



Seminole 250: An Overview of the Seminole County Semiquincentennial Planning Subcommitee

by
Dr. Deborah Bauer,
Seminole250 Chair &
Seminole County Historical
Commissioner

Seminole County BCC
Sanford, FL
Tuesday, 10/28/2025

What is the American Semiquincentennial Anniversary?



July 4, 1776

What is the American Semiquincentennial Anniversary?



Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to “provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States through local, state, national and international activities planned, encouraged, developed and coordinated by a national commission representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations” in 2016.

What is the American Semiquincentennial Anniversary?



The Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, created and signed Executive Order 24-267 on December 5, 2024 and created the Florida Semiquincentennial Advisory Commission, which met under the leadership of Chairman Cory Byrd, the Florida Secretary of State, on May 8, 2025 and declared its intention to cooperate with all 67 counties in Florida on coordinating appropriate commemorative and celebratory opportunities for the 250th anniversary.

What is the American Semiquincentennial Anniversary?



The Seminole County Historical Commission passed a resolution on June 19, 2025 creating the Seminole County Semiquincentennial Planning Subcommittee AKA Seminole250 and named Dr. Deborah Bauer as its chair.

Seminole 250 Subcommittee: Membership



- Chair: Appointed by Seminole County Historical Commission
- Vice Chair: Elected by Subcommittee Members
- Members at Large: Representatives chosen by the 7 city managers, the school district superintendent, the college, and the airport

Seminole 250 Subcommittee: Unofficial Kickoff on 7/31/2025



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Seminole 250 Subcommittee: Efforts



Seminole 250 Subcommittee: What were the Goal(s)?

- **the Seminole County Semiquincentennial Planning Subcommittee of the Seminole County Historical Commission shall meet between June 2025 and October 2025 according to a meeting schedule as determined by the subcommittee. The meetings shall be noticed and open to the public.**
- **The Seminole County Semiquincentennial Planning Subcommittee of the Seminole County Historical Commission shall solicit knowledge and input from each subcommittee's member for planning purposes only.**
- **The Seminole County Semiquincentennial Planning Subcommittee of the Seminole County Historical Commission shall hold at least one public meeting and solicit input from any Seminole County based non-profit/501 c3 arts and culture and/or history/archaeology/cultural heritage group who has an interest in sharing input and participating in the planning of the county-wide commemoration.**
- **The Seminole County Semiquincentennial Planning Subcommittee of the Seminole County Historical Commission shall hold at least two meetings to solicit input from the general public on ideas as to how the county-wide activities should be commemorated.**
- **The Seminole County Semiquincentennial Planning Subcommittee of the Seminole County Historical Commission shall work together to create an advisory plan that will be presented to the Seminole County Board of Commissioners for consideration no later than October 2025.**

Seminole 250 Subcommittee: Process

- **Subcommittee created that the Seminole County Historical Commission on June 19, 2025.**
- **Invitations were sent to the ten partner institutions to appoint a representative.**
- **Public meetings were held at the BCC Chambers in Sanford, Florida on the following days/times:**

Wednesday – June 25, 2025—5-7pm

Thursday—July 17, 2025—6-8 pm

Tuesday—July 29, 2025—5-7 pm

Thursday—Aug 14, 2025—6-8 pm

Wednesday—Aug 27, 2025—5-7 pm

Monday—Sept 8, 2025—5-7 pm

Thursday—Sept 25, 2025—6-8pm

Thursday Oct 9, 2025—6-8 pm

- **Public input was solicited at public meetings that were noticed. Agendas and minutes of the meetings were created.**
- **The subcommittee members worked with Seminole County staff to apply for a Florida 250 grant that was unfortunately not funded by the State of Florida.**
- **The Seminole County Historical Commission met on October 16, 2025, voted unanimously to approve the report draft presented to them by the subcommittee, and agreed to forward it to the Seminole County Board of Commissioners for review and consideration.**

Seminole 250 Subcommittee
Final Report Overview and Recommendations



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Seminole 250 Subcommittee: Recommendations

- **Creation of Seminole 250 Website with unique URL (EX. www.seminole250.com) with a calendar of 250 related events to be updated throughout 2025/2026.**
- **Creation of a Seminole 250 Logo and Coordination a countywide marketing plan with cities and foundational institutions to use Seminole250 Logo throughout Seminole County.**
- **Kick Off 2026 with creation of Proclamation/Resolution of Support celebrating 250th anniversary from BCC, 7 city commissions, and school district, college, and airport boards.**
- **Organize and Promote the Seminole County Liberty Tree Program with all 11 host institutions.**
- **Implement a historical marker at an appropriate location to commemorate 250th anniversary.**

Seminole 250 Subcommittee: Recommendations

- **Work with Seminole County Office of Communication and the Seminole County Economic Development to promote appropriate Seminole 250 events via social media and SGTV.**
- **Work with local museums to host special themed museum exhibits in 2026 related to America 250.**
- **Work with Seminole County Parks & Recreation (Library Services) to host scholarly talks on related America 250 topics throughout 2026.**
- **Have Seminole County Office of Communications work to create a full color 2-sided rack card (4x9) to explain what the 250th Anniversary is and distribute throughout county. It should include the URL and QR code for the Seminole 250 website and include Seminole County 250 Logo in a prominent way. The backside might include a Passport to History program like what is done by the Division of Libraries for their Passport to Reading Program. Also consider creating a limited number of 250 themed “Challenge Coins” for distribution in limited numbers (approximately 500-1000 count) throughout 2026 to dignitaries and VIPs. The design would include the Seminole County 250 logo and 1776-2026 dates.**

Seminole 250 Subcommittee: See you in 2026!



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