AMERICA 250: BURKE COUNTY ACTIVITIES

- Date: March 5, 2026
- Presenter: Ed Phillips, Chair

  America 250 NC Burke County

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Goal: Community-wide America 250 engagement
- Budget: State Grants $30,000
  - (REV War Weekend 2025)
- $10,000 (Pole Banners)
- Burke County investment: $0

OBJECTIVES

- Community Engagement
- Heritage Education
- Historic Sites Visitor Attraction

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

- **Revolutionary War Weekend- September 26-27, 2025**
  - 40 “stations”
  - Reenactors
  - Speakers
  - Trolley and Bus Shuttles
  - Paid for with $30,000 Grant from NCDCNR

    900 attendees

- **Historic Site Tour- September 26, 2025**
  - 40 tickets sold @ $30 each
  - 4 Historic Sights plus lunch
  - Guests from 3 states
  - Grant paid for busses

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

Liberty Tree Planting

- Freedom Park
- Tree Donated by Burke County grower (Red Maple)
- Dedication to be determined when plaque is ready
- Cost $250 to State Organizer

FLAG SHIP EVENTS

- **4th Grade Flag Contest**
- 11 schools submitted flags
- Winner and Runner-up selected by America 250 Committee
- State winner to be announced later
- Zero Cost

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

- **Time Capsule**
- Designed and manufactured by WPCC
- Location: Burke County Register of Deeds lobby
- Contents: To be determined by Committee
- Cost: $2,000+
- Funding: Grant Applied for. Verbally approved. No check yet!

4TH OF JULY, 2026

- **Fireworks**

  -Morganton and Valdese

- **Parade**

  - Glen Alpine

Many discussions regarding a parade in downtown Morganton.

Volunteers to work on a 4th of July event have been limited.

February 26th meeting with City/County Reps determined that resurrecting a parade in downtown Morganton was not feasible.

It was determined that the best option was to promote the well-established Glen Alpine 4th of July Parade!

PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

- **Partners:**

  WPCC

  Historic Burke Foundation

  D.A.R.

  S.A.R.

  Burke County Public Schools (BCPS)

  The Paper

4TH GRADE OUTREACH

- North Carolina History taught in 4th Grade
- 20+ Year History of Revolutionary War Week educational programming
- Managed by the Historic Burke Foundation
- Due to ageing volunteer corps, no event was scheduled in 2025
- Spring, 2026 event postponed to Fall, 2026
- Discussions with BCPS about future of this program
- Possibly creating a video for in-class use along with historical reenactors at each school. Eliminates field trip and weather-related issues for volunteers.

MARKETING & OUTREACH

- Social media campaigns
- Billboards
- Partner email cross-promotion

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

- County Admin Support: Minimal staff time
- Burke County TDA CEO Ed Phillips has been managing America 250 projects on behalf of the Burke County Board of Commissioners.
- Grant Administration is currently being managed through the TDA
- $40,000 in State Grants have been received and mostly expended
- $8,000 balance for 4th Grade Educational Outreach, Time Capsule, Liberty Tree and 4th of July, 2026 event. These funds must be spent before September 30, 2026.

2026-2030

- 2027= Burke County's 250th Anniversary! 1777
- 2030= 250th Anniversary of the Battle of King's Mountain
- Overmountain Men gathered in Quaker Meadows, October, 1780
- 1,500 men mostly on horseback at Quaker Meadows

REQUEST & NEXT STEPS

- Request limited seed funding for local events 2027 – 2030 ($_____)
- Authorize staff liaison support
- Endorse partnership-driven approach
- Schedule follow-up planning session