



What America Means to Me

What America Means to Me is a student contest sponsored by the Beloit Historical Society and Visit Beloit, in partnership with America250, the official nonpartisan entity charged by Congress with planning the nation's Semiquincentennial, also known as the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. **What America Means to Me** invites students in grades 3–12 to be part of this historic milestone by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the chance to earn an exclusive Beloit Sky Carp experience, as well as special opportunities to showcase their work.

What America Means to Me Official Contest Rules

Deadline: March 13, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Eligibility: Any public, private, or homeschool student in grades 3–12 in Beloit are eligible to enter.

Submission Requirements: Students at each grade level may create visual artwork or a written essay. You can drop off physical artwork to the Beloit Historical Society during their regular business hours along with your completed submission form. If assistance is needed to deliver physical artwork, please contact the Beloit Historical Society and arrangements will be made if available. Written essays can be submitted via the google form on our webpage at visitbeloit.com/america250-beloit. Every entry, both digital and physical, needs to be accompanied by the official entry form. You can find a digital or printable entry form on our webpage.

Judging Criteria: A panel of current and former educators will evaluate submissions based on student voice (50%), clarity of idea (25%), and presentation (25%). Grades will be divided into the following groups: grades 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12. There will be a 1st and 2nd place winner in each group for both categories: written and visual.

Prizes: 12 winners, along with a guest, will receive an exclusive Beloit Sky Carp experience on July 1, 2026, including game tickets, merchandise, food and beverage, as well as the opportunity for their submission to be displayed in the community. Award recipients will be notified by April 15, 2026.

How to Enter the Contest

Students at each grade level will respond to the prompt, “What does America mean to you?” with artwork or writing. Students must develop submissions individually and may not enter as a group.

All entries under the age of 18 are required to have a teacher, parent, or legal guardian jointly submit their entry. A teacher may only submit an entry on behalf of a student with written permission from that student's parent or legal guardian.

For more information about **What America Means to Me**, including official contest rules, prize details, judging criteria, please go to visitbeloit.com/america250-beloit.