

We the People of the VALLEY



A VA250 Student Contest

Calling all student creators!!

America is turning 250 years old! As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we want to hear from you.

What does America mean to you?

What makes our country special?

What freedoms and ideas should we protect for the future?

✨ Create something brave. Create something meaningful. Create something that celebrates America and the ideas that make our country special. 🇺🇸

WHAT CAN YOU CREATE?

You can create **almost anything** that celebrates America, such as:

- Essays, poems, or speeches
- Artwork such as paintings, posters, cartoons, collages, sculptures, or models
- Live or recorded performances, including songs, plays, videos, or even a scene from *Hamilton!*
- Museum exhibits, historical reenactments, or original research projects

If it reflects your vision of American democracy, it belongs here!

AMERICA
★ 250!
Daughters of the
American Revolution


SPONSORED BY THE MASSANUTTON CHAPTER OF THE DAR


Please submit entries to your school of enrollment, or school of residence if home-schooled.


WHAT CAN IT BE ABOUT?


This contest begins with the Revolutionary Era as we celebrate the Declaration of Independence and the Fourth of July. But your project can explore any time in American history, from the American Revolution to the Civil War, from the civil rights movement to today.

The ideas below are just suggestions to help you get started. You are not limited to this list. You may choose any person, place, symbol, idea, or event that helps tell America's story.

 **PEOPLE:** Leaders and heroes like George Washington, Abigail Adams, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Martin Luther King Jr., Barbara Johns, and many others.

 **PLACES:** The Mississippi River, the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains, the Shenandoah Valley, national parks, historic landmarks, big cities, small towns, farms and factories, and other places that symbolize America's story.

 **SYMBOLS:** The Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, the bald eagle, the American buffalo, or other symbols that represent our country.

 **IDEAS:** Freedom, equality, justice, civil rights, the pursuit of happiness, courage, unity, fairness, and working together to build a better country.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Entries Due: Friday, May 22, 2026

Winners Announced: June 1, 2026

Recognition Ceremony: July 4, 2026



WIN CASH PRIZES!



1st Place — \$50

Each elementary school will select one overall winner, who will receive a \$50 award.

Awards will be presented the morning of July 4 at Spotswood High School during a 250th Independence Day community celebration hosted by the Massanutton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Winners will share their creative response and receive their monetary award. **Recipients must be present.**

QUESTIONS: Contact Beau Dickenson at bdickenson@rockingham.k12.va.us

Celebrate Democracy. Share Your Voice.



*There are no limits — only possibilities.
Be creative. Be bold. Be part of history.*

