

Sons of the American Revolution

250th Anniversary

Event Planning Guide



Lexington & Concord
1775 - 2025

The goal of this planning guide is to provide states and chapters with the tools and resources to support SAR 250 parallel events

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**National Society Sons of the American Revolution
Strategic Plan 2035 (FINAL – Approved 3/1/25)**

Strategic Objective 2A

Each state and chapter will support SAR 250 signature events with a parallel event they sponsor in partnership with local historical, veteran, and/or civic organizations

Planning Guidelines for a 250th Anniversary Ceremony

PURPOSE: Provide suggested guidance for a SAR 250th Anniversary Ceremony by Sons of the American Revolution Chapters and States.

Preparations:

1. The first step to take is to correctly identify an event.
2. Locate a property for the commemoration and contact the individual responsible for the property to ensure a ceremony is allowed. Visit the property to determine if the event can be conducted.
3. Identify date and time of proposed ceremony.
4. Contact State Society to include the State President, State Color Guard Commander, Chapter leadership, Color Guard and Chaplain.
5. Determine what actions will commemorate the event.
6. After date/time are approved, prepare a draft agenda. Determine who will conduct the ceremony as emcee, lead the various pledges, conduct the commemoration and other needed presentations/participants. Below is a suggested format for the agenda.
7. Provide emergency operations by contacting local Fire & Emergency and Law Enforcement. Need to determine safe egress in case of detrimental actions. Need contacts in case of health emergencies. Let law enforcement know of musket firings.
8. Send invitations to local officials, media, the public, SAR, DAR and C.A.R. Chapter/Societies. Determine who desires to participate in the ceremony. Identify the presenters, color guard, musket squad and VIPs.
9. Finalize the Agenda.
10. Send directions to the site with parking instructions and provide the agenda to participants.
11. Arrange podium, seating and photography.

Conduct (agenda) of a Ceremony:

1. Welcome and Greetings (emcee)
2. Presentation of the Colors (Color Guard)
3. Invocation (Chaplain)
4. Pledge of Allegiance (designated compatriot)
5. SAR Pledge by SAR Compatriots (designated compatriot)
6. Introduction of guests, dignitaries and descendants of the patriot (emcee)
7. Introduction of the assembly to the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (designee).
8. Commemoration of the Event.
9. Presentation of wreaths (order as prescribed by National Policies) (representatives).
10. Presentation of suitable song (director) or music.
11. Musket Salute (fire 3 times) (musket squad).
12. SAR Recessional (designated compatriot)
13. Retire the Colors (color guard)
14. Make presentations as desired. (emcee)
15. Benediction (Chaplain)
16. Closing remarks (emcee)

After the Ceremony:

1. Clean up the area.
2. Provide appropriate appreciation to the responsible individual/organization for the cemetery and participants.
3. Send thanks to municipal organizations that participated
4. Provide Information to all chapters/compatriots attending the ceremony.
5. Send update report to the State Society, Americanism Chairs, provide the State Color Guard Commander with list of compatriots in colonial attire.
6. Send local media notifications. Send articles to the SAR National Magazine, National Color Guard Magazine, local media and State Society newsletters/bulletins.

Event Ideas

Have FUN! SAR events should be fun for you and should be fun, engaging and enjoyable for your target audience – the PUBLIC!

Cosponsor the event with your local DAR, C.A.R., veteran, civic or historical groups. This will amplify your event and allow you to share the planning process.

Promote your 250 event to the local council, chamber of commerce, community and 250 commission

Key events:

- Commemorative events could include Paul Revere's Ride, Lexington Green, North Bridge, March back to Boston, Program on the Shot Heard Round the World, Program on the three major riders
- The America 250 official event is Two Lights for Tomorrow in which all individuals, cities, towns, counties, and states are encouraged to shine two lights on the evening of Friday, April 18th, in honor of Paul Revere's Ride. More information at <https://va250.org/two-lights/>

Other event ideas:

- Luncheons / receptions in a restaurant / tavern
- Crafts / hands-on activities station or tent for youth and the public, to include demonstrations or giveaways
- Color Guard Interpretive engagement at station tent / table
- Youth activities – scavenger hunt, recruiting day, interpretative station
- Reading at the courthouse or town square
- Library based events – book reading for youth
- Reading of the poems – Paul Revere's Ride by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Concord Hymn by Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Present colors at a public event in honor of the 250th of Lexington & Concord

Promotional Flyer: Adapt for Your Event

The Sons of the American Revolution Invite you to Participate in the 250th Anniversary Commemoration Battles of Lexington and Concord

“Where the spark of revolution was ignited!”



April 19, 2025, 2:00-4:00pm, Courthouse Square

Celebrate a Defining Moment in American History

Join us as we mark 250 years since the “Shot Heard ‘Round the World” that heralded a new nation. This commemorative event honors the courage, determination, and sacrifice that forever changed the course of history.

Event Highlights

- **250th Ceremony:** Welcoming Remarks by the Mayor, Keynote Speaker, Patriotic Music, SAR Continental Color Guard, Commemorative Wreath Presentation
- **Historical Reenactments:** Watch dramatic portrayals of the confrontations at Lexington and Concord, complete with period costumes and authentic weaponry.
- **Interactive Exhibits & Artifacts:** Explore period artifacts and engaging displays that transform the revolutionary era into a tangible experience.
- **Family & Community Activities:** Enjoy colonial crafts, storytelling sessions, and interactive games designed to educate and inspire visitors of all ages.

For more information, contact Chapter President at email address

Historical Context

Battles of Lexington and Concord

19 April 1775

The Shot Heard Round the World

In 1775 there were 7,000 British redcoats in America, with around 4,000 of these "Regulars" in Massachusetts. The royal governor, General Thomas Gage, was exercising broadly expanded powers. Tensions were high. Acting on intelligence that the militia were stockpiling weapons, Gage ordered British troops to march to Concord and seize the arms.

The rebel intelligence network suggested the British were aiming for Lexington to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock, two prominent Patriot leaders. However, the size of the British force was large enough to suggest they had bigger goals in mind. The British force marched to Concord during the night; confronting local militia on Lexington Green - the village common - just as the sun was rising on April 19, 1775.



Captain John Parker, a veteran of the French and Indian War, led a contingent of 80 Lexington militiamen, known as Minutemen, as they were required to deploy to fight at a minute's notice. The Minutemen were mostly farmers or tradesmen, non-uniformed, and armed with a variety of firearms including muskets and fowling pieces. It is unclear who fired the first shot, but a skirmish ensued, during which eight militia were killed and one British soldier wounded. After restoring order, the British resumed the march to Concord. Militia from throughout the region and alerted the night before, raced to intercept the British and a battle was fought at Concord's North Bridge. As the British departed a running battle ensued between the retreating British and the arriving militias all the way back to Boston. There were 95 Patriots and 273 British killed.



The Battles of Lexington and Concord roused New Englanders to join forces and lay siege to Boston, leading many formerly neutral colonists to support resistance. They showed that citizen soldiers could stand up to Regulars; something previously doubted by men on both sides. In 1837 Ralph Waldo Emerson penned the line, 'Shot Heard Round the World' in his poem, 'Concord Hymn,' written for the dedication of the battle monument at the North Bridge. That shot marked the point of no return on our march towards independence.



Liberty or Death
Speech by Patrick Henry

Battles of
Lexington &
Concord

Capture of
Fort Mifflin

Battle of
Bunker Hill

Washington Takes
Command of the
Continental Army

Battle of
Great Bridge

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May Jun. Jul. Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec.

Sample Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Sons of the American Revolution are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of America, and have proclaimed 2023 to 2033 as the “Decade of the American Revolution.”

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2025, the nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington & Concord, the “Shot Heard Round the World,” that began the Revolutionary War and united the colonies in the cause of liberty and independence

WHEREAS, all cities, counties and states are encouraged to join in this patriotic celebration, to remember the sacrifices of all who supported the revolutionary cause and who participated in establishing the United States of America,

WHEREAS, in 1775, patriots in Massachusetts squared off against the British army to defend our constitutional freedoms, when the British Commander General Thomas Gage ordered his troops to march to Concord and seize its arms,

WHEREAS, the British force marched through the night; arriving at Lexington Green on the morning of April 19, 1775, where they were met by a contingent of 80 Lexington militiamen, known as Minutemen, composed of local farmers, tradesmen and citizens,

WHEREAS, it is unclear who fired the first shot, but a skirmish ensued, during which eight militia were killed and one British soldier wounded. After restoring order, the British resumed the march to Concord,

WHEREAS, militia from throughout the region converged to meet the British in a battle fought at Concord’s North Bridge. As the British retreated for Boston, a running battle ensued in which 95 Patriots and 273 British were killed,

WHEREAS, the Battles of Lexington and Concord roused New Englanders to join forces and lay siege to Boston, showing that citizen soldiers could stand up to the British army, leading many formerly neutral colonists to support resistance,

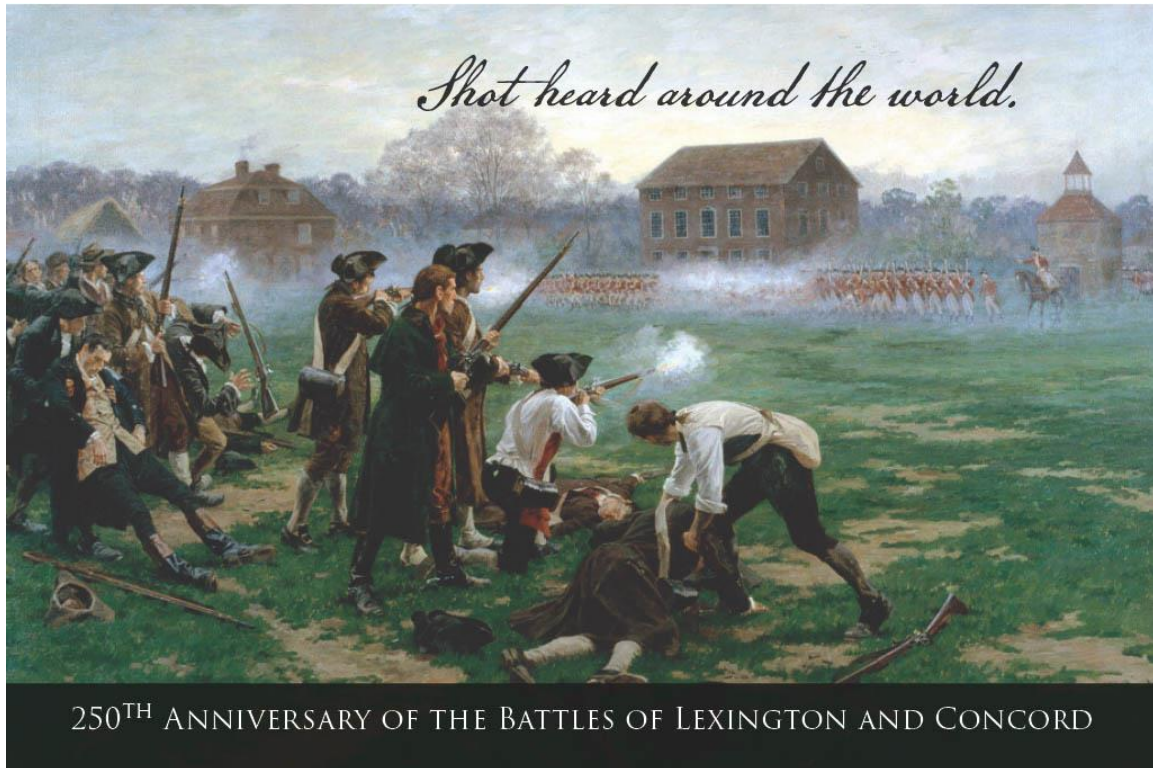
NOW, THEREFORE, (We,I), _(Name)_____, (City Council, Mayor, Position) of the (City, County, State)_____ encourage all Citizens to join with the Sons of the American Revolution and other patriotic, community, and veterans organizations, on ___(Day)___, ___(Date)___, _(Year)_ to commemorate this important event in the history of our great country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I (We) hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the (City, County, State) this _(Day)_, __ (Month)___, __ (Year)___,

(Seal)

(Name)
(Title)

Promotional Postcard



Our Mission

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.

Won't You Join Us?

This country was founded by brave men and women who were willing to sacrifice everything in order to create the country we love today.

Do you have what it takes to carry on that legacy?

Where does your American story begin?

Let us help you find out.

Connect with us online

www.sar.org



Image: The Battle of Lexington, 19 April, 1775
Oil on canvas by William Barnes Wollen (1857-1936), 1910
National Army Museum collection
Quote: Excerpt from Ralph Waldo Emerson's 1837 poem "Concord Hymn" referring to the opening shot of the battles.



Lexington & Concord 250 Event Report

Event Name: _____

Brief Description: _____

Location: _____

Participating Organizations: _____

Total Number of Participants: _____

of Public Participants: _____

Media Coverage: _____

Proclamations: _____

SAR Postcards at Event (Y/N): _____

Two Lights for Tomorrow (Y/N): _____

Send this report to the America 250 Committee at SAR250Events@gmail.com