

Engaging Scouts in the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Resource Packet

prepared for units of



Figure 1 – Louis Glanzman, *Toms River Block House*, 2010, Oil on Canvas, Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

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A. Jay Weeks Post No. 6063 VFW Troop 20

Satisfying a Ticket goal as a participant in Wood Badge 13-341-2025

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INTRODUCTION

I would like to thank you for your interest in this resource packet. As both a public historian and a scouter, I felt it was fitting to combine two things that are very near and dear to me — *sharing history with the public* and *supporting youth through Scouting*.

The purpose of this resource packet is to enable and support unit leaders and families in providing Scouts with meaningful ways to experience the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (2025-2033), a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to connect with the values that founded our nation. Through outdoor adventures, service projects, and educational experiences, Scouts can explore how liberty, duty, and community shaped both America and the ideals of Scouting itself.

Within these pages, you will find activities, partnerships, and advancement opportunities tailored for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. My hope is that this packet helps you spark curiosity, inspire pride, and make history come alive for your Scouts — not as distant lessons, but as living experiences rooted right here along New Jersey's storied Jersey Shore.

About the Author

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Additionally, he is President, at the Ocean County Historical Society, Chair of the Township of Toms River Historic Preservation Commission, an Assistant Scoutmaster for A. Jay Weeks No 6063 VFW Troop 20, Trustee for the Southern Region, League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and Church Historian, First United Methodist Church of Toms River. He is also an active member of the North American Vexillological Association and Col. Somers Chapter of the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution.



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HISTORICAL BACKGROUD

The American Revolution was not only a fight for independence but a civil war within a war—one that divided neighbors, families, and entire communities. While battles raged at Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth, the struggle for liberty also played out in the marshes, forests, and bays of southern jersey, where Loyalists and Patriots fought.

New Jersey earned its title as the “Crossroads of the American Revolution,” with more engagements that any other state. Yet some of the conflict’s most personal stories unfolded along the Jersey Shore. These waters and pine forests served as both refuge and battleground - a landscape of saltworks, privateers, and hidden inlets vital to the Patriot cause.



Figure 2 - Louis Glanzman, *The Last Documented Land Engagement*, 2009, Oil on Canvas, Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

The Battle of Chestnut Neck and the Defense of Egg Harbor saw fierce fighting as British forces attacked bases supporting American privateers. Further north, the Manahawkin Skirmish and the Long Beach Island Massacre revealed the war’s human cost and the dangers of divided loyalties.

The Toms River Blockhouse Fight brought devastation and the execution of Captain Joshua Huddy, whose death became a rallying cry for Patriots. And finally, the Affair at Cedar Bridge Tavern marked the final documented land engagement of the Revolution.

For the people of Jersey Shore, the war was in their own backyard. Their courage, perseverance, and sense of duty echo the Scout Oath and Law—to be brave, loyal, and helpful. As America approaches its 250th anniversary (2025–2033), Scouts can honor that legacy through service, exploration, and citizenship rooted in the same spirit.

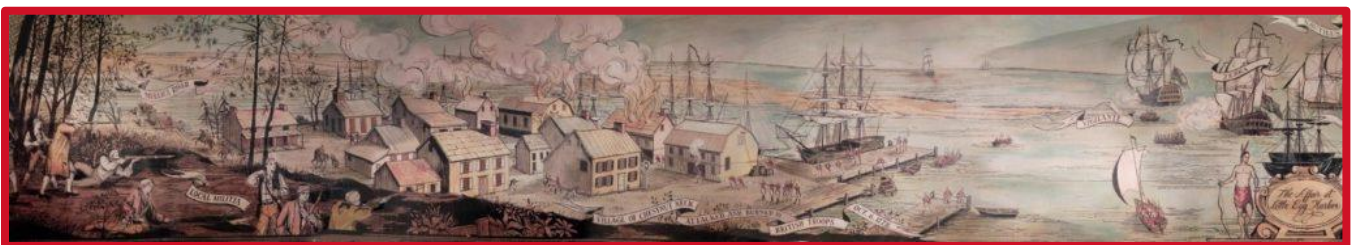


Figure 3 - Unknown, *The Nest of Rebel Pirates*, approx. early 1960's, Oil on Canvas, City of Port Republic

ADVANCEMENT & EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES BY PROGRAM

Cub Scouts

Advancement and Experiential Opportunities by Adventure

LION – Kindergarten

Adventure: King of the Jungle

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Visit a local Revolutionary War monument or historic site; discuss how people helped their community in the 1770s compared to today.	1A – Explore what it means to be part of a community. 1C – Show respect for community helpers. 1D – Participate in a simple community activity.

Adventure: Mountain Lion

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Nature hike along a historic trail; identifying plants used by colonial settlers.	3A – Go on an outdoor activity with your Lion adult partner. 3B – Identify and describe three things you see in nature. 3C – Show how to be safe outdoors.

TIGER – 1st Grade

Adventure: Team Tiger

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Lead the Pledge of Allegiance; learn how the flag changed during the Revolution; make a 13-stripe paper flag.	1A – Demonstrate respect for the U.S. flag. 1C – Participate in a team activity. 2A – Show respect in your community.

Adventure: Tigers in the Wild

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Hike a family-friendly Revolutionary trail; complete a marker scavenger hunt.	2A – Go on a short hike and observe wildlife or human impact. 2B – Identify trail symbols. 2C – Practice the Outdoor Code.

Elective: Good Knights

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Compare “codes of honor” in the 1770s vs the Scout Law; role-play courteous visitor behavior.	1A – Discuss doing the right thing. 2A – Show courteous behavior. 3B – Participate in a helpfulness activity.

WOLF – 2nd Grade

Adventure: Council Fire

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Visit a Revolutionary War site or museum; send thank-you cards to preservation volunteers.	1A – Learn about local leaders. 2A – Do a community service project. 3A – Show ways to be a good citizen.

Adventure: Paws on the Path

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Plan and hike part of a Revolutionary route; use a map and discuss navigation in the war.	1A – Plan a short hike. 2A – Show hiking safety and courtesy. 3A – Identify map features.

Elective: Digging in the Past

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Examine replica artifacts; make rubbings or impressions; discuss archaeology of the Revolution.	1A – Learn how people study the past. 1B – Create a replica artifact. 2A – Share your discovery.

BEAR – 3rd Grade

Adventure: Bear Citizenship

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Clean up a cemetery or marker; replace American flags; learn about local heroes.	1A – Learn about your community. 1B – Complete a community service project. 2A – Show respect for national symbols.

Adventure: Bear Outdoors

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Orienteering on a battlefield trail; identify land features that shaped tactics.	1A – Plan and go outdoors with your den. 2A – Use map or compass. 3A – Discuss terrain and safety.

Elective: Marble Madness (optional)

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Research colonial games; host a “Colonial Games” night.	1A – Learn and play a traditional game. 2A – Teach it to someone else.

WEBELOS – 4th Grade

Adventure: Citizenship

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Host a “U.S. 250 Birthday” pack event highlighting local Revolutionary figures.	1A – Describe your role as a citizen. 2A – Participate in a civic event. 3A – Show respect for U.S. history and symbols.

Adventure: Outdoor Adventurer

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Map and hike a historic trail section; each Scout shares a safety tip and history fact.	1A – Plan and participate in an outdoor adventure. 2A – Demonstrate first aid. 3A – Practice leadership outdoors.

Elective: Engineer

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Build signal flags or telegraph; learn wartime communication.	1A – Design and build a simple project. 2A – Explain how it solves a problem.

ARROW OF LIGHT – 5th Grade

Adventure: Citizenship

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Compare past U.S. anniversary celebrations; design a town marker.	1A – Explain good citizenship. 2A – Take part in a civic activity. 3A – Discuss national symbols and holidays.

Adventure: Outdoor Adventurer

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Lead a hike or bike ride on a Revolutionary route; teach Leave No Trace and respect.	1A – Lead or help plan an outdoor activity. 2A – Demonstrate leadership. 3A – Show outdoor ethics.

Elective: High-Tech Outdoors

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirements Fulfilled
Build a coded signal or telegraph demo; compare 1770s and modern tech.	1A – Explore technology outdoors. 2A – Demonstrate old vs new communication.

Pack-Wide Experiential Opportunities

Program	250th Connection	Advancement Ties
Historic Trails Award	Hike/bike a Revolutionary route + service project + short report.	Outdoor Adventurer & Citizenship (Wolf → AOL).
Junior Ranger Programs	Earn Revolutionary-themed booklets at NPS parks.	Citizenship & Outdoor adventures.
Cemetery or Marker Projects	Place flags, clean stones.	Citizenship & Family & Reverence.
Parades / Community Events	Carry 13 colony flags or U.S. 250 banner.	Character & Citizenship.
Scout Sunday/Sabbath 2026	Reflect on faith and freedom in America.	Family & Reverence.

Scouts BSA

Advancement and Experiential Opportunities by Rank and Merit Badge

SCOUT

Activity: Flag History & Pledge Program

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Learn about the evolution of the American flag from the Revolution to today; practice proper flag handling and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.	Req 1f – Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance and explain its meaning. Req 1g – Demonstrate proper care of the U.S. flag.

Activity: Outdoor Code on Historic Trails

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Discuss the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace while hiking a segment of a historic trail; reflect on how 18th-century armies affected the landscape.	Req 1e – Repeat the Outdoor Code and explain Leave No Trace.

TENDERFOOT

Activity: Historic Trail Hike or Patriot Service Project

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Plan a troop hike along a Revolutionary War route; perform trail cleanup or marker maintenance as a service component.	Req 5a – Participate in at least one hour of service. Req 1a – Demonstrate Scout spirit through service and participation.

Activity: Map & Compass with Colonial Navigation

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Use compass and map to retrace a local Revolutionary march; identify land features that influenced tactics.	Req 3a – Demonstrate map and compass skills.

SECOND CLASS

Activity: Community Service for Preservation

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Clean or document a Patriot grave or historic marker; share what you learned about that individual.	Req 8e – Participate in at least two hours of service. Req 9a – Explain what it means to be a good citizen.

Activity: Citizenship & Flag Program

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Lead an opening ceremony using early American flags; discuss symbolism and meaning.	Req 9a – Participate in a flag ceremony.

FIRST CLASS

Activity: Revolutionary Trail Leadership Hike

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Plan and lead a troop hike following a Revolutionary route; teach orienteering to younger Scouts.	Req 4a – Use a map and compass. Req 9a – Serve as leader in planning an activity.

Activity: Patriot Biography Presentation

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Research a local Revolutionary figure and give a short presentation at a troop meeting.	Req 9a – Discuss citizenship and service. Public Speaking component under troop leadership.

STAR

Activity: Historic Preservation Service Project

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Organize a small service project to restore signage or aid a local museum preparing for 250th programming.	Req 4 – Serve actively and perform six hours of service.

Activity: Merit Badge Selection for Civic Engagement

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Begin work on MBs; relate findings to your community's Revolutionary era.	Req 3 – Earn required merit badges.

LIFE

Activity: Community Heritage Leadership Project

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Lead Scouts or volunteers in cataloging Patriot graves, hosting a local history fair, or producing a 250th educational display.	Req 4 – Perform six hours of service, at least three in a leadership role.

Activity: Mentorship on Civic Issues

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Discuss current civic duties compared with those of Revolutionary citizens; invite a community leader to a troop meeting.	Req 3 – Serve actively in troop leadership.

EAGLE

Activity: Eagle Service Project – America 250 Commemoration

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Design and lead a major community project: restore a historic site, install interpretive signage, or create a digital archive for a local Revolutionary event, etc.	Req 5 – Plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project helpful to a religious institution, school, or community.

Activity: Leadership & Public Engagement

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Serve as troop historian or communications officer coordinating 250th events with local partners.	Req 4 – Serve six months in an approved leadership position.

MERIT BADGES

Merit Badge: Citizenship in the Nation

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Visit a Revolutionary War battlefield, museum, or historic site and explain its national importance.	Req 2 – Visit a national historic site and discuss what you learned.
Write to a elected official about preserving U.S. history for the 250th.	Req 8 – Name your elected officials and write a letter to one.

Merit Badge: Citizenship in Society

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Study an individual from the Revolution who made an ethical or inclusive decision; discuss its impact.	Req 6 – Research and discuss a person who made an ethical choice impacting others.

Merit Badge: American Heritage

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Research local Revolutionary history; create an exhibit or presentation for the troop or community.	Req 3a – Research your community’s heritage. Req 4 – Plan and take part in a heritage project.

Merit Badge: Archaeology

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Participate in a mock dig or observe an excavation related to the Revolutionary War; record your findings.	Req 7 – Visit an excavation or archaeological laboratory and explain what you learned.

Merit Badge: Genealogy

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Research your family’s genealogy to find ancestors living during the American Revolution or at any point in American history; share their stories.	Req 6 – Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations.

TROOP-WIDE EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMS

Program	250th Connection	Advancement Ties
Historic Trails Award	Complete a hike or bike on a Revolutionary route with a service project and short report.	Counts toward Tenderfoot–Eagle service hours and Outdoor Ethics awards.
National Park Service Junior Ranger Programs	Earn booklets at Revolutionary parks (Saratoga, Yorktown, Cowpens, Morristown, etc).	Supports Citizenship in the Nation & Outdoor Ethics.
Community Commemoration Events	March in parades, serve as honor guard, or host educational booths for 250th.	Service and leadership hours; fulfills public speaking goals.
Partnership with Historical Societies / DAR / SAR	Collaborate on marker restoration or local history outreach.	Fulfills service requirements for all ranks.

Venturing

Advancement and Experiential Opportunities by Rank and Awards

VENTURING AWARD

Activity: Flag Heritage & Citizenship Reflection

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Visit a Revolutionary War monument or museum and discuss how the flag and ideals of freedom evolved since 1776.	Venturing Award 1.1 – Participate in or lead a reflection on the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law and how they guide citizenship.

Activity: Outdoor Code on Historic Trails

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Take a crew hike or bike ride on a Revolutionary War trail segment; compare 18th-century land use to modern Leave No Trace principles.	Venturing Award 2.1 – Participate in an outdoor adventure emphasizing responsible outdoor behavior.

Activity: Service to Community Heritage

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Assist a local historical society or park in cleaning or interpreting a Revolutionary site.	Venturing Award 3.1 – Participate in a crew or community service project.

DISCOVERY AWARD

Activity: Historic Preservation Crew Project

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Organize a crew service day to help a museum or park prepare for 250th programming (e.g., sign cleaning, exhibit setup).	Discovery 3.2 – Plan and carry out a crew or community service project.

Activity: Leadership & Communication – Revolutionary Voices

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Give a presentation on a Revolutionary-era leader and what qualities made them effective.	Discovery 2.3 – Give a presentation on leadership or communication.

Activity: Outdoor Adventure – Revolutionary Route Trek

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Plan and complete a crew hike, paddle, or cycling trip along a historic campaign route.	Discovery 4.1 & 4.3 – Participate in and log at least one crew outdoor adventure with leadership responsibility.

Activity: Ethics in Action – Patriots' Dilemmas

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Facilitate a discussion on moral choices faced by Patriots and Loyalists (e.g., duty vs. loyalty).	Discovery 5.1 – Participate in an Ethical Controversy discussion and reflect on decisions made.

PATHFINDER AWARD

Activity: Plan a Regional 250th Partnership Event

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Coordinate with a historical commission or DAR/SAR chapter to host a community heritage day.	Pathfinder 3.2 – Lead or help organize a crew-wide or community event.

Activity: Mentor Younger Scouts at Historic Site

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Serve as guide or educator for Cub Scouts or Scouts BSA visiting a Revolutionary battlefield or trail.	Pathfinder 2.3 – Serve as a mentor or trainer for younger youth.

Activity: Extended Trek – “March to Yorktown”

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Plan and lead a multi-day trek connecting a part of the Continental Army’s route.	Pathfinder 4.1 – Plan and participate in an extended adventure with leadership duties.

Activity: Ethics Forum – Revolutionary Leadership Decisions

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Lead a crew discussion on Washington’s or Abigail Adams’s leadership choices and their ethical implications.	Pathfinder 5.1 – Lead an Ethical Controversy or Forum.

SUMMIT AWARD

Activity: America 250 Community Service Project

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Plan and execute a large-scale community project benefiting a heritage organization or Revolutionary site.	Summit 3.1 – Plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project demonstrating significant leadership.

Activity: Summit Leadership Mentor Role

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Serve as crew coordinator for 250th activities, mentoring others in planning and community relations.	Summit 2.2 – Mentor another Venturer in leadership skills.

Activity: Outdoor Leadership Expedition – Revolutionary Heritage Trek

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Lead a crew expedition combining camping and historic interpretation along a Revolutionary trail.	Summit 4.1 – Lead a crew outdoor adventure demonstrating advanced planning and leadership.

Activity: Ethics in Action – “Liberty and Leadership” Roundtable

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Organize a council-wide discussion comparing Revolutionary ideals to modern citizenship and service.	Summit 5.1 – Plan and lead an Ethical Controversy or Forum at the council or area level.

SPECIALTY AWARDS

Ranger Award

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Relevant Core Requirement(s)
Complete a multi-day “Revolutionary Route Trek” fulfilling requirements for Backpacking, Hiking, or Wilderness Survival. Include interpretation of 18th-century military logistics and navigation.	Core 1 (Backpacking), Core 3 (First Aid), Core 5 (Wilderness Survival).
Participate in conservation service to maintain a historic trail or battlefield site.	Core 8 (Conservation Project).

Quest Award

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Relevant Core Requirement(s)
Host a “Revolutionary Games” event featuring colonial sports (fencing, archery, relay drills) to promote fitness through history.	Core 1 (Fitness for Life). Core 3 (Sports Proficiency).

TRUST Award

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Relevant Segment(s)
Explore moral leadership and faith perspectives of key Revolutionary figures (Washington, Witherspoon, Adams).	“T” – Religious and Ethical Growth.
Participate in a 250th community service or interfaith commemoration event.	“S” – Service.

STEM/Nova & Supernova Awards

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Relevant Area(s)
Research early American innovations in engineering, navigation, and communication (e.g., Franklin’s experiments, field signaling).	Nova: “Shoot!”, “Whoosh!”, “Next Big Thing”.
Design a simple coded signal or flag system as part of a STEM demonstration.	Supernova: Independent project demonstrating scientific method or engineering design.

Shooting Sports Outstanding Achievement Award

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Relevant Requirement(s)
Participate in a historic musketry or marksmanship demonstration emphasizing safety and evolution of shooting sports.	Safety and Range requirements for Archery, Rifle, or Shotgun disciplines.
Host a “History of Marksmanship” safety education session for Scouts or public.	Optional leadership elective.

CREW-WIDE EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMS

Program	250th Connection	Advancement Ties
Historic Trails Award	Complete a multi-day hike or service project on a Revolutionary route.	Counts toward Outdoor Bronze elective, Discovery 4, and Pathfinder 4 requirements.
National Park Service Junior Ranger / NHT Passport	Earn Revolutionary-themed Junior Ranger awards or trail stamps.	Supports Outdoor Adventure and Citizenship requirements.
Joint Projects with Scouts BSA & Cub Scouts	Mentor younger Scouts during 250th hikes or educational days.	Leadership & Mentoring requirements for Pathfinder and Summit.
Partnership with Historical Societies	Provide living history demonstrations or assist in site preservation projects.	Service requirements across all Venturing awards.

Sea Scouts

Advancement and Experiential Opportunities by Rank and Award

APPRENTICE

Activity: Maritime Patriotism & Flag Etiquette

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Learn the history of early naval ensigns used during the Revolution (Grand Union Flag, Serapis Flag, etc.) and demonstrate proper U.S. flag etiquette afloat and ashore.	Requirement 1a – Know and demonstrate proper procedures for hoisting, lowering, and folding the U.S. flag.

Activity: Maritime Service & Historic Cleanup

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Participate in a harbor, river, or beach cleanup near a site of Revolutionary-era maritime activity.	Requirement 4a – Take part in a service project for your chartered organization or community.

Activity: Basic Knots & Rigging History

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Learn traditional knots used on 18th-century ships and compare them to modern seamanship techniques.	Requirement 6a – Demonstrate basic knots and understand their uses aboard ship.

ORDINARY

Activity: Navigation Then & Now

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Learn to plot a course using modern and historical navigation tools; research how naval commanders navigated coastal waters in the 1770s.	Requirement 5b – Demonstrate the use of chart symbols and navigation tools to plot a safe course.

Activity: Maritime Safety – Lessons from the Continental Navy

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Study safety challenges faced by Revolutionary privateers; compare historic shipboard hazards to modern safety drills.	Requirement 3a – Describe and demonstrate personal safety practices aboard a vessel.

Activity: Leadership through Crew Participation

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Assist in a community maritime event (tall ship festival, re-enactment, harbor day) as part of a 250th celebration.	Requirement 8a – Serve as an active crew member in an event promoting seamanship or Scouting ideals.

ABLE

Activity: Advanced Seamanship – Recreating Revolutionary Techniques

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Demonstrate marlinspike seamanship and compare to techniques used on Continental Navy vessels.	Requirement 6a – Demonstrate advanced marlinspike seamanship skills.

Activity: Service to Maritime Heritage

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Volunteer with a maritime museum, lighthouse, or historic ship in preparation for 250th educational programming.	Requirement 4a – Complete a service project benefiting a maritime or community organization.

Activity: Sailing & Navigation Expedition

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Plan and execute a multi-day sailing cruise retracing a Revolutionary shipping route (e.g., Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River, Great Bay, Barnegat Bay).	Requirement 5c – Participate in a long cruise and demonstrate navigation, watchstanding, and leadership duties.

Activity: Ethics & Leadership at Sea

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Lead a discussion on moral decision-making aboard ship, using examples from Revolutionary naval leaders like John Barry and John Paul Jones.	Requirement 8b – Conduct a discussion on leadership and ethical decision-making at sea.

QUARTERMASTER

Activity: Quartermaster Project – America 250 Maritime Heritage

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Plan, develop, and lead a major maritime community service project — restoring a historic boat, dock, or interpretive site connected to Revolutionary naval history.	Requirement 10 – Plan, develop, and give leadership to a significant service project benefiting a maritime or community organization.

Activity: Leadership & Instruction – 250th Maritime Education

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Teach knot tying, navigation, or maritime safety in a 250th-themed educational program for Scouts or the public.	Requirement 8 – Serve as an instructor or mentor demonstrating seamanship or leadership.

Activity: Quartermaster Cruise – “Voyage for Liberty”

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Lead a cruise or flotilla retracing major Revolutionary naval routes, coordinating safety, logistics, and interpretation.	Requirement 5 – Plan and lead a long cruise demonstrating seamanship and leadership.

Activity: Ethical Leadership at Sea – “Courage and Honor” Forum

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Specific Requirement(s) Fulfilled
Facilitate a crew-wide or council-level ethics discussion comparing maritime leadership ideals from 1776 to modern Scouting principles.	Requirement 9 – Conduct an ethics or leadership forum for peers.

AWARDS

SEA SCOUT LEADERSHIP AWARD

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Application Example
Recognize exceptional leadership in organizing America 250 maritime events, heritage restoration, or crew outreach.	Eligible for youth or adult recipients who exemplify leadership and citizenship through 250th activities.

SEA SCOUT SAFETY AWARD

250th Anniversary Tie-In	Application Example
Conduct a 250th safety presentation linking historic naval hazards with modern boating safety practices.	Crew may apply for recognition following completion of safety and education requirements.

SHIP-WIDE EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMS

Program	250th Connection	Advancement Ties
Historic Trails & Long Cruise Award	Complete a long cruise or voyage retracing Revolutionary naval routes with historical interpretation.	Counts toward Able/Quartermaster long cruise and service requirements.
National Park Service Maritime Heritage Passport	Earn stamps at historic ports, lighthouses, and battle sites.	Supports navigation, history, and citizenship goals.
Partnership with Maritime Museums & Historical Societies	Assist with 250th maritime exhibits, tours, or preservation projects.	Applies toward service hours for all ranks.
Joint 250th Events with Venturing or Scouts BSA Crews	Collaborate on heritage service projects, STEM workshops, or nautical STEM fairs.	Meets leadership, ethics, and service requirements.

PARTNERSHIPS & CONTACTS

STATEWIDE

Organization	Address	Phone	Email / URL
RevolutionNJ (State 250th Program)	c/o Crossroads of the American Revolution, 124 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608	(609) 633-2060	info@revnj.org revnj.org
Crossroads of the American Revolution Association	124 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608	(609) 633-2060	info@revolutionarynj.org revolutionarynj.org
New Jersey Historical Commission (NJ Dept. of State)	P.O. Box 305, Trenton, NJ 08625	(609) 292-6062	sara.cureton@sos.nj.gov nj.gov/state/historical-commission
NJ State Council on the Arts	P.O. Box 306, Trenton, NJ 08625-0306	(609) 292-6130	nj.gov/state/njsca
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey	P.O. Box 6125, Bridgewater, NJ 08807	—	lhsnj.org
NJ Society, Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR)	—	—	njssar.org
NJ State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NJDAR)	—	—	njdar.org
South Jersey Cultural Alliance (SJCA)	101 Vera King Farris Dr., Galloway, NJ 08205	(609) 626-3630	sjca.net

OCEAN COUNTY

County Office

Organization	Address	Phone	Email / URL
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission	1198 Bandon Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753	(732) 929-4779	culturalheritage@co.ocean.nj.us co.ocean.nj.us/OC/ch/
Cedar Bridge Tavern County Historic Site	200 Old Halfway Rd., Barnegat, NJ 08005	(732)-929-4769	CmcLearen@co.ocean.nj.us oceancountyparks.org/frmReg ContentPrks?ID=102469de- e7b4-4389-995d- 8386e8369d56

Historical Societies & Museums

Organization	Address	Phone	Email / URL
Ocean County Historical Society	26 Hadley Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753	(732) 341-1880	oceancountyhistory.org ochs_research@verizon.net
Brick Township Historical Society	521 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724 (Museum) PO Box 160 (Mail)	(732) 785-2500	bricktownshiphistoricalsociety.com
Long Beach Island Historical Association	129 Engleside Ave., Beach Haven, NJ 08008 PO Box 1222 (Mail)	(609) 492-0700	lbihistoricalmuseum.org LBImuseumevents@gmail.com
Barnegat Light Historical Society & Museum	501 Central Ave., Barnegat Light, NJ 08006 • PO Box 386 (Mail)	(609) 494-8578	barnegatlightmuseum.org barnegatlightmuseum@gmail.com
Point Pleasant Historical Society & Museum	416 New Jersey Ave., Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742 • PO Box 1273 (Mail)	(732) 892-3091	pphsm.org ppbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Stafford Township Historical Society	120 N. Main St., Manahawkin, NJ 08050	(609) 597-5947	staffordhistory.org
Island Heights Cultural & Heritage Association	105 Simpson Ave., Island Heights, NJ 08732	(732) 929-2646	IHCHANJ@gmail.com thecottagemuseum.org
Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum	120 W. Main St., Tuckerton, NJ 08087	(609) 296-8868	tuckertonseaport.org
Lacey Township Historical Society	126 South Main St., Forked River, NJ 08731	—	laceyhistorical@gmail.com
Seaside Heights Historical Society	1400 Boardwalk, Seaside Heights, NJ 08751	(732) 773-4170	seaside-heightsnj.org
Barnegat Historical Society	575 E Bay Ave, Barnegat, NJ 08005 PO Box 381, Barnegat, NJ 08005	(732)-573-5537	facebook.com/BarnegatHistorical/
Bay Head Historical Society	PO Box 127 Bay Head, NJ 08724 1643 Bay Ave, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742	—	bayheadhistoricalsociety.com
Berkeley Township Historical Society	—	—	www.facebook.com/groups/1384186628281998/ josiemorey@comcast.net
John F. Peto Studio Museum	102 Cedar Ave, Island Heights, NJ 08732 PO Box 1022 Island Heights, NJ 08732	(732)-929-4949	petomuseum.org
Lakehurst Historical Society & Museum	300 Center St, Lakehurst, NJ 08733	(732)-232-9710	LakehurstMuseum@Outlook.com lakehurstmuseum.org

Navy Lakehurst Historical Society	PO Box 238 Lakehurst, NJ 08733	(732)-323-6547	nlhs.com
New Egypt Historical Society & Museum	125 Evergreen Rd, New Egypt, NJ 08533	(609)-758-8111	historicalsocietyne@gmail.com facebook.com/p/The-New-Egypt-Historical-Society-Museum-61557131634111/
Ocean Gate Historical Society	800 Asbury Ave, Ocean Gate, NJ 08740	—	facebook.com/p/Ocean-Gate-Historical-Society-100054279471065/
Tuckerton Historical Society	35 Leitz Blvd & Wisteria Lane, LEH, NJ 08087 PO Box 43, Tuckerton, NJ 08087	(609)-294-1547	tuckertonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com tuckertonhistoricalsociety.org/
Affairs at Egg Harbor Historical Society	109 South Pulaski Blvd, LEH, NJ 08087	(609)-709-8031	littleegghistory.org
Waretown Historical Society	182 Wells Mills Rd, Waretown, NJ 08758 PO Box 138 Waretown, NJ 08758	(609)-693-5666	waretownhistoricalsocietynj@gmail.com waretownhistoricalsociety.org
New Jersey Maritime Museum	528 Dock Rd, Beach Haven, NJ 08008	(609)-492-0202	info@NJMM.org njmaritimemuseum.org
Barneгат Bay Maritime Museum (originally Toms River Seaport Society)	78 E Water St, Toms River, NJ 08753 PO Box 1111, Toms River, NJ 08754	(732)-349-9209	barneгатbaymaritimemuseum.org/

Local Historic Preservation Commissions (HPC)

Commission	Address	Phone	Email / URL
Toms River Historic Preservation Commission	33 Washington St., Toms River, NJ 08753	(732) 341-1000	tomsrivertownship.com/270/Historic-Preservation-Commission

Barnegat Historic Preservation Commission	900 W Bay Ave, Barnegat, NJ	(609)-698-0080	barnegat.net
Brick Historic Preservation Commission	401 Chambers Bridge Rd, Brick, NJ 08723	(732)-262-1055	bricknj.gov/government/boards_commissions/historic_preservation_commission/index.php
Stafford Historic Preservation Commission	260 E Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ 08050	(609)-597-1000	staffordnj.gov/533/Historic-Preservation-Commission
Beach Haven Historic Preservation Commission	300 Engleside Ave, Beach Haven, NJ	(609)-492-0111 Ext 210	hpacsecretary@beachhaven-nj.gov beachhaven-nj.gov/government/historic-preservation-advisory-committee/

ATLANTIC COUNTY

County Office

Organization	Address	Phone	Email / URL
Atlantic County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs	189 Rt 50 S Mays Landing, NJ 08330	(609)-909-7309	atlanticcountynj.gov/government/county-departments/department-of-executive-and-administrator/office-of-cultural-and-heritage-affairs

Historical Societies & Museums

Organization	Address	Phone	Email / URL
Absecon Lighthouse	31 S Rhode Island Ave, Atlantic City, NJ, 08401	(609)-449-1360	info@abseconlighthouse.org abseconlighthouse.org

African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey	661 Jackson Ave, Newtonville, NJ, 08346	(609)-704-5495	info@aahmsnj.org aahmsnj.org
Atlantic County Historical Society	907 Shore Rd., P.O. Box 301, Somers Point, NJ 08244	(609) 927-5218	ACHSinfo@comcast.net atlanticcountyhistoricalsocietynj.org
Somers Point Historical Society	745 Shore Rd., Somers Point, NJ 08244 • PO Box 517 (Mail)	(609) 927-2900	somerspointhistory.org
Galloway Township Historical Society	300 Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway, NJ 08205	(609) 652-3700 ext. 204	facebook.com/groups/Historic Galloway
Grete Egg Harbour Twp Historical Society Museum	6647 W. Jersey Ave., Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234	(609) 380-4524	GEHTSMuseum.org info@GEHTSMuseum.org
Egg Harbor City Historical Society	533 London Ave., Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215	(609) 965-9073	ehchs.com contact@ehchs.com
Historical Society of Hammonton	333 Vine St., Hammonton, NJ 08037 • PO Box 876 (Mail)	(609) 270-7652	historicalsocietyofhammonton.org • info@historicalsocietyofhammonton.org
Hamilton Historical Society (Mays Landing)	49 Mill St., P.O. Box 482, Mays Landing, NJ 08330	(609) 909-0272	hamiltonhistorical.org

Local Historic Preservation Commissions

Commission	Address	Phone	Email / URL
Atlantic City Historic Preservation Commission	1301 Bacharach Blvd, Atlantic City, NJ 08401	(609)-347-5404	acnj.gov/Departments/planning -and-development

Hammonton Historic Preservation Commission	100 Central Ave., Hammonton, NJ 08037	(609) 561-1955	townofhammonton.org/historic-preservation-commission
Estell Manor Historic Preservation Commission	148 Cumberland Ave, Estell Manor, NJ 08319 PO Box 79 Estell Manor, NJ 08319	(609)-476-2692	estellmanor.org/boardsandcommissions/historiccommission.html
Somers Point Historic Preservation Commission	741 Shore Rd, Somers Point, NJ 08244	(609)-927-0177 ext. 142	donnajmohr@comcast.net somerspointgov.org/mainpages/historic_comm.asp
Hamilton Historic Preservation Commission	6101 13th St, Mays Landing, NJ 08330	(609)-625-1511	hpchamiltonnj.gov hamiltonatnj.gov/boards/historic

Lineage & Patriotic Societies

Organization	City / Address	Phone	Email / URL
DAR – General Lafayette Chapter, NSDAR	Somers Point, NJ	—	njdar.org/general-lafayette-chapter-nsdar.html
DAR – Captain Joshua Huddy Chapter, NSDAR	Toms River, NJ	—	njdar.org/captain-joshua-huddy-chapter-nsdar.html
DAR – Great John Mathis Chapter, NSDAR	Manahawkin, NJ	—	njdar.org/great-john-mathis-chapter-nsdar.html
SAR – Colonel Somers Chapter, NJSSAR	Smithville, NJ	—	colrichardsomers.com

PROMOTION & COMMUNICATION

Focus Area	Key Actions	Example / Resource
Press & Media Outreach	Send press releases 3–4 weeks before events. Submit stories to <i>Crossroads of the American Revolution</i>, <i>Asbury Park Press</i>, <i>The Press of Atlantic City</i>, and <i>The SandPaper</i>, etc.	RevolutionNJ Media Toolkit
Digital Presence	Add a “Scouting & America 250” page to unit/council sites. Use hashtags #America250NJ, #RevolutionNJ, #ScoutHistory. Tag partner organizations on social media.	Facebook, Instagram, etc.
Community Coordination	Historic Preservation meetings. Partner with DAR, SAR, and local historical societies for events.	Reach out to the organizations listed above.
Branding & Visibility	• Use official RevNJ branding (with permission) as a RevNJ Proud Partner	revnj.org/revnjpartners
Recognition & Awards	• Publicly honor Scouts and partners for 250th service. Submit stories to RevolutionNJ statewide showcase. - Nominate youth for DAR/SAR awards or local heritage commendations by reaching out.	njdar.org njssar.org revnj.org

APPENDIX (READY-TO-USE RESOURCES)

Below are some examples of resources available.

It is encouraged that Unit Leaders, Scouts and Organizations will work together to create new ideas and expand upon what is provided.

America 250 Scout Event Planning Guide

Based on National 250th Commemoration Practices,

Adapted for Scouting America

Planning Guidelines

This guide provides a framework for Scouts, leaders, and community partners to plan and host a meaningful commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Events may range from solemn ceremonies to hands-on service projects, all emphasizing citizenship, heritage, and community pride.

Step-by-Step Planning Process

1. Choose the Focus

Identify the central theme or purpose of your commemoration: honoring a Revolutionary hero, marking a key date, or improving a historic site. Examples include a “Trail to Liberty” hike, a flag dedication, or a history fair.

2. Secure the Location

Obtain permissions from park offices, municipalities, or private landowners. Confirm insurance requirements through your council or chartered organization. Consider accessibility, parking, and restrooms for participants.

3. Set the Date

Select a date that connects with Revolutionary milestones or local anniversaries.

4. Form a Planning Committee

Include both adults and youth with clear responsibilities:

- Event Chair: Oversees all planning and coordinates with partners.
- Youth Coordinator: Engages youth participants, assigns readers and flag bearers.
- Safety & First Aid Lead: Ensures a first-aid kit and trained personnel are on site.
- Program Lead: Develops agenda, invites speakers, confirms timing.

- Communications Lead: Manages promotion, social media, and photography.

5. Coordinate with Partners

Reach out to local Cultural & Heritage Commissions, Historical Societies, Veterans Organizations, schools, and civic groups. Encourage them to co-host or provide educational displays, music, or interpreters.

6. Confirm Logistics

Reserve tables, chairs, podium, microphones, flag stands, tents, and signage. Conduct a pre-event walkthrough to ensure smooth setup. Have a rain contingency plan if outdoors.

7. Create the Agenda

Follow the *America 250 Scout Commemoration Ceremony* template: Welcome, Colors, Reflection, Scout Service Moment, Guest Remarks, and Closing. Keep total time within one hour and balance youth and adult speakers.

8. Publicize the Event

Submit notices to local newspapers, town calendars, and Scouting newsletters. Post on RevolutionNJ's online calendar and your council's website. Include logos for Scouting America and America 250 when permitted.

9. Safety & Emergency Preparation

Review Youth Protection requirements for all participating adults. Ensure hydration, shade, and safe flag-handling procedures. Designate an emergency meeting point.

10. Rehearse and Confirm

Hold a short run-through with color guards, readers, and emcees. Check microphone volume, order of ceremony, and flag presentation sequence.

Event Day Checklist

Task	Responsible Party	Notes
Site secured, permits approved	Event Chair	Confirm access times, contact person, and backup plan.

Sound system, podium, and seating	Logistics Lead	Test equipment; bring extension cords and backup batteries.
Flags, poles, and stands ready	Color Guard Captain	Ensure Scouts rehearse entry and retirement of colors.
Guest speaker(s) confirmed	Program Lead	Provide printed agenda and speaking time limits.
Youth readers prepared	Youth Coordinator	Assign and practice short readings or historic quotes.
First aid & hydration station	Safety Lead	Mark location clearly; have sunscreen and water on hand.
Photography & media outreach	Communications Lead	Capture group photo, post on council media, tag #America250NJ.
Cleanup crew and equipment	Troop Quartermaster / Crew Lead	Bring trash bags, gloves, and coordinate with park staff.

Conduct of Ceremony

Welcome and Greetings:

Emcee or youth leader opens with introductions, acknowledging host unit, partner organizations, and community guests. Emphasize the purpose: *to honor the service, sacrifice, and ideals of the American Revolution and connect those values to Scouting today.*

Presentation of the Colors:

Performed by a Scout color guard. Include U.S. flag, Unit banner. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Scout Oath.

Invocation or Reflection:

Led by a Chaplain Aide or invited faith leader. A short prayer or moment of gratitude recognizing freedom and unity.

Scout Service or History Moment:

Scouts present brief readings about Revolutionary-era events or local patriots. Encourage each age group to contribute:

- Cub Scouts: Place flowers or flags at a memorial.
- Scouts BSA: Read short biographical sketches or diary excerpts.
- Venturers/Sea Scouts: Explain the Revolutionary significance of local waterways, trade, or maritime actions.

Guest or Scout Speaker:

Invite a historian, veteran, or Scout leader to speak on “*Courage, Service, and Leadership—Then and Now.*” Keep remarks concise (under 5 minutes).

Scout Commitment & Reflection:

Youth lead a short responsive pledge:

“We pledge to preserve our history, to serve our community, and to honor those who fought for freedom.”

Follow with reflection on Scout Law—*Loyal, Brave, Reverent.*

Moment of Silence and Closing Prayer:

Led by Chaplain Aide or leader. Include brief moment for silent reflection.

Retiring of Colors and Closing Music:

Flag ceremony followed by recorded or live rendition of *America the Beautiful* or *God Bless America*. Optional group photo at conclusion.

Event Ideas for Scouts

Event Type	Example	Scouting Tie-Ins
Flag Day Commemoration	Host at a municipal building with Scouts leading colors and flag-folding demos.	<i>Citizenship in the Nation / Patriotism Award.</i>
Historic Trails Hike	Trace Revolutionary troop routes, add interpretive stops, or clean trail signage.	<i>Historic Trails Award / Outdoor Ethics.</i>
Liberty Tree Dedication	Plant an oak or sycamore with a plaque marking America 250.	<i>Conservation Service Hours / Tree Planting Project.</i>

Revolutionary Campfire Program	Combine storytelling, songs, and a flag retirement ceremony.	Cross-program (Cub, Scouts BSA, Venturing).
Maritime Heritage Day	Sea Scouts lead waterfront cleanup or knot-tying demos with maritime history talk.	<i>World Conservation Award / Ranger elective.</i>
Community History Fair	Cub Scouts and troops create displays about local patriots or events.	<i>Family Scouting engagement.</i>
“Trail to Freedom” Service Day	Cleanup or restore historic cemetery, marker, or monument.	<i>Service Hours / Eagle Project inspiration.</i>

Promotion & Communication

- Create and share a press release 3–4 weeks in advance with council staff and local media.
- Submit your event to RevolutionNJ’s Community Calendar and local cultural organizations.
- Share photos and stories using #America250NJ, #ScoutHistory, and #ScoutingAmerica hashtags.
- Tag local officials, heritage commissions, and partner organizations.
- Develop a digital flyer using your council’s brand and the America 250 logo. Include date, time, and purpose.

Public Messaging Tips

- Focus on service, citizenship, and learning, not just commemoration.
- Use short, action-oriented language: “*Scouts Honoring 250 Years of Service.*”
- Encourage family attendance—events should feel community-based, welcoming, and inclusive.

Recognition & Follow-Up

1. Scout Recognition

- Provide *America 250 Scout Patches*, printed certificates, or participation ribbons.
- Offer *Community Service* hours toward rank advancement or merit badges.

2. Partner Recognition

- Thank community partners with appreciation letters or certificates.
- Recognize site hosts and guest speakers at closing remarks.

3. Post-Event Follow-Up

- Share photos with council communications.
- Submit a short summary for council newsletters and historical society bulletins.
- Archive all materials (scripts, photos, contacts) for future events.

4. Long-Term Engagement

- Encourage Scouts to plan follow-up service projects, educational displays, or living history collaborations.
-

Scouting America National Historic Trails Related to the Revolutionary War

Captain Joshua Huddy Rev. Trail	Jersey Shore Council	Not currently active. / Needs to be revived.
Loyalist Trail		In development with Troop 59, Toms River and Toms River HPC. 2026?

Battle of Monmouth Historic Trail	Monmouth Council	monmouthcouncilscouting.org/qhsr-bom
Jockey Hollow Trail	Patriots Path Council	ppcscouting.org/programs/trails/
The Victory Trail	Patriots Path Council	ppcscouting.org/programs/trails/

The Historic Trails Program encourages Scouts to explore the story of the United States through direct engagement with its landscapes, landmarks, and communities. By hiking, camping, or performing service projects along designated historic routes, Scouts connect the ideals of citizenship, outdoor adventure, and historical understanding.

Each participating unit selects a trail officially recognized by Scouting America or develops a local route with documented historical significance—such as a Revolutionary War campaign road, canal path, or pioneer settlement route. Scouts research the site’s background, plan and complete a hike or camping experience, and perform a meaningful service project that aids in preservation, interpretation, or community education.

Completion of these steps earns the Historic Trails Award, represented by an emblem and certificate. Beyond recognition, the experience cultivates stewardship and appreciation for the nation’s evolving story.

For the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, the program offers a natural way to engage youth in living history—whether marching a segment of Washington’s 1778 route through New Jersey, maintaining a battlefield trail, or helping a local museum preserve its grounds. Each trail becomes a classroom in patriotism, service, and discovery.