

America 250 NC County Flag Challenge Teacher Guide



Commemorating
America's 250th
anniversary.

AMERICA
250
NC

To be rather than to seem

County Flag Challenge

The county flag challenge project is a contest for North Carolina fourth grade students initiated by the America 250 NC team as a way to help our county committees engage with their local audience. This program is free and participation is optional, though encouraged.

Throughout this packet you will find timelines, template communications, worksheets, and various guidelines to organize and complete your competition.

Objectives:

- Build awareness around America 250 NC and local county committees
- Establish relationships for more enriching outreach through collaboration between American 250 NC, county committees, schools, and local families
- Encourage critical thinking in NC fourth graders about local community, history, geography, and culture through symbols
- Support local fourth grade teachers in introducing concepts around community identity and America 250 NC ideals
- Provide a platform for student voices in a meaningful, public-facing project
- Create a lasting legacy of this moment in time through documented artwork

America 250 NC: County Flag Challenge

Educator Instructions

Thank you for participating in your county's America 250 NC County Flag Challenge! We are very excited to see how North Carolina's fourth graders chose to represent their individual counties.

To prepare for the contest, please take some time to speak with your students about ideas such as *local history*, *culture*, and *symbolism*.

We also would like students to understand what America 250 NC is and why we are commemorating the 250th anniversary. We have various educational resources on our website in which you are free to plan a lesson around before introducing the flag challenge. Learn more here: <https://www.america250.nc.gov/learn/educators>.

Please have each submission (flag and 2-3 paragraph short essay) back to your school leadership in time for them to send submissions to your county committee by **February 1, 2026**.

Each submission must be returned with a signed media release form from the child's legal guardian granting permission for the child's first name, name of school, and work to be distributed to a public audience.

Your county committee contact can advise you on the process in which they are holding the voting. Each county will vote for their own winner and they will send the winning submission to America 250 NC.

All winners will be displayed on the America 250 NC website, and the winners' page will be highlighted in the America 250 NC newsletter, blog, and on social media.

Please feel free to advertise this contest widely in your school and community. We hope for heavy participation and excitement around deciding how your county should be remembered.



America 250 NC: County Flag Challenge

America turns 250 years old in 2026. Let's leave a legacy for future North Carolinians to know what life was like for us! Many cities and counties in North Carolina have a flag that represents their area and what is important to them. Below is an example from Raleigh, the capital of North Carolina. How would your students want your county to be remembered?



Tips: Using the provided templates, have your students design their own county flag for America 250 NC. As they get ready to create their design, have students think about what makes their county special and why they love living there. Have a class discussion about different landmarks, people, colors, and symbols that they feel represents their county. Encourage them to get creative! Students can use as many colors, symbols, scenes, people, animals, food, and places as they want. Their designs will help create a legacy of how North Carolina counties will be remembered in the future, and one winner from each county will have their design displayed on the America 250 NC website for the entire state to admire!

Students will also write a short essay (2-3 paragraphs) explaining their flag's design. Use the "America 250 NC: County Flag Challenge Glossary" to help students describe what their flag represents. **Additionally, refer to the below questions to help your students write their essays.**

- What colors did you add? Why?
- Did you use any symbols? What do they mean?
- Did you include any cultural food, plants, or animals?
- What landmarks or places are on your flag?
- Did you include any dates? Why did you include them?
- How does your flag show what is meaningful to the people of your county?



America 250 NC: County Flag Challenge

Glossary

county	divisions of land within a state
culture	qualities, practices, values, and beliefs within a group of people with a shared location or identity
flag	a piece of cloth, varying in size, shape, color, and design, and used as the symbol of a nation, state, county, city, or organization
historical	related to past events
landmark	building or place of significant historical or cultural value
legacy	the way something is remembered; what is handed down or left from the past
scene	the place where an event occurred
significant	largely important
symbol	an image that represents an idea



America 250 NC: County Flag Challenge Submission

Directions: Design your own county flag for America 250 NC. As you create your design, think about what makes your county special and why you love living there. Get creative! Use as many colors, symbols, scenes, people, animals, food, and places as you want.

Include your name and school on your submission!

First Name:

School:

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America 250 NC: County Flag Challenge Essay

Directions: Write a short essay (2-3 paragraphs) explaining why your flag represents your county. Include why you chose certain colors, images, symbols, or words. Make sure to write your answers in short paragraph form. **Include your name and school on your submission!**

[illegible]

First Name:

School:



Lined area for writing.

First Name:

School:



Lined area for writing.

First Name:

School:



America 250 NC County Flag Challenge

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