

# AMERICA 250

## CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission  
Local Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

### Meeting Notes

#### Recording

1. Welcome & Introduction of New Committees - three new municipalities joined the call & introduced themselves to the group.
2. America 250 | CT Commission Updates - Cyndi Tolosa
  - a. Tabling Kit & Parade Banner & Website
  - b. America250 Convening & National Updates
  - c. Give250
    - i. [Recap](#)
    - ii. Round 2
  - d. [Education Materials](#)
  - e. [Tourism Trail](#)

A tabling kit & parade banner are available and can be borrowed by municipalities for use at community events. The tabling kit includes a tablecloth, small photo frame, "C" logo stickers, engagement activity, and mailing list sign up sheet. The parade banner includes a 3'x6' vinyl banner and carrying poles. Contact [info@ct250.org](mailto:info@ct250.org) to request the kit and/or banner. Please include the date(s) and location of the event, as well as a primary contact person, in your request.

America250 national convening, July 2025 - Jason Mancini & Rachel Gonzalez attended on behalf of Connecticut's commission. Items of note included:

- An exhibition involving the states & territories will be held on the National Mall in June/July 2026, additional details to be shared when they are confirmed.
- Our American Story is a traveling oral history project hosted by America250 and will be in Connecticut at a date TBD.
- Many education initiatives are in the early planning stages, including a visit to PK-12 schools across the country, a history quiz bowl event, and a high school athletic competition.
- Additional information on national initiatives will be shared on our website as dates and locations become available.

National initiatives organized by state commissions and others include:

- America's Potluck, July 5, 2026: Join Utah's state commission & others around the country in hosting a potluck, big or small!
  - Ideas from individuals on the call to adapt this for your own community included hosting a local picnic with the town supplying a beverage and pre-packaged snack and attendees bringing their own meal or involving local food trucks and/or restaurants
- The Spirit of America, July 8, 2026: Join Hawaii's state commission in hosting a reading of the Declaration of Independence on the 250th anniversary of the date the Declaration

was originally read to the public. America 250 | CT encourages the inclusion of readings of other foundational documents as well – additional guidance on planning for this type of event is forthcoming.

- The American Revolution – Ken Burns Watch Parties: The American Revolution premieres on PBS on November 16, 2025. Attend an official screening or plan your own watch party and let us know if you are so we can encourage people in your area to attend.
  - Fairfield University is hosting Ken Burns in February 2026 - tickets available to purchase

Give 250 Connecticut raised over \$22k for 12 municipalities or their designee in July. CTH staff and the commission are taking lessons learned from this giving event and will be hosting a second opportunity. The contract is in final edits with legal and will be shared by early September. Key details:

- October 27-31, 2025
- Open to municipalities and approved 501(c)(3) affiliate organizations
- Webinars on specific topics will be held live & recorded - details available [here](#).

Education materials - curriculum linked to the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies standards and the commission's themes was developed for grades 3, 5, 8, and high school and is published [here](#). There is also a recording of a professional development session available at that link. These are being shared out by the Education subcommittee, State Department of Education, and CCSS, including at an upcoming CCSS conference in October. The education subcommittee is also developing guidance that local historical societies and committees can use to engage with teachers and students around the 250th.

An America 250 | CT tourism trail will be published on [CTVisit.com](http://CTVisit.com) by early 2026. Use [this form](#) to share your ideas of places that should be included on the trail. We hope to expand beyond the most popular historical sites and include sites that aren't as well-known.

There have been questions on trademarks with America250; staff hasn't received updates from the national group in a while but will share guidance when we receive it.

### 3. Questions & Discussion

Michael Krenesky shared that the Sons of the American Revolution can be a good resource for schools or programs looking to do living history - you can contact a local branch if interested.

#### **New Links:**

[Commission Events](#) (now includes national initiatives)

#### **Helpful Links:**

- [Event Calendar](#)
- [Local Commission Listing](#)
- [Affiliate Program](#)
- [Federal Grants](#)
- [CT Humanities Grants](#)
- AASLH [Field Guide](#), [Programming Guide](#), and [Local Commission Technical Leaflet](#)
- [Two Lights for Tomorrow](#)

- [Funding Resources](#)
- [Private Facebook group](#)
- [Recording from Planning Workshop](#)
- [2025 Conference Recordings](#)
- [Give 250 Connecticut Resources](#)