

## OK, What Can I Do?

The Colorado 150 project is volunteer-driven. We need engaged citizens to make our 2026 commemoration successful and leave a legacy for future generations.

**Join Your LOC.** As a local organizing committee (LOC) member, you can have a voice in creating a successful commemoration of our state's 150th anniversary.

**Submit an Event.** When considering how your event will address these three themes, think Engage, Educate, and Unite. Your LOC can also help with suggestions or connect you with others who are planning similar events. We have heard from folks already interested in supporting events that:

- Honor our military veterans
- Revitalize our roadside historical markers
- Create new hiking trails across the region
- Organize tours of Centennial Farms in our region
- Establish an Indigenous garden
- What's Your Idea?



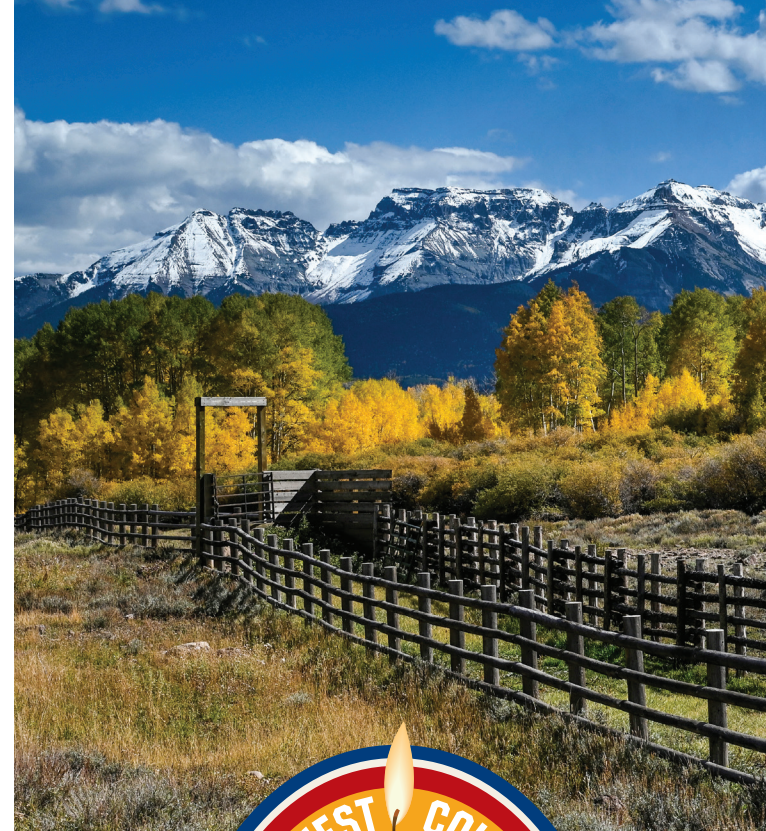
## Support Our Work

We are an all-volunteer group of citizens whose principal support of funds for administrative and other expenses will come from grants and donations. The Community Foundation serving SW Colorado (SWCF) is the 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor for our local efforts, allowing your contributions to be tax-deductible. We appreciate all donations to help make 2026 truly a year to remember.

Donate here



For more on this historic celebration, visit our website [www.animasmuseum.org/a250-c150](http://www.animasmuseum.org/a250-c150)



America 250 – Colorado 150  
Commemorating our Past,  
Preparing for our Future

*Make History with Us!*



## America 250 – Colorado 150 Commemorating our Past, Preparing for our Future

In 2026, Colorado, a key force in the nation's westward expansion, will honor its 150th year of statehood. In the same year, the United States will celebrate its 250th year of signing the Declaration of Independence, a seismic event in the history of democratic governance.

There will be parties, parades, and fireworks. However, events create opportunities for transformation, and we hope you will join us in using the 2026 commemorations as a springboard to new and enduring organizations, projects, and school curricula that create a bright future for all generations of Coloradans.

Read further about how you can be a part of this!





## Southwest Colorado Region of Colorado 150

The Colorado 150 Commission, created by legislation to guide the state's commemoration of these twin anniversaries, is administered by History Colorado, a 501(c)(3) historical society and agency of the state. The legislation divided the state into eight regions, each supported by local organizing committees (LOCs) to bring planning and commemorative activities closer to home. *We are the Southwest Colorado region's local organizing committee.*

The combined Southwest Colorado region encompasses 13 counties and 53 cities and towns ranging from Mesa County at the north end to Archuleta, La Plata, and Montezuma counties along the Colorado southern border.

## Our Guiding Themes: Engage, Educate, Unite

Through people like you, the activities and projects the community submits and that we support and promote will reflect our three commemoration themes: *Engage, Educate, and Unite*. We ask event planners to question their project ideas on these themes.

**Engage:** Is the submission constructed to engage as many people and backgrounds as possible?

**Educate:** Does the submission demonstrate the Power of Place, reflecting how Colorado's geography, history, and cultures have shaped today's Colorado?

**Unite:** Will the event or project unite our citizens and communities, bringing us together so that we discover common ground and understanding?

## You Are Needed and Welcome

Some folks in your area are already at work and having fun creating events and projects to celebrate our history and future in 2026. You can join them in producing or participating in these exciting activities.

The mission of the local organizing committee (LOC) is to help shape, coordinate, and support activities for maximum benefit and value. For example, an independent project in one county might be connected thematically with a similar project in another county. Our LOC may suggest or connect the planners so that they can consider a region-wide event that engages and brings together more people.

The Southwest Colorado region will also facilitate and help create specific *Signature Initiatives* with broad appeal.

**Your LOC is here to listen to your ideas and help you find ways to facilitate, promote, and sponsor your commemorating event. We welcome your participation in our LOC!**

## Signature Initiatives

We anticipate hundreds of anniversary-oriented projects and events across the state in 2026. The Southwest Colorado LOC has initiated a few projects. We call these events *Signature Initiatives*. More details on these are emerging, and more unique initiatives will be added. Three we are focusing on now include:

**Passport to Southwest Colorado.** A passport-like booklet will inform and guide folks to some of the area's well-loved and little-known destinations. This project will target youth, acquainting them with our region and encouraging families to visit these destinations together.

**Sing Colorado!** Music is an expressive force of how we feel and think about where we live and what it means to us. *Sing Colorado!* will create and coordinate adult and youth choirs across our region to celebrate, in song and music, our Colorado heritage.

**Power of Place.** Few things have shaped Colorado as much as its majestic and often challenging environment. Key educational and regional partners will build an activity and education program demonstrating nature's shaping power on our society and culture.