

# Arkansas PBS #ARVoicesAt250

*History Isn't Just the Past—It's About You.*

## NATIONAL HISTORY DAY ARKANSAS

### ADDITIONAL AWARD OPPORTUNITY WITH ARKANSAS PBS

Arkansas PBS is partnering with National History Day Arkansas to showcase student voices leading up to the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Tell the Story. Make the Media. Be the Voice.**

Inspired by the new PBS documentary “The American Revolution,” Arkansas PBS invites students to use story prompts that connect the past to their own communities, ideas, and creativity.

**Here's a taste of the Arkansas PBS story prompts (full details online):**

- Revolutionary Youth – Explore the lives of young people who lived through the Revolution.
- Arkansas at the Time – Discover what life in Arkansas was like during the Revolutionary era.
- Veterans & Memory – Trace the stories of soldiers and how their legacy shaped communities.
- Letters Across Time – Bring history to life through words that crossed generations.
- My Revolution – Link Revolutionary ideals like liberty and equality to the causes and civic actions that matter to you today.

#### ARKANSAS PBS #ARVOICESAT250 AWARDS

Three special prizes will be awarded at National History Day Arkansas State Contest and Award Ceremony in Spring 2026:

- Junior Division (grades 6–8)
- Senior Division (grades 9–12)
- Media Skills Challenge (documentary only, grades 9–12)

Projects will be judged first under National History Day rules. Arkansas PBS awards add extra recognition for projects that:

- Bring our story prompts to life and make the Revolution connect to Arkansas or today.
- (Media Challenge only) Use images, video, and music that are original or safe to share — the way professional filmmakers do.

Selected projects will also be highlighted and shared by Arkansas PBS using the hashtag #ARVoicesAt250.

*Special prizes sponsored by Arkansas PBS Foundation and the Stella Boyle Smith Trust.*

Learn more about “The American Revolution” at [pbs.org/americanrevolution](https://pbs.org/americanrevolution).

Visit [myarpbs.org/america250](https://myarpbs.org/america250) to get started!

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Are you interested in film?** Join Arkansas PBS at the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival Emerging Filmmakers Program scheduled for Tuesday, October 14.

**Are you interested in research?** Join a Transcribe-a-Thon!

In partnership with the Library of Congress, participants can transcribe original Revolutionary-era documents - connecting with history through hands-on discovery.

## MEDIA SKILLS CHALLENGE: MAKE YOUR PROJECT BROADCAST-READY

Historians and filmmakers don't just tell stories — they also make sure the pictures, music, and videos they use are safe for broadcast media. If you want your National History Day documentary project to be produced with best media practices, here's an optional challenge:

- ✓ Take your own photos or video — gravesites, Arkansas Post, reenactments, performances.
- ✓ Use free public sources — Library of Congress, National Archives, Smithsonian.
- ✓ Try Creative Commons — like Wikimedia Commons (check that it's labeled for reuse).
- ✗ Don't use copyrighted music or images unless you have written permission.

*Quick test: If your project aired on TV, could every photo, clip, or song be shown without a problem?*

**Note: The Media Skills Challenge is optional. All #ARVoicesAt250 projects submitted are eligible to be shared and considered for prizes.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A FILM BY KEN BURNS, SARAH BOTSTEIN & DAVID SCHMIDT

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For more information, visit [myarpbs.org/america250](http://myarpbs.org/america250)

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