



January 1, 2026

America 250 NC Buncombe County Committee – 2026 Prospectus

Asheville, NC— The America 250 NC Buncombe County Committee (the Committee, or Buncombe 250) was formed in the Spring of 2025 to promote local observances of our nation's founding and its 250-year history as part of the **N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' (DNCR) America 250 NC** initiative. **Its principal aim, to bring DNCR's resources to Buncombe County**. Since forming, the committee received a \$10,000.00 grant from DNCR to support planning and outreach to promote the initiative. The funding is part of nearly \$1.2 million distributed across 74 participating counties statewide to support programs and projects leading up to **America's 250th anniversary in 2026**. Since receiving the grant the all-volunteer Buncombe 250 Committee launched its virtual presence, conducted listening sessions, and promoted its flagship commemorative tree planting program. The following highlight's mark the Committee's early establishment and its aims for the 2026 commemorative period.

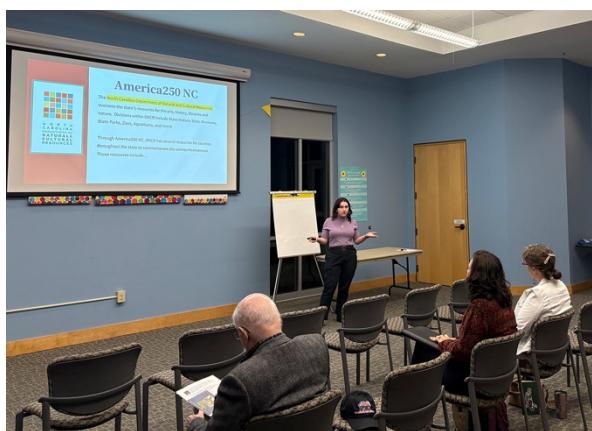


Beginning in the early summer of 2025 the Committee received the official mark of America 250 NC to provide to entities planning commemorative events throughout the 2026 season. Organizations across Buncombe County are encouraged to help raise awareness of the commemoration by using the logo and sharing details about DNCR programs and their own programs throughout the arc of the 2026 commemoration. To promote awareness and provide access to DNCR initiatives, the Committee launched the website <https://www.buncombe250.org>, and began presence on social media. Use of the Buncombe County America 250 NC mark provides participants with the opportunity to submit their events for posting on the statewide America 250 NC event calendar.

By late summer the Committee launched its flagship initiative, the ***Beyond the Liberty Tree*** program, with aspirations to 1) promote commemorative tree plantings statewide, 2) commission buncombe county artists to design commemorative plaques for the trees, and 3) encourage philanthropic donations to service organizations in WNC leading reforestation efforts. With a goal to see 250 trees planted in reforestation across the region for every one commemorative tree planted across the state, the program is making headway and has received positive response and participation from allied America 250 County Committees statewide, individual communities, and individual organizations. Awareness-building promotional activity for the program was undertaken through local virtual The reception of the initiative by interested organizations prompted the



Committee to expand the program's period of commemorative plantings and donations across the full 2026 calendar year. Proceeds from the initiative will be used to further promote and make accessible DNCR resources across the commemorative period.



Buncombe County throughout 2026.

The Committee's fall 2025 **Buncombe 250 public listening sessions** afforded residents the opportunity to learn more about DNCR programs and share their perspective on ways they wish to commemorate the 250th in Buncombe County. The grant monies received by DNCR earlier in the year supported awareness-raising, and the hiring of a facilitator to conduct the sessions. Each session began with representatives from DNCR sharing the statewide initiatives, followed by a facilitated discussion on how these initiatives might support programming in

Plans and aspirations for the year-long commemoration include community-wide acts of service, commemorative tree plantings and reforestation efforts, educational and field trip opportunities, community gatherings, and a host of programs and events planned to highlight North Carolina history. These aspirations were categorized through the findings into two categories of programs:

Programs to be led by the volunteer Buncombe 250 Committee:

Chartered with the intention to make the DNCR North Carolina 250 initiatives accessible to Buncombe County residents, Buncombe 250 will continue its role as a connector to the official programming and program resources provided by the state <https://www.america250.nc.gov>. These efforts will continue through general awareness-building, and through the distribution of print and promotional materials as funding is available. As no additional state-funding is anticipated, proceeds from the *Beyond the Liberty Tree* program will further supplement these efforts.

Umbrella Initiatives: Programs Encouraged by the Committee for Participation By Others Throughout 2026:

Community organizations, local government, schools, businesses, tourism partners, faith communities, and individuals are encouraged to plan programs, events, and initiatives to commemorate 250 years of American and NC history. The most prominent program ideas expressed during the **Buncombe 250 public listening sessions** helped to inform the following programs and program sectors:

- **Explore Buncombe 250:** Buncombe 250 will promote visitation to participating cultural sites, libraries and museums throughout the commemorative period. DNCR resources will be provided to participating sites (Educational Activity Bags, Voices of North Carolina - Story Centers, Traveling Exhibits etc.).
- **Experience Buncombe 250:** The committee will encourage local organizations to host events across the arc of the commemorative period, at key anniversary dates:
 - **April 24th - Arbor Day:** Buncombe 250 will promote commemorative tree plantings made possible through the *Beyond the Liberty Tree* initiative.

- **May 7th - National Day of Prayer/Reflection:** Faith communities and interested parties will be encouraged to host services and moments of reflection on our nation's past, present, and future.
- **July 4th and 5th:** Buncombe 250 will encourage greater participation in July 4th events hosted by others, and the DNCR's promotion of the Great American Picnic.
- **September 11th – National Day of Service:** Buncombe 250 will encourage leading service organizations to host and residents to participate in a day of service on September 11, 2026 (25th anniversary 9/11).
- **September 17th - Constitution Day:** Buncombe 250 will promote participation in Constitution Day programs hosted by local partners, including learning more about our founding documents at participating Explore Buncombe 250 sites.
- **November 11th- Veterans Day:** Buncombe 250 will promote participation in programs by local partners honor veterans.

Ultimately the programs and umbrella initiatives of Buncombe 250 will be dependent upon local support and participation of existing organizations and individuals. Find out more at www.buncombe250.org

More Information:

- **Local (America 250 NC Buncombe County Committee):**
Website: www.buncombe250.org
Instagram: [@buncombe250NC](https://www.instagram.com/@buncombe250NC)
Contact: Savannah Stach
Email: info@buncombe250.org
- **Statewide (America 250 NC):**
<https://www.america250.nc.gov>
- **Planning Resources:**
[America 250 NC Planning Guide](http://America250.org)