Commemorating 175 Years of Iowa Statehood

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Commemorating 175 Years of Iowa Statehood

Partner Toolkit

How to Use the Partner Toolkit

On December 28, 2021, Iowa will mark a major milestone: 175 years of statehood. Although we’re celebrating the anniversary itself – the day Iowa joined the Union – we are commemorating all the history that has happened in the years since. History is complex, with high and low points that are worth remembering. The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs invites historical and cultural organizations from around the state to find ways to teach your community about the people and places that shaped the state.

This toolkit provides helpful tips and resources to assist in the development of programs and digital resources to commemorate statehood within your organization. The toolkit also includes basic style and social media guides to help in the design and promotion of your events and content. Toolkit content also can be found in this folder.

Table of Contents

Iowa 175 Communication Style Guide ................................................................. .3
Iowa 175 Communication Social Media Guide ...................................................... .4
  • Example Facebook Posts .............................................................................. .5
  • Example Twitter Posts ............................................................................... .6
  • Example Instagram Posts ........................................................................... .7
Iowa 175 Press Release Template for Partners .................................................... .8
Iowa 175 Programs from State Historical Society of Iowa .................................. .9
Host an Iowa 175 Event ................................................................................... 10
Develop Iowa 175 Digital Content .................................................................... 12
  • Goldie’s Kids Club Digital Activity Example (Side 1) .................................. 13
  • Goldie’s Kids Club Digital Activity Example (Side 2) .................................. 14
  • Iowa’s 175th Anniversary BINGO Card ..................................................... 15
Iowa 175 Research Resources ........................................................................... 16
Additional Resources for Partners .................................................................... 17
Iowa 175 Communication Style Guide

As you and your organization promote Iowa's 175th anniversary, below are some basic style guide resources to help you with your communication needs.

Logos

Organizations are welcome to use the Iowa 175 logo created by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Below are examples of the logos, as well as usage guidelines. You can download Illustrator or JPEG files of the logos [here](#).

1. If you are already using the standard logo for the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, please consider using the 175th anniversary logo first.

2. Please consider using the colored logos first (1st and 3rd). If the colored version doesn't provide enough contrast to be legible, then use the full gray or white version.
   
   Note: The white logo has a drop shadow to help it show up on this page. The shadow is not mandatory.

3. Please use the logos (2nd and 4th) if you are NOT already using the traditional logo of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

Color Usage

The table below shows the colors associated with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. You can use the color themes to design content to commemorate the 175th anniversary.

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<th>HISTORY</th>
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<td>PMS</td>
<td>7709</td>
<td>PMS 5205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Iowa 175 Communication Social Media Guide

Please consider promoting Iowa's 175th anniversary on social media, including any related programs and events. A quick note on language: Although we're celebrating the anniversary itself – the day Iowa joined the Union, on Dec. 28, 1846 – we are commemorating all the history that has happened in the years since. History is complex, with high and low points that are worth remembering.

Hashtags
A hashtag is a word or keyword phrase preceded by a hash, also known as the pound sign (#). It's used within a social media post to help those who may be interested in Iowa's 175th anniversary to be able to find it.
Recommended Iowa 175 Hashtags:
#Iowa175, #IowaCulture and #IowaHistory

Social Media Tags
When you tag people, organizations or places in a post or photo, you are identifying them and essentially “linking” them in your post. To tag, simply type the @ symbol and then the start of the person's or business's profile name. The name should pop up as an option.
Recommended Iowa 175 Tags:
@IowaCulture Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
@IowaHistory State Historical Society of Iowa
@IowaArts Iowa Arts Council
@ProduceIowa Produce Iowa, the state office of film and media production

Recommended Social Media Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graphic</th>
<th>Size (Pixels)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook Event Cover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook Page Cover</td>
<td>851 x 315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter Cover</td>
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<td>Instagram Post</td>
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<td>Instagram Landscape Photo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instagram Portrait</td>
<td>1080 x 1350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instagram Story</td>
<td>1080 x 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook Advertisement</td>
<td>1200 x 628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog (Medium)</td>
<td>500 x 333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample Posts & Tweets
The great state of Iowa joined the Union 175 years ago – on Dec. 28, 1846 – so Iowans across the state are marking the milestone with special programs and events throughout the year, including (LOCAL EVENT HERE). #Iowa175

Happy birthday, Iowa! As we mark #Iowa175 this year, we're sharing some highlights from our collection, including (LOCAL PHOTO or ARTIFACT).

(LOCAL ORGANIZATION) is proud to join the statewide commemoration of Iowa's 175th Anniversary. As we mark this milestone, what do you hope future Iowans will remember about us? #Iowa175
Iowa 175 Communication Social Media Guide

Example Facebook Posts

**State Historical Society of Iowa**

June 30 at 12:00 PM

In "The Sacred Cause of Union: Iowa and the Civil War," author Thomas Baker highlights Iowa’s role in reuniting the United States when the battle over slavery tore it asunder. Join Thomas and Annals of Iowa Editor Andrew Klumph as they discuss the book during the next Iowa History Book Club at 7 p.m. on Sept. 9. Learn more and register in advance at iowaculture.gov/iowa-history-book-club.

#iowaculture #iowahistory #iowas150 University of Iowa Press

CivilWar

**State Historical Society of Iowa**

June 25 at 9:00 AM

Goldie’s Summer At-Home Expedition: Follow the Freedom Trail — the same path taken by abolitionist John Brown on his last trip across Iowa in 1859. Then use an online guide to learn more about the Freedom Trail sites and plan your next trip around the state. bit.ly/3vQ0mu9

#iowaculture #iowahistory #iowas150 #UndergroundRailroad

#TheFreedomTrail #iowa #JohnBrown

**State Historical Society of Iowa**

May 17 -

#DaysOfLearning: Check out this recorded webinar with State Curator Leo Landis as he highlights stories and artifacts from the State Historical Museum of Iowa’s "Iowa’s People & Places" exhibition, which opened March 5. See the video: bit.ly/2RVM3b3.

#iowaculture #iowahistory #iowas150 #iowa #iowastories iowa History Center Iowa State University Department of History UNI History Department History at University of Iowa

**State Historical Society of Iowa**

2h -

We kicked off the second official tour of the Iowa History 101 mobile museum in Pomeroy today! The brand-new exhibition, "Iowa’s People & Places," explores 13,000 years of Iowa history with 50 artifacts tucked into a custom-built Winnebago. You can visit the mobile museum this weekend during the Pomeroy Sesquicentennial. Visit bit.ly/3mIyfMY for location and hours.

#iowaculture #iowahistory #iowas150 #iowahistoryOnTheMove Calhoun County Economic Development Corp

YouTube.com

Iowa History 101 Series: Stories from the "Iowa’s People & Places" Exhibit
Example Twitter Posts

**Iowa History** @IowaMuseum · May 28
Check out this homemade Goldfinch, sent in by one of our Goldie’s Kids Club members, from our spring break program! You can see past break programs, including this one (Snow Birds activity), on our website: iowaculture.gov/goldies/break-p...

#IowaHistory #Iowa175 #GoldiesKidsClub

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**Iowa History** @IowaMuseum · Jun 11
Check out our latest exhibit, “A Wonderful Life From Crawford County to California.” The display, adorned with a selection of Donna Reed’s dresses, celebrates 100 years of Donna Reed.

#Iowa175 #IowaHistory

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**Leo E. Landis** @StateCuratorIA · Jun 9
New Donna Reed display at the @IowaMuseum, born Donnabelle Mullenger in Denison, IA, in 1921. She went on to be a peace activist during the Vietnam War, co-founding “Another Mother for Peace.” #WarsNotHealthy #itsAWonderfulLife

Show this thread

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**Iowa History Retweeted**
**Iowa Culture** @IowaCulture · Jul 7
The countdown to #RAGBRAI is on! Brush up on your Iowa cycling history with State Curator, and cyclist, @StateCuratorIA tomorrow July 8 at the “Iowa History 101: Iowans & Bicycling” program. Register for free at bit.ly/3wNDIS

#IowaHistory #Iowa175 @DMRegister @bikeiowa
Example Instagram Posts

Iowa 175 Communication Social Media Guide
Feel free to use and adapt the press release template below to promote the 175th anniversary of Iowa statehood and/or to promote any programs or resources your organization puts together for the commemoration. A Google Doc version is available [here](#).

For immediate release: (DATE, YEAR)
Contact: (NAME, EMAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER)

(NAME OF ORGANIZATION) to commemorate Iowa’s 175th anniversary of statehood

(COMMUNITY) – In December, Iowans will mark a major milestone: 175 years of statehood.

To commemorate the anniversary, the (NAME OF ORGANIZATION) is presenting (EVENT or PROGRAM) at (TIME, DATE, PLACE).

(INSERT DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/PROGRAM) and (HOW TO REGISTER/PARTICIPATE).

“(QUOTE FROM ORGANIZATION LEADER),” (TITLE, NAME) said.

The (EVENT or PROGRAM) coincides with an array of statewide programs the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is offering to help Iowans learn more about the people, places and points of pride that have shaped the state over the years. The list of anniversary programs includes:

- A series of “Iowa Stories” and “Iowa History 101” online presentations about a range of popular history topics.
- New activities with Goldie’s Kids Club, an Iowa history program for children and families.
- An Iowa History Book Club starting in March.
- A 175th anniversary exhibition, “Iowa’s People and Places,” opening in March at the State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines.
- A special edition in October of the Annals of Iowa, the flagship journal of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Visit iowaculture.gov to learn more about Iowa’s 175th anniversary programs and the State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

###
Iowa 175 Programs from State Historical Society of Iowa

Need some inspiration to plan events in your community to commemorate 175 years of Iowa statehood? Look below for a list of events – virtual and in-person – developed and hosted by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Local historical societies and other cultural organizations are welcome to promote/attend these programs, as well re-create them on a community level to promote Iowa history.

Hybrid Programs (In-Person & Virtual)

**Museum Exhibit (Adults, Children & Families, Educators)**
Patrons can visit the *“Iowa’s People & Places” exhibit* at the State Historical Museum of Iowa. They also can take a virtual tour of the exhibit, which is available on the museum’s website.

**Goldie’s Kids Club (Children & Families)**
Goldie’s Kids Club introduces children aged 12 and under to Iowa history. Goldie’s Kids Club membership, which is free, offers in-person, hybrid and digital programs to commemorate statehood. Some of these activities/programs include: At-Home Expeditions, Innovative Iowans, summer state capitol grounds tours and live, virtual programs.

Virtual Programs

**Iowa History Book Club (Adults)**
To commemorate Iowa’s 175th year of statehood, the State Historical Society of Iowa takes a deep dive into some of the best books about Iowa’s fascinating history. The *Iowa History Book Club* is hosted by the editor of The Annals of Iowa, and a guest author every three months for an online discussion about each book.

**Iowa History 101 Series (Adults)**
*Iowa History 101* is a 60-minute online learning series that focuses on the past lives of Iowans to help commemorate the 175th anniversary of Iowa. The Iowa History 101 webinars share Iowa stories and the history of the state through a cultural history lens on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

**Days of Learning (Adults, Children & Families, Educators)**
The *Days of Learning program* connects educators, students, parents and lifelong learners from around the state with dynamic programming to showcase Iowa’s arts, history, humanities and film.

**Iowa Stories (Adults)**
*Iowa Stories* is a one-hour learning showcase free and open to the public. Since 2007, over 70 historians and scholars have shared their knowledge on a wide array of Iowa topics.

**Annals of Iowa (Adults)**
Subscribe to *The Annals of Iowa* and receive a special 175th anniversary edition in October.

Crowd-Sourced Activities

*It is important to collaborate with the public to increase interest in and ownership of Iowa history. The additional resources/activities below were created to commemorate statehood through crowd-sourced resources.*

**“Iowa’s People & Places” Pop-Up Display (Local Historical & Cultural Organizations)**
The State Historical Society of Iowa is offering cultural, historical and other organizations a pop-up display to commemorate 13,000 years of history.

**Portraits of Iowans Postcards (Adults, Children & Families, Educators)**
The self-portrait postcards are available at the museum and online. Submissions will be featured as a part of the 175th anniversary.
Hosting an Iowa 175 Event

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is encouraging organizations to host an Iowa 175 commemorative event in their community. Below are some helpful tips to think about while planning an in-person or virtual event.

**Determine Audience**

One of the first priorities to decide on for an Iowa 175 program is to determine who your event is for – who is your audience? Most of the events hosted by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (IDCA) typically falls into three categories: adults, children & families and educators. Some events can be for more than one audience, but it is helpful to define how activities or programs can be adapted for different audiences. Adults may be more willing to sit through a virtual lecture about Iowa history, but that format may not be as successful for a group of children, who may need a more hands-on activity to keep their attention.

**Select Format, Adapt for Audience**

As you decide who the event is for, it's equally important to figure out what kind of program you want to host to best meet your audience's needs. There are a lot of available formats to host Iowa 175 events. Programs can be virtual, in-person or hybrid (a mixture of both). And your virtual elements can be live or recorded, depending on your audience.

Each format type has different benefits. Virtual events are more accessible to all patrons and allows you to include experts, presenters and performers from all over the country, and potentially, world. In-person events have a uniquely social element that can be important for patrons. Hybrid and recorded virtual events provide a looser structure that can be helpful for someone like an educator who may need to change up their activities depending on the day. You also need to determine the level of audience engagement you have the ability to handle. For instance, if you host a Zoom webinar with a Q&A option, make sure you have enough people involved to moderate the event, as well as keep an eye on the questions being asked by audience members. If you host a Zoom meeting where audience members have the ability to mute and unmute themselves, you'll need to be more careful about who you let into the event and clearly establish the expectations for audience members.

After you've decided on a format and have confirmed any speakers, performers, other individuals that you might want to feature at the event, it's helpful to breakdown the event “tick-tock” or agenda. You can start assigning different tasks to members of staff or volunteers. You should create some kind of messaging that can be used on the registration form, on social posts, in newsletters, etc. Depending on the type of program you are hosting, you may need to practice and become more familiar with a particular kind of technology or program, such as Zoom, iMovie, Adobe Premiere Pro, Eventcube, Airmee, Jamboard and Pear Deck.

It might be helpful to consider partnering or collaborating with other organizations, businesses, etc., to help you put on the event. This partner could help you with the logistics and planning of the event, or they could just be a promotional partner that encourages their patrons to attend the event through emails, social media posts, newsletters, etc.

**Set Up Registration**

If you're hosting a program, it can be helpful to have some form of registration, even if the event is free. Registration can allow you to collect patrons' names and emails, which can be very helpful to increase outreach to promote future programs and resources. There are many different ways to do event registration. You may already have a tried-and-true system, but some other recommended resources used by IDCA include: Google Forms, WuFoo, Zoom and Constant Contact.
Hosting an Iowa 175 Event

Prioritize Accessibility
It’s hugely important to make sure your cultural and historical offerings are accessible. For instance, if you choose to host a live or recorded virtual event, make sure there is a way patrons have access to closed captioning. Though there is no one-size-fits-all solution to accessible exhibition design or program planning, there are helpful precedents, standards and regulations. Here are few accessibility resources to help plan your event:

- American Alliance of Museums Education & Interpretation Accessibility Resources
- Accessibility in the Arts: A Promise and a Practice
- “Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design” from Smithsonian Museums
- “10 Best Practices of Accessible Museum Websites”
- Inclusive Digital Interactives: Best Practices and Research
- What is Universal Design, Inclusive Design, Design-For-All?

Include a Land Acknowledgment
A land acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of this land. Consider including a land acknowledgment at the beginning of your event to show respect and honor the Indigenous peoples of the land on which you host your program. It is important for you to create a statement that reflects the location and reach of your organization, and you should involve native communities to draft and review a statement that reflects the past, present and future of native cultures and community impact. This guide to land acknowledgements is a helpful place to start.

Promote, Promote, Promote!
Event promotion can happen in many ways – and it doesn’t have to be an expensive endeavor. An easy and free way of event promotion is to create a Facebook event. You can then share the event via your social media platforms, such as on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. If you have a little money set aside, you can also boost your Facebook posts/events to reach a larger online audience. Make sure to send your event details to your local newspapers, radio stations and television stations, many of whom are looking for subscriber content. The press release template can be helpful with this kind of promotion. If you are hosting an event to commemorate 175 years of Iowa statehood, we want to know! Groups, such as our Local History Network, will promote these kind of events with other organizations and individuals from around the state.

Send Follow-Up Communication
It’s important to follow-up an event you host – regardless if it was online or in-person – with some kind of communication to guests. Follow-up correspondence after an event hosted by the IDCA typically includes an email that includes content such as a thank you, a survey, additional resources and upcoming programs. This email is usually sent within a few days of an event and is sent to every individual that registered for an event, even if they did not attend the program. If you are doing a smaller event with a few patrons, you also could consider mailing thank you cards to these individuals. Regardless of what you choose, it’s helpful to point these patrons to next steps, whether that be visiting a location, a website or to sign up for an upcoming program.
Commemorating Iowa statehood does not just need to be an event. One way to encourage people of all ages to learn about Iowa history is through digital activities they can complete in their own time. Discover ways to share Iowa's rich history with adults, children & families and educators through the producing digital content.

Determine Audience

Like hosting a program, one of the first priorities to decide on for a digital activity is to determine who it's for – who is your audience? Most of the resources created by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (IDCA) typically falls into three categories: adults, children & families and educators. Some resources can be for more than one audience, but it is helpful to define how activities can be adapted for different audiences.

Select Format, Adapt for Audience

Digital activities are typically found on a PDF or a Word document for a person to download and use. It's important to decide what you want your audience to gain by completing the activity. Digital activities to commemorate statehood can be more structured (like a lesson you use in a classroom) or more creative (like coloring sheets). If you want to focus on a specific topic or person in Iowa history, it can be helpful to package different kinds of activities together to meet the needs of different kinds of learners or people at varying ages.

Below are some digital activity examples for children and families from the State Historical Society of Iowa:

- **Votes for Women Digital Education Package**
- **American Gothic House At-Home Expedition**
- **Innovative Iowans: Genealogy Oak Tree / Demonstration Video**
- **Goldie at Home: Iowans Take Flight**

Host the Content

You need to have a location where your digital content exists and is accessible for the public. This could include a website. This could include a Google folder that a user could access with the link. This could be YouTube for an activity video or maybe SoundCloud for a podcast or audio recording. As you develop your content, make sure you have identified a place for it to live. Think about longevity, and pick a place where your digital content can stay for a substantial amount of time.

Prioritize Accessibility

Just like in-person or virtual events, digital activities need to accessible. Below are some things to consider to make your activities more accessible. Make sure you include alternate text (this is when a word or phrase that can be inserted as an attribute in an HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) document to tell viewers the nature or contents of an image). Make sure your designed document with the activity is easy to read with nothing less than 10 pt. font and if using color, make sure there is a significant contrast. Consider including multiple avenues for someone to complete an activity (such as an instruction sheet, video instructions, audio instructions) to meet the needs of different kinds of learners.

Promote, Promote, Promote!

Even though digital activities aren't a special, one-day event, digital activities need to be promoted. This can be done through the same format as in-person events, such as through social posts, newsletters, emails, etc. Maybe consider creating evergreen social media posts that are plotted on a schedule to promote an activity over the course of a few months.
Develop Iowa 175 Digital Content

Goldie's Kids Club Digital Activity Example (Side 1)

Goldie at Home: Innovative Iowans

**Activity Overview:** Did you know that Iowa has a state rock? As we commemorate Iowa's upcoming 175th anniversary of statehood, the [Innovative Iowans program](#) will explore Iowa symbols from rock to tree, and everything in between. This activity has young historians creating colorful geodes using eggshells.

**Connection to Iowa History**
The Iowa General Assembly declared the geode as the state's official rock in 1967 after nine state representatives from southeast Iowa brought the idea forward. Although geodes can be found around the world, the area surrounding Keokuk, Iowa, is well known for producing the glittering rock. Iowa geodes are typically circular and small in shape and usually have a center of quartz crystals. If you are looking to find some geodes in nature, head to Geode State Park outside of Burlington.

**Science of Eggshell Geodes**
The science behind this experiment is the creation of a saturated solution after the boiled water cools. As the water is boiled, it can saturate more of the Borax since the water molecules are farther apart. As it cools, the water molecules move closer together, which means the Borax will re-crystallize. As one particle settles, more of the particles will join to form bigger crystals.

**Instructions** *(Video Instructions Available)*

1. **Prepare.** Set out the five plastic cups in a place where they will not be disturbed.

2. **Crack.** Gently tap one side of the egg on a flat surface in order to keep one half of the eggshell intact. Open the shell and remove the egg yolk and white. Rinse the intact shell and let dry.

3. **Boil.** With an adult, boil four cups of water.

4. **Mix.** Once boiling, stir in the Borax until it dissolves in the boiling water. Note that a small amount of the Borax will not dissolve in the water. This is ideal.

5. **Pour.** With an adult, slowly pour ⅓ of a cup of the borax mixture in each plastic cup.

6. **Color.** Quickly add food coloring to each plastic cup. Be creative and come up with some fun color combinations for your geode.

7. **Add the shell.** Next, carefully add one eggshell to each plastic cup while the borax mixture is still hot. Make sure the inside of the eggshells are facing up to ensure the liquid gets inside the shell cavity.

*Instructions continued on next page*
Instructions continued

8 Cool. Set the plastic cups aside overnight (8 to 12 hours) to allow the crystals to grow. Do not disturb the cups during this time.

9 Examine. After the resting period, the eggshells should have crystal growth. Remove the eggshells from the cups and allow them to dry on paper towels. The shells will be delicate, so handle carefully. If there is any remaining liquid, carefully pour it out and throw away the cups.

9 Share! If you would like to share your creation with the State Historical Museum of Iowa, please email photos to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with other young historians!

10 Questions to Spark Learning
   • Iowa chose the geode as the official state rock. Do you think it should be a different type of rock? If so, what do you think it should be?
   • Do you think states should have official symbols like rocks, trees and even desserts? Why are official symbols important for a state’s identity?
   • Geodes are famous for their crystal centers. After a little research, describe how these crystals are formed in nature.

11 Additional Resources
   Explore these resources below to learn more about Iowa geology and the state’s symbols.
   • Iowa Geological Society - Iowa’s State Rock Brochure
   • Iowa Official Register - State Symbols of Iowa
   • Keokuk, Iowa - Keokuk Geodes
   • Iowa DNR - Geode State Park
## Iowa's 175th Anniversary BINGO Card

### Iowa's 175th Anniversary BINGO Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visit one of Iowa's museums or cultural organizations</th>
<th>Visit Iowa's 175th Anniversary exhibit at the State Historical Museum of Iowa</th>
<th>Download the free Iowa Culture app and take the featured anniversary tour</th>
<th>Subscribe to The Annals of Iowa and receive the anniversary edition in October</th>
<th>Post your favorite Iowa history moment using the hashtag #iowa175</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer at your favorite Iowa history organization</td>
<td>Post your favorite Iowa photo on social media using #iowa175</td>
<td>Register to attend the Preserve Iowa Summit in Council Bluffs in June</td>
<td>Participate in an Iowa community cultural event</td>
<td>Join the 1857 Society to support history, preservation and education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend an &quot;Iowa History 101&quot; webinar</td>
<td>Join the Iowa History Book Club</td>
<td>Commemorate Iowa's 175th Anniversary on December 28, 2021</td>
<td>Visit your local or county history museum</td>
<td>Attend a film festival in Iowa or watch an Iowa movie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch an &quot;Iowa Stories&quot; program online</td>
<td>Register for Junior Curator Camp or the Young Writers' Workshop this summer</td>
<td>Sign up for a newsletter at iowaculture.gov</td>
<td>Browse historic photos on the State Historical Society of Iowa's Flickr page</td>
<td>Post your favorite Iowa food on social media using #iowa175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Iowa Culture on social media</td>
<td>Attend an art show for an Iowa artist</td>
<td>Enjoy a local concert or public performance</td>
<td>Join Goldie's Kids Club for young historians and their families</td>
<td>Share your favorite book about Iowa online using #iowa175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[iowaculture.gov/iowa175](http://iowaculture.gov/iowa175)
Iowa 175 Research Resources

Through partnerships with various organizations, the State Historical Society of Iowa has digitized maps, publications, newspapers and vital records that can help you with your research as you develop events and resources for your community to commemorate 175 years of Iowa statehood.

The State Historical Society of Iowa's collection encompasses more than 209 million content pages and artifacts that are maintained by the various divisions of the society including the library, archives, museum and historic preservation office. The majority of these collections can be accessed at one of the Library & Archives Research Centers. The objects collection can be accessed at the State Historical Museum of Iowa.

Getting Started
- Digital Resources & Presentations
- Library & Archives Research Centers
- Collections (books, Census records, newspapers, county records, photographs, etc.)
- Publications
  - Annals of Iowa
  - The Goldfinch: Iowa History for Young People
  - The Palimpsest
  - Iowa Heritage Illustrated
- Reference Requests
- Copy and Image Requests
- Interlibrary Loan

Online Catalogs
- Library/Research Center Catalog
- Museum Object Catalog
- State Historical Libraries and Archives of Iowa Flickr Albums

Resources for Educators
- Primary Source Sets
- Read Iowa History
- Goldie's History Kits
- Read.Inquire.Write.
- Disciplinary Literacy Tools
Additional Resources for Partners

Listed are a few additional resources available to partner organizations to assist in the creation and promotion of programs and resources to commemorate 175 years of Iowa statehood.

Join the Local History Network

The State Historical Society of Iowa is proud to partner with local history museums and organizations as part of our Local History Network. Throughout the year, we will feature programs and activities from a variety of partners across the state, including our Local History Network partners who will host local 175th anniversary activities.

Staff and volunteers of history organizations in Iowa, such as historical societies, genealogical societies, archives and museums, are invited to join the Local History Network to connect with fellow stewards of Iowa history. The network is free to join and some of the many benefits include:

- Online forum to collaborate, ask questions, offer advice and share experiences with other participating organizations as well as the team at the State Historical Society of Iowa.
- Quarterly newsletter with information about grant and educational opportunities, events, collection care tips and spotlight column, where we will show off your special achievements and projects.
- Toolkits that contain carefully curated lists of resources for everything from caring for your collection to the fundamentals of operating a successful history organization.

Become a Member of the State Historical Society of Iowa

As a member of the State Historical Society, you'll become a part of history by helping to preserve Iowa's rich past for generations to come. Historic places, objects and photographs take you back to special moments in time, help you learn about your ancestors, capture the history of the state, and bring perspective to your life today. Join the State Historical Society of Iowa. Register here to become a member.

Subscribe to the Iowa Historian

Sign up to receive the Iowa Historian, the State Historical Society of Iowa's bi-weekly e-newsletter. Learn about the history of Iowa, historical collections and stay up-to-date on events and programs.

Other Helpful Resources

Be sure to check out other great resources available for history organizations from the following statewide organizations:

- Iowa Arts Council, Tools & Resources for strengthening Iowa's arts and cultural community
- State Historical Society of Iowa Educator Resources for teaching Iowa History
- Preservation Iowa
- Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area
- Iowa Museum Association