

# Sunshine State 250 Showdown, Overview for Florida Legion Posts

## What it is

The Sunshine State 250 Showdown is a statewide contest sponsored and administered by 1Nation, with the formal support of The American Legion, Department of Florida, to recognize Posts that deliver the most memorable events highlighting the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America. Our collective mission is for every Floridian to wake up on July 5th and say, “That was the best Independence Day celebration ever, and what the American Legion did was really cool.”

## Who can participate

Any American Legion Post chartered by the Department of Florida.

## What a participating Post must do

- Register in the Contest Platform and designate official contacts to serve as a liaison between 1Nation and the participating Post.
- Submit planned event ideas for advance approval, select from suggested event examples, or submit your own original ideas.
- Execute one or more approved events from the date of registration through July 5, 2026.
- Submit a short Event Summary no later than one week after the conclusion of the event (photos and/or short videos, promotional materials, news media, and reasonable attendance support).
- Track and verify new membership results through July 10, 2026.

## Why participate

- Participation and event planning counts towards the community service challenge category in the American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge.
- Build membership momentum with a clear recruiting message highlighting America’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary through a 1Nation-sponsored volunteer drive.
- Increase visibility and goodwill in your locality through community engagement.
- Attract volunteers and partners/civic organizations who want a purpose-driven way to celebrate the greatness of our country.
- Compete for prizes (e.g. Post upgrades) and statewide recognition, with winners recognized at National Convention.

## How 1Nation will support participating Posts

- Publish a menu of qualified event examples, media toolkit, and practical planning guidance.
- Provide an easy online app to submit events, receive approvals, and submit proof.
- Drive event volunteers through a targeted engagement plan (to assist with planning and execution) to the Posts.
- Provide limited, mission-aligned in-kind assistance or other support to select Posts to help facilitate event execution, subject to availability and any sponsorships or resources secured by 1Nation.
- Publish regular participation dashboards by Area and District to drive friendly competition.
- Send reminders and highlights to keep Posts on track and share what is working.

## Scoring categories

Scoring is evaluated across multiple categories to recognize comprehensive excellence, impact, and alignment with Legion goals. To ensure fairness and level the playing field, entries are divided into three size-based tiers according to Post membership size: Small Posts (up to 249 members), Medium Posts (250–749 members), and Large Posts (750+ members). Each tier is judged independently, with separate awards presented within its respective group. Within each size-based tier, a minimum of three (3) Posts will be recognized based on the highest final combined scores, with the top-ranked Post designated as Best Overall for that size category. Based on participation levels within each tier, 1Nation may expand the number of award recipients to recognize additional high-performing Posts.

### Scoring is based on performance in the following areas:

- **New Legion *and* Legion Family Membership** — Verified recruitment of new members (counted through July 10, 2026).
- **Volunteer Participation** — Level of active involvement by volunteers.
- **Community Partnerships** — Development and strength of collaboration with local organizations, businesses, or groups.
- **Media Coverage and Visibility** — Extent of earned press, social media reach, shares, engagement metrics, and overall exposure.
- **Total Number and Execution of Approved Events** — Quantity of events held, plus quality of planning, execution, attendance, and outcomes.

Detailed information on how points are awarded in each category is provided in the accompanying Rules and Regulations document. In the event of a tie for overall ranking within a tier, the tie will be resolved by evaluating the originality of the events submitted.



## **Key dates (2026)**

Registration is open Feb 20–May 15; event submissions are open Feb 20–May 30; events encouraged from date of registration through July 5; new membership cutoff July 10; proof due July 15; winners announced Aug 28.

## **Call to action**

Register your Post, submit your events, and help lead America's 250<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration in your community by participating in the Sunshine State 250 Showdown.