Paper: Thomas Jefferson and the Drafting of the Declaration of Independence" Saturday, May 2, 2026

VA250 and Colonial Williamsburg present "250th Anniversary of Fifth Virginia Convention: Virginia's Independence Day" **Friday, May 15, 2026** 

VA250 and Stratford Hall present "Virginia Resolved: 250th Anniversary of Lee Resolution of Independence" Sunday, June 7, 2026

VA250 and Mount Vernon present "A Celebration of Our Role in the World" **Thursday, June 11, 2026** 

VA250 and Gunston Hall present "250th Anniversary of Virginia Declaration of Rights" Friday, June 12, 2026

VA 250 and Colonial
Williamsburg present
"America. Made in Virginia.
250 Years of Forming a More
Perfect Union"
July 4, 2026 ★

#### BECOME A COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER

As a Commemorative Partner, your organization can help illuminate Virginia's Revolutionary role in American history, engage every community with stories of our founding, and inspire citizens across the state to recommit to the ideals of the founding principles enshrined in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution: liberty, equality and democracy. VA250 is committed to identifying collaborative opportunities to make Virginians aware of the resources and educational programs available to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence.

va250.org/partners

### **ENGAGE!**

- ★ Become a volunteer va250.org/volunteer
- ★ Join a VA250 committee in your area va250.org/va250localcommittees
- ★ Trumpet America Made In Virginia merch va250.org
- ★ Participate in events happening throughout Virginia va250.org/localevents







### **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." – Benjamin Franklin

The 250th anniversary of American Independence provides an opportunity to educate, engage, and inspire Virginia students about American history, values, and beliefs.

VA250 is working with the Virginia Department of Education to:

★ Make History Come Alive

★ Spark a Civic Renaissance

**★** Celebrate Democracy

# VA250 MOBILE MUSEUM EXPERIENCE: OUT OF MANY, ONE

An interactive "museum on wheels," the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience offers visitors the opportunity to explore the true meaning of E Pluribus Unum – *Out of Many, One* – in a museum like no other. The Mobile Museum Experience is housed in a quad-expandable tractor trailer that travels throughout Virginia and beyond. *Out of Many, One* shares key stories of Virginia's rich history at schools, museums, local events, fairs, and more, highlighting every region of the state. See where the Mobile Museum Experience is headed next and submit a request to bring it to your destination: va250.org/mobile-museum





# GIVE ME LIBERTY: VIRGINIA & THE FORGING OF A NATION

The first major 250th show in the nation, Give Me *Liberty* is a 5,000 square foot exhibition currently on display at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond. Give Me Liberty highlights Virginia's leading role in the American Revolution. It explores the continental and global forces, as well as the individual actions by both iconic and ordinary people that produced a model of democratic government that would change the world. Visitors can experience the electrifying atmosphere at St. John's Church where Patrick Henry delivered his famous speech and see an early tavern and print house where many lively conversations occurred. Give Me Liberty will open at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown in March of 2026. va250.org/give-me-liberty



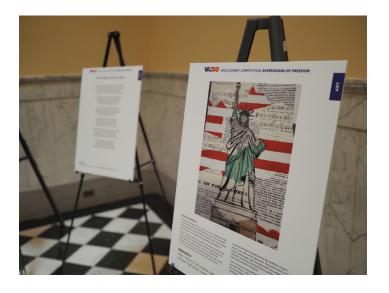
### **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**



#### EXPRESSIONS OF FREEDOM

Expressions of Freedom provides an opportunity for students grades 3 – 12 to share their ideas and perspectives through artwork, videos, audio recordings, or essays in response to the question: "What does Freedom mean to you?" Winners have the opportunity to have their work placed in a time capsule in the restored pedestal of the statue of George Washington located in historic Trafalgar Square, London, England. The statue serves as a reminder of the enduring friendship and shared ideals, principles, and sacrifices between America and England. Winning submissions from 2024's contest are featured on

va250.org/expressions-of-freedom



### NATIONAL CIVICS BEE

The National Civics Bee® is an annual competition that inspires young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. The National Civics Bee is a nonpartisan initiative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to enhance civic literacy, skills, and participation. Middle school students from public, private, charter, and homeschools are invited to stay tuned for information about the 2026 National Civics Bee.





