

Karen Hawkins

From: NYCOM - Hannah DiLiberto <hannah@nycom.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2026 11:39 AM
To: Karen Hawkins
Subject: Celebrating America250 with NYCOM: 3 Ways to Get Involved Locally



Dear NYCOM Members,

As we enter 2026 and mark the nation's 250th anniversary, communities across New York have a unique opportunity to celebrate our shared history while creating something meaningful for future generations. To help get your planning started, NYCOM has developed three simple, impactful ideas that cities and villages can easily bring to life locally.

1. Create an America250 Time Capsule

Communities are invited to assemble a time capsule filled with items that reflect life today and their

local history, then bury it at city or village hall to be opened during the nation's 300th anniversary. This is a powerful way to connect today's residents with future generations through a shared civic legacy.

2. Host an "America's Potluck" Food Drive

We encourage you to adapt the America250 "[America's Potluck](#)" idea - originally conceived as a nationwide communal-meal event - into a benefit for those in need. Instead of just a shared meal among neighbors, consider hosting a community-wide food drive where residents can drop off nonperishable goods, and combine it with a potluck or communal meal, as your municipality sees fit. Leveraging a recognized national initiative can foster connection and civic pride while also providing meaningful support to those facing food insecurity.

3. Plant a Liberty Tree or Create a Liberty Garden

Planting a Liberty Tree or establishing a small Liberty Garden in your community offers a lasting, visible tribute to America250. These projects enhance beautification, support sustainability, and expand green space while creating an enduring symbol of civic pride.

Each of these ideas is designed to be flexible and low-cost, allowing you to tailor it to the size and capacity of your community. Participation can be as simple or as robust as you choose.

NYCOM looks forward to celebrating America250 with our members across the State. We encourage you to consider participating in one or more of these initiatives and to share your efforts with us (via email to Hannah@nycom.org) so we can help spotlight your community's work.

If you have questions or would like additional guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out.



