



America250-Alaska Launches Plan for Week of Dreams in 2026

Play ball! In June 2025, the America250-Alaska Commission partners announced a marquee effort that will culminate in a baseball-themed celebration on July 4, 2026. The “Week of Dreams” pitch is one of Alaska’s plans to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, leading to the creation of the United States of America. Other state and nationwide events are in the works for the yearslong 250th birthday party.

“With two beloved American narratives – the American Pastime and The Last Frontier – coming together in the heart of Alaska in 2026, we believe this sets the stage for powerful storytelling and a remarkable way to celebrate America250,” said **Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom, chair of the Alaska Historical Commission.**

Alaska’s rich history, diverse cultures, and unique contributions to the United States will play a vital role in this national celebration. A Week of Dreams proposes to engage Alaskans in this one-in-a-lifetime opportunity to honor America’s Pastime, with impacts that will last beyond 2026:

- New exhibit of *Alaska’s Fields of Dreams: Baseball in America’s Far North*
- Alaska’s Fields of Dreams: Baseball in America’s Far North booklet
- Successfully adding Growden Memorial Park to the National Register of Historic Places
- Nominating other Alaskan ball fields to the National Register of Historic Places
- Youth ball clinics
- Legacy softball and Indigenous baseball games
- Fundraising for sports field improvements
- Highlighting our first ball club from 1868 on St. Paul Island – Knock Down and Skin ‘Em
- Recognizing the many Goldpanners and Alaska Baseball Leaguers who went on to play Major League Baseball, and other professional players who came to Alaska

“Alaska’s Week of Dreams can inspire a lasting legacy of Alaskan pride in our state, generate significant field improvements and create meaningful new history for tomorrow’s youth,” said **Alaska State Historian Dr. Katherine Ringsmuth.** She curated a new nine-banner traveling exhibit *Alaska’s Fields of Dreams: Baseball in America’s Far North* on the 150-year history of baseball in Alaska, deep traditions for Alaskans, and our state’s contributions to the game (researchers say softball started in Alaska as an indoor version of baseball!).

WEEK OF DREAMS PARTNERS



New partners and sponsors are expected to be announced ahead of the 2026 Week of Dreams.

Want to know more, or list your org's plan on the calendar? <http://america250.alaska.gov>

America250-Alaska is also coordinating efforts with all 50 state and territory organizing committees, the national America250 Semiquincentennial Commission and the White House. These nationwide activities may be of interest to Alaskans:

- July 4, 2026 – 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!
- July 5, 2026 – America's Potlatch to celebrate community
- July 8, 2026 – Simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence
- America's Field Trip for students to experience key locations across U.S.
- The Founders Museum interactive online museum with America's Founding Fathers, Ladies of the Revolution, and Events that paved the way for Independence come to life
- Flag of Honor tour of all 50 states and territories
- The Great American Road Trip (with a stop at Denali National Park & Preserve)

About America250-Alaska: America250 is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. The guiding principle for Alaska's participation is "History for Tomorrow" highlighting the importance of the next generation to Alaska's future. The theme was inspired by the 1956 Alaska Constitutional Convention members who bequeathed the state constitution to Alaska's youth:

"You are our future," according to the resolution. "We ask you to take tomorrow and dream."