



A Letter from Secretary of State Adrian Fontes

Dear Arizona Teachers and Students,

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted, marking the birth of the United States of America.

As our nation commemorates its 250th anniversary in 2026, I invite Arizona students to take part in this historic occasion by submitting an essay reflecting on America's history, values, identity, and future.

A panel will review all submissions and select ten students to receive a Letter of Recognition from the Secretary of State as the Chair of the Arizona 250 Commission. From those recognized students, I will have the honor of choosing three letters—one from each grade division: elementary school, middle school, and high school—to be printed and hung in the Arizona State Capitol.

Enclosed are the submission guidelines and requirements.

I look forward to hearing Arizona students put freedom into their own words and helping to shape how our state commemorates America's 250th anniversary.

Sincerely,

Adrian Fontes
Arizona Secretary of State