



National Flag Foundation

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SOJOURN 250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Flag Foundation Invites People from Across Southwestern Pennsylvania to join Pittsburgh Regional Sojourn250

Honor the People and Places Who Made America through 13 Free Community Events, July 1–4, 2026

PITTSBURGH—June 14, 2026—People across southwestern Pennsylvania are invited to take part in the Pittsburgh Regional Sojourn250 to honor the American flag and the people and places who made America through free community events in the Pittsburgh region, celebrating America’s 250th from July 1 through July 4, 2026.

“Sojourn250 brings together residents, families, veterans, workers, students, faith communities, visitors, and civic partners in a shared tribute to service, sacrifice, hard work, creativity, ingenuity, and the ideals represented by our region and the American flag,” said Romel Nicholas, chairman of the non-profit, non-partisan National Flag Foundation.

More than 40 agencies, organizations, governments, and businesses have come together to plan 13 gatherings across three southwestern Pennsylvania counties, one stop for each stripe on the American flag, which represent each of the original 13 colonies (see below). The Allegheny County Sheriff’s Department will steward the flag’s sojourn across southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Pittsburgh Regional Sojourn is the final full chapter of Sojourn250, organized by the National Flag Foundation, a year-long journey of a single American flag across military cemeteries overseas, all 50 states and U.S. territories, before the Flag is carried to Washington for the nation’s 250th anniversary.

Why the Pittsburgh region? “Pittsburgh’s story is America’s story,” said Mary Murrin, president and CEO of Rivers of Steel, one of the 40 partner organizations and host of the penultimate community picnic on July 3rd at the Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark in Swissvale, PA. “For more than 250 years, Pittsburgh has been a place where revolutions begin.”

- The opening shots of the French and Indian War sparked the chain of events leading to the American Revolution
- The Industrial Revolution forged iron and steel to bridge the continent and shape skylines across the country
- Today’s Innovation Revolution is transforming artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, energy, and healthcare & life sciences.

Additional details about the schedule, locations, and participating partners can be found at NationalFlagFoundation.org. All events are free and open to the public.

About the National Flag Foundation: The National Flag Foundation, headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, was established to honor and respect the American flag, which serves as a symbol of freedom and unity for the United States. The foundation aims to bring awareness to the flag’s history and the protocols for its care and handling. It provides educational resources for teachers, students, and citizens to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the flag and what it represents.

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Sojourn 250: Pittsburgh Route Overview

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

1:00pm–2:00pm | Stewardship and honor: 911th Airlift Wing

The flag's arrival in our region, emphasizing service and sacrifice and shared care, continuity and respect.

3:00pm–4:00pm | Salute to the People Who Make America: United Steel Workers HQ

The City of Pittsburgh welcome in Downtown at a symbolic location highlighting the workers who built this country.

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

9:00am–10:30am | America begins here: Fort Ligonier, Westmoreland County

Ground the journey in the opening shots of the French and Indian War in the Laurel Highlands, George Washington's pivotal role that prepared him to lead the Continental Army and the events in SWPA that ignited the march to the American Revolution

12:00pm–1:00pm | Point of Confluence, Point of Conflict, Point of Renewal: Fort Pitt, Point State Park

Follow in Washington's footsteps to acknowledge Pittsburgh's geographic and historical role as a crossroads of empire, conflict, and nation-building

1:30pm–3:00pm | Memory in motion: North Shore Memorial Walk

Honor service as carried forward by community, youth, and culture — not confined to monuments. This walk will begin at the Fred Rogers Statue and pass by all the memorials on the North Shore, culminating with flag raising just past PNC Park

6:00pm–7:30pm | In every generation: Soldiers & Sailors Hall – PSO Americana Concert

Flag raising on Fifth Avenue and presentation of the colors to unite military honor and the arts in a shared civic ritual

8:15pm–9:00pm | Reflection & resolve: Mount Washington Sunset Flag Honor Guard

A contemplative, iconic visual moment overlooking the city, reinforcing Pittsburgh's role as symbolic of the American spirit.

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026

8:00am–9:00am | In sacred trust: National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Washington County

A solemn recognition of those who, through their sacrifice, made our national ideals possible.

10:00am–11:00am | Flags United: Flag Plaza

The Sojourn Flag and the Commonwealth Flags fly together over the staging area for the American Legion trek from Pittsburgh to Washington DC, hosted by Scouting America and joined by reps of the region's sheriffs to note our region's role in Flag Day.

Noon–1:30pm | Still we strive: Freedom Corner, Hill District

Pittsburgh's role in the unfinished work of equal justice and democracy

4:00pm–5:00pm | Reinventing the promise, the Innovation Revolution: Bakery Square

A Happy Hour celebration of Pittsburgh's leadership in the emerging revolutions in healthcare & life sciences, IT, AI and Robotics

6:00pm–8:00pm | Forged in fire: Industry, Labor, and the Nation: Carrie Blast Furnaces

A community picnic honors the workers, ingenuity and grit that powered America, and the reinvention that follows to this day.

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

5:45am–6:30am | Carrying the spirit forward: Grant Street to Washington, DC, American Legion Convoy

Formal handoff of the flags from Pittsburgh's stewardship to the national stage on Grant Street, with the Allegheny County Sheriff as last in line for all the sheriffs who have stewarded the flag, to the American Legion Riders for transport to Washington, DC and the U.S. Capitol.