



## REVOLUTION REFRAMED

# 50 Things to Do Before the 250th

A spirit of civic service inspired individuals of all ages to contribute to the fight for independence during the American Revolution. There are many ways to make a difference in your community through acts of service. Chances are, you may already be doing many of them. Challenge yourself (and your friends!) to see who can complete the most items on this list before the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. Additional community engagement resources are available at **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Engagement Resource Center** at [pbs.org/americanrevolution/resources](https://pbs.org/americanrevolution/resources).



This resource was inspired by [The Civic Season 100](#), created by [Made By Us](#), founder of Civic Season—an annual tradition from Juneteenth to July 4th to help young people discover ways to become civically engaged. Learn more at [TheCivicSeason.com](https://TheCivicSeason.com).

1. **Host a THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION screening and discussion event!** Partner with a local organization or plan your own screening event to learn more about the history of the American Revolution together. Screening reels and other resources to support your screening are available in the Engagement Resource Center linked above.
2. **Become a history detective.** Dive into books, documentaries, or websites about the American Revolution. Learn about historical figures from your area, and find out what life was really like for people back then.
3. **Plan a patriotic picnic.** Organize a potluck of red, white, and blue treats to celebrate veterans in your community.
4. **Get a library card.** Visit your local library to get a card and check out books, films, and music about American history. Librarians are also amazing resources for finding interesting information!
5. **Register to vote.**
6. **Host a book club.** Gather your friends to read a book—fiction or nonfiction—about the American Revolution.



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7. **Learn about Indigenous lands and history.** Discover the heritage of the land where you live.
8. **Attend a public meeting.** Go to a city council or school board meeting to see how local decisions are made and offer your own thoughts.
9. **Help clean up a park.** Grab some gloves and help keep your local green spaces beautiful for everyone to enjoy.
10. **Start a coat drive.** Rally your friends, family, and neighbors to collect warm clothing for those in need.
11. **Organize a “make a card” event.** Send thank-you cards to people in your community making a difference.
12. **Research your town’s role in the American Revolution and write an article about it for your local paper.** Uncover community stories by using public resources, like library archives, and then share it with your wider community.
13. **Read the Declaration of Independence.** Highlight or write down the parts that still resonate today.
14. **Get to know your neighbors.** Say hello, lend a hand, and build a stronger, friendlier community right on your street.
15. **Record oral histories.** Interview elders in your community to preserve their stories for future generations.
16. **Organize a community mixer.** Bring neighbors of all ages together for a potluck or social event to build connections. Consider partnering with a local elderly home, whose members may have less mobility to participate in activities outside their care facility.
17. **Help local seniors.** Offer to run errands or assist with technology to help older members of your community.
18. **Organize a school supply drive.** Collect essential items for a local school to make sure students have what they need to succeed.
19. **Support local businesses.** Shop at a farmers’ market, eat at a local restaurant, or buy from small businesses to help your community thrive.
20. **Talk to someone who disagrees with you.** Practice civil discourse and learn from a different point of view.
21. **Offer free tutoring.** Share your knowledge and help someone in your community learn a new skill.
22. **Support new immigrants or refugees.** Volunteer your time to help welcome newcomers and help them feel at home.



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23. **Join a non-partisan canvassing or voter information campaign.** Hit the pavement and help your neighbors get ready to vote.
24. **Volunteer as a poll worker.** Help ensure smooth, fair elections for everyone in your community. Work at a polling place on election day to help check in voters and ensure a smooth voting process.
25. **Participate in a “Read Across America” day.** Volunteer to read to elementary school students and read a book about the American Revolution.
26. **Become CPR certified.** Learn a life-saving skill that could help someone in an emergency.
27. **Learn basic ASL.** Expand your communication skills and connect with a wider community.
28. **Host a transcribe-a-thon.** Partner with a local library, school or community center to transcribe documents from the Library of Congress’ collection. Learn more at [crowd.loc.gov](https://crowd.loc.gov).
29. **Help a homebound neighbor.** This could be a one-time project like raking leaves or shoveling snow, or an ongoing commitment such as taking out their trash or walking their dog.
30. **Host a trivia night.** Organize a fun trivia game focused on the American Revolution, US history, or local civics to challenge your friends and family.
31. **Join a community science project.** Participate in a local research project to help scientists collect important data about your area’s environment.
32. **Support language preservation efforts.** Learn about and support local efforts to preserve Indigenous languages or other languages spoken in your community.
33. **Start or contribute to a community fridge or pantry.** Help ensure your neighbors have access to fresh, healthy food by contributing to a shared resource.
34. **Start or support a tool library or seed bank.** Share resources with your neighbors to help with home projects and gardening.
35. **Help someone find a job or internship.** Share your knowledge and time by helping a neighbor fix up their resume or prepare for an interview.
36. **Join a mentorship program.** Help a younger person in your community by sharing your life and career experience.
37. **Plant a pollinator garden.** Create a garden that attracts bees and butterflies and helps support your local ecosystem.
38. **Advocate for safer streets and sidewalks.** Work with neighbors to make your community’s streets more walkable and bikeable for everyone.
39. **Organize a “Fix It” event.** Bring together neighbors to repair broken items, like bikes or appliances, to reduce waste and save money.



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40. **Host a community storytelling night.** Organize an event where people can share stories about the history of your community. It's a great way to build connections and preserve local culture.
41. **Help organize a local festival.** Get behind the scenes of your community's favorite celebrations, like a farmers' market, a Fourth of July parade, or a food festival, and help make it a success for everyone.
42. **Become an emergency volunteer.** Sign up with a local organization that helps during emergencies or natural disasters. Learning skills like first aid and CPR can help you support your neighbors when they need it most.
43. **Organize a historical marker tour.** Map out the historical markers in your town, then organize a walk or bike ride to visit each one and share its story with your friends and family.
44. **Maintain or build community walking trails.** Volunteer to help keep local trails safe and beautiful for all to enjoy.
45. **Start a petition for a local issue.** If you see a problem in your community, start a petition to show your local officials that people care about the issue and want to see change.
46. **Host a community dialogue.** Organize a discussion on a local issue and bring people together to find common ground.
47. **Support Local Arts.** Volunteer at a local art gallery, theater, or music venue to help set up events and support local artists.
48. **Help Your Local Library.** Volunteer at your library to help organize books, assist with children's programs, or read to younger kids.
49. **Help with an accessibility project.** Work with local businesses or community leaders to identify and improve accessibility for people with disabilities. This could involve creating guides or advocating for ramps.
50. **Make a personal Civic Season list—and invite others to join in!**