



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lauren Serrato, Office of Economic Development

Email: LSerrato@glendaleaz.com P: 623-930-4502

CITY OF GLENDALE INVITES 5TH GRADE STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH ESSAY CONTEST

Winning student will be recognized during Glendale's America250 celebration

Glendale, Arizona – In honor of America's 250th birthday in 2026, the City of Glendale Office of Arts & Culture is inviting local 5th grade students to participate in a district-wide essay contest celebrating the nation's milestone anniversary.

As the United States prepares to commemorate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Glendale is encouraging young residents to reflect on what makes the country special to them. Students are asked to respond to the prompt: "Why do you love America?"

The contest is open to all Glendale 5th grade students and aims to give young voices an opportunity to share their perspectives while taking part in the city's America250 celebration.

"The celebration of America250 is underway across our great country and right here in Glendale," said Mayor Jerry P. Weiers. "I can't wait to read these essays from our patriotic future leaders."

Essay Guidelines

Students submitting essays should follow these requirements:

- 3–5 paragraphs
- 300–500 words
- Include an introduction, body, and conclusion

Awards and Recognition

The contest will recognize both district-level winners and one overall city-wide winner.

District Winners

One winner will be selected from each of Glendale's city council districts. Each district winner will receive:

- Commemorative certificate signed by Mayor Jerry Weiers
- \$25 gift card

City-Wide Winner

From the six district-winning essays, one overall city-wide winner will be selected and will receive:

- Commemorative certificate signed by Mayor Jerry Weiers
- \$50 gift card
- Family 4-pack to Andretti Indoor Karting & Games
- The opportunity to read their essay at the Downtown Glendale America250 Celebration this summer

Essays will first be reviewed by Glendale City Councilmembers, who will select a winner from each district. Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers will then review the six district-winning essays and choose one overall city-wide winner.

Teacher Submission Details

Teachers are asked to select their top 2–3 student essays and submit them by email to publicart@glendaleaz.com.

Submission Deadline: Friday, April 24, 2026

Winners Announced: Week of May 11, 2026

Through this contest, the City of Glendale hopes to inspire civic pride and encourage students to reflect on the values, freedoms, and opportunities that make America unique as the nation approaches this historic milestone.

“Celebrating America while simultaneously investing into our students is a win-win. The Office of Arts and Culture is proud to partner with our Glendale Elementary Schools to highlight the outstanding achievements of our future leaders,” said Christopher Taylor, Glendale’s Arts and Culture Administrator.

For more information about the contest or Glendale’s America250 activities, please contact the City of Glendale Office of Arts & Culture at publicart@glendaleaz.com.

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About the city of Glendale

As the sixth largest city in Arizona, with a population of nearly 255,000, Glendale is a premiere destination to live, work and play. Glendale features premium entertainment and shopping opportunities and a growing list of signature companies that call our city home. The city is also home to Luke Air Force Base and major defense contractors, including Lockheed-Martin, Magellan Aerospace and Honeywell. Other major employers include Red Bull, Global Credit Union, Ball, Bechtel and Nestlé. From major international manufacturers, Fortune 100 firms and luxury auto dealers to locally owned small shops and restaurants, Glendale provides the ideal location for businesses to arrive and thrive. Employers will also find access to robust and qualified talent pipelines, with six postsecondary educational institutions. State Farm Stadium and Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale’s Sports and Entertainment District host hometown team the Arizona Cardinals, as well as mega events such as the Super Bowl and NCAA Final

Four. Camelback-Ranch Glendale is the spring training home of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox. For more information about Glendale, please visit growglendale.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).