Sunshine State 250 Showdown Contest Rules

1) Sponsor, administrator, and judge

The Sunshine State 250 Showdown (the "Contest") is sponsored and administered by 1Nation, Inc. ("1Nation") and is conducted with the formal support of The American Legion, Department of Florida (the "Department"). The Department is not the sponsor or administrator of the Contest.

1Nation is the sole judge of the Contest and has final authority, in its sole discretion, to interpret and apply these Contest Rules, determine eligibility, approve or reject event submissions, verify participation and supporting documentation, calculate and award points, resolve disputes, and select winners. All decisions by 1Nation are final and binding.

2) Purpose

This Contest is intended to:

- Showcase America's 250th birthday celebration across Florida.
- Drive membership growth across the American Legion and the broader Legion Family.
- Remind Floridians of their shared pride in the nation through impactful, community-facing events.

Our collective mission is for every Floridian to wake up on July 5 and say, "That was the best Independence Day Celebration, and that what the American Legion did was very cool."

3) Definitions

For purposes of these Contest Rules:

- "Post" means an American Legion Post chartered in the Department of Florida.
- "Legion Family" means the American Legion, Sons of The American Legion (SAL), the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and The American Legion Riders (ALR).
- "Contest" means the Sunshine State 250 Showdown, including all approved events, activities, scoring categories, submissions, and determinations conducted by 1Nation pursuant to these Rules.
- "Contest Platform" means the registration and submission system, Sweep Widget, designated by 1Nation.
- "Entry" means a Post's participation in the Contest, including its approved events and submitted documentation, as administered through the Contest Platform.
- "Submitted Event" means an event idea submitted through the Contest Platform for review.

- “Approved Event” means a Submitted Event that has not been disqualified via written notification by 1Nation within 10 working days of submission and is thereby considered approved (Section 7.3).
- “Proof” means documentation submitted by the Post to verify event execution and support scoring, as further described in Section 8.
- “New Member” means an individual who joins the American Legion and/or the Legion Family and is processed and reflected in the applicable official membership system by the verification deadline stated in Section 10. It does not include transfers between Posts.

4) Eligibility

Any Post is eligible to participate. Each Post will designate two (2) official contacts for registration and Contest communications (the “Designated Contacts”). A Post’s Designated Contacts are responsible for submitting event proposals, documentation, and required certifications on behalf of the Post.

1Nation will require confirmation that the Post Commander, Adjutant, or authorized Post representative has approved the Post’s participation.

5) Timeline and key dates (2026)

- Registration opens: February 19, 2026
- Registration closes: May 15, 2026
- Event submission opens: February 19, 2026
- Event submission closes: May 30, 2026
- Events held from date of registration through July 5, 2026
- New member verification cutoff: July 10, 2026
- Event Summary and Proof due: no later than one week after the conclusion of the event
- Winners announced: August 28, 2026 (during National Convention)

Winners will be notified in advance of August 28 to support travel and attendance planning.

6) Registration process

Posts must register through the Contest Platform via Sweep Widget
https://sweepwidget.com/c/96606-wauoxmp5

At minimum, registration will require:

- Post Name and Post number
- District
- Two Designated Contacts (name, role, email or phone)
- Confirmation of authorization to participate
- Acceptance of these Contest Rules
- After registration, submit estimated number of volunteers that will be needed to plan/execute the event

Registration confirmation will be provided via the Contest Platform and/or email. 1Nation may reject or request clarification of incomplete registrations.

7) Event submissions and approval

7.1 Event menu and custom ideas

1Nation will publish a list of examples of qualifying event types in a toolkit provided upon registration. Posts are encouraged to execute multiple Approved Events over the duration of this Contest. Posts may select from the example list or submit original ideas.

Events should be impactful, engage the community, and showcase Americanism in a manner consistent with the values of the American Legion and that celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation.

Examples:

- Good example: Create and enter a decorated float in the local Fourth of July parade, with America 250 branding elements and a engages the community and local businesses.
- Non-qualifying example: A routine service activity not meaningfully tied to the America 250 theme and Contest Weekend (such as a standard blood drive without additional thematic elements tied to America's 250th anniversary).

7.2 Approval requirement

All events must receive prior approval from 1Nation to qualify for scoring. Posts submit their events for review; upon submission, 1Nation will evaluate them. If an event is not approved, it will be disqualified with a provided explanation, but the Post may revise and resubmit it for reconsideration. Only approved events will be eligible for points in the relevant scoring categories.

7.3 Approval notification

Submitted events will be reviewed by 1Nation within 10 working days to confirm alignment with Contest guidelines and eligibility requirements. Posts will only be contacted if more information is needed or if the event is disqualified (with an explanation provided). If no notification is received within 10 working days, the event may be considered approved.

7.4 Compliance, permits, and safety

Each Post is solely responsible for:

- Securing any required permits, permissions, venue agreements, and insurance
- Ensuring appropriate safety practices and supervision
- Compliance with applicable laws and local rules
- Ensuring any required media releases are obtained, including releases for minors appearing in photos or video
- Additional information regarding these items may be found in the supplemental toolkits.

8) Documentation and proof requirements

Posts are responsible for submitting Proof for each Approved Event and a Post-level Event Summary no later than one week after the conclusion of the event.

At minimum, Proof must include:

- Photos and/or short video clips demonstrating execution and attendance
- Promotional materials (flyers, screenshots of social posts, event pages)
- Media coverage links or screenshots, if applicable
- Attendance support, using one or more of the following:
    - Ticketing counts or RSVP lists (if used)
    - Venue-provided attendance estimates
    - Post-generated sign-in count with an attestation by the Designated Contact
    - Credible third-party estimate (for example, a local publication noting attendance)

1Nation may request additional backup documentation and may adjust scores or disqualify entries if documentation is missing, materially inconsistent, or reasonably believed to be falsified.

9) Monitoring, tracking, and leaderboard dashboard

1Nation will track registrations and submissions internally and may, at times, publish a Registration Dashboard showing participation by Post and District. The dashboard is intended to encourage friendly competition and visibility. 1Nation may revise dashboard metrics for clarity and consistency.

10) Scoring and Judging

Scoring is intended to reward meaningful participation and impact through membership growth, volunteer engagement, community partnerships, event execution, and media coverage. 1Nation will score based on materials submitted through the Contest Platform and any reasonable verification steps 1Nation determines appropriate.

Evaluation for Best Overall Post is holistic and comparative. No single element is determinative on its own. Strong performance reflects balanced, sustained, and well-executed participation throughout the Contest period.

Posts are encouraged to consult the General Toolkit and Media Toolkit for practical guidance, examples, and best practices related to the scoring elements described below.

1. **New Legion and Legion Family Membership** — Demonstrates the strongest verified membership growth tied to contest activities.
2. **Volunteer Participation** — Tracks the level of active, task-based volunteer engagement.
3. **Community Partnerships** — Encourages meaningful and substantive collaboration with community organizations.
4. **Media Coverage and Visibility** — Calculates media exposure and social media impact linked to Approved Events.
5. **Total Number and Execution of Approved Events** — Adds all quality, approved events.

Scoring Rubicon for Subcategories

1.) New Legion and Legion Family Membership

This element recognizes Posts that successfully recruit new Legion and Legion Family members in connection with Contest activities, reflecting effective outreach, visibility, and sustained community engagement.

What counts:

- Total number of verified new Legion and Legion Family members recruited from the date of registration through July 10, 2026
- Includes new members of:
    - The American Legion
    - Sons of The American Legion (SAL)
    - The American Legion Riders (ALR)
    - American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)

What does not count:

- Transfers between Posts
- Reinstatements or administrative corrections not tied to active recruitment

Verification:

- Membership must be reflected in official Department membership systems
- 1Nation requires extracts, screenshots, or Department reports for initial validation during registration on the contest platform, and a final report at the contest's end.

Scoring Rubric:

- Posts receive 1 point for every new member.

2.) Volunteer Participation

This scoring subcategory recognizes active, task-based volunteer engagement tied to Approved Contest events. Volunteers are essential to successful events. They handle setup, staffing, logistics, coordination, outreach, and execution to ensure events run smoothly, attract participants, and deliver impact.

What Counts:
Task-based work directly tied to approved events (planning, setup/teardown, staffing, logistics, partner coordination, event-specific outreach).

What Does Not Count:

Passive attendance, routine meetings, general communications, minimal admin tasks as part of regular post operations.

Verification:
Upload Volunteer names and volunteer role for each event. Examples: xls reports, images of all volunteer sign in sheet, export report from volunteer tools)

Scoring:

- 1 point per volunteer per approved event they actively participate in.
- Example:
    - 1 volunteer at 1 event = 1 point
    - 1 volunteer at 2 events = 2 points
    - 5 volunteers each at 1 event = 5 points
    - 3 volunteers each at 3 events = 9 points

3.) Community Partnerships

This element recognizes Posts that build and leverage meaningful partnerships with community organizations in connection with Approved Contest events, extending reach, scale, and long-term community impact.

What counts:

- Distinct community organizations that play an active and substantive role in:
    - Sponsorship/in-kind or financial
    - Event planning
    - Event execution
    - Event outreach

- Examples of qualifying partners:
    - Schools or school districts
    - Civic or service organizations
    - Nonprofit or charitable organizations
    - Faith-based organizations
    - Youth organizations (e.g., Scouts, ROTC)
    - Local businesses

What does not count:

- Organizations listed without documented involvement
- Multiple chapters of the same organization counted separately without substantive distinction

Verification:

- Posts must briefly describe each partner, its role, and the supported event(s)
- Photos, acknowledgments, or event materials may be requested

Scoring Rubric:

- Each partnering organization may be counted once per event or activity with a total cumulative score of all events (similar to example scoring in "Volunteer Participation" section)

4.) Media Coverage and Visibility

This element recognizes earned media coverage and measurable visibility that accurately and positively reflects approved Contest activities, community engagement, and alignment with the America 250 theme.

Posts are encouraged to consult the Media Toolkit for guidance on media outreach, messaging, examples, documentation, and best practices.

What counts:

- Earned media coverage tied to Approved Contest events, including:
    - local or statewide news outlets
    - feature stories or broadcast segments
    - credible community or regional publications
- Documented social media visibility tied to approved Contest events

What does not count:

- Paid advertising presented as earned media
- Duplicate submissions of the same coverage
- Social media content unrelated to approved Contest events
- Artificial or one-time anomalies intended to inflate reach

1Nation may cap, normalize, or discount media-related submissions to prevent disproportionate weighting, if needed.

Verification:

- Upload links of your social media posts in the contest platform
- Clips of the news articles, media coverage, etc., should be loaded into the contest platform.

Scoring Rubric:
Earned Media Coverage (per event):

- Local news outlet coverage: 5 points
- Statewide news outlet coverage: 10 points
- Media mention (brief reference): 1 point
- Social media (each post highlighting events specific to the Contest): 1 point
- Feature story or broadcast segment: 10 points

Social Media Attention:

- Individual posts may only be submitted once

5.) Total Number and Execution of Approved Events

This element recognizes Posts that demonstrate sustained participation by planning and executing multiple approved Contest events with a high level of quality and community engagement.

What counts:

- Events that:
    - were submitted and approved in advance through the Contest Platform, and
    - were successfully executed during the Contest period

What does not count:

- Events not approved in advance
- Internal-only or administrative activities
- Cancelled or unverified events

Verification:
Upload images, advertisements, publications identifying the event, and event execution.

Scoring Rubric:
Each successfully executed Approved Event accounts for one point with all events added together at the conclusion of the Contest

10.1 Tiebreakers

In the event of a tie within any scoring category, 1Nation will conduct a secondary review of the tied Posts' Contest participation. Ties may be resolved by considering factors such as the originality and quality of events, the level of sustained and active participation across all Contest categories, and the overall breadth and impact of activities conducted during the Contest period.

If a tie remains after applying these considerations, 1Nation reserves the right to make a final determination based on the totality of participation, engagement, and demonstrated impact throughout the Contest. All scoring determinations by 1Nation are final.

11) Prizes

Prizes and prize-related details will be announced no later than March 31, 2026, via the Contest Platform and/or email to Designated Contacts.

Prizes and awards recognize overall excellence in the Sunshine State 250 Showdown. To promote fairness and meaningful competition, Posts will compete within three size-based tiers based on verified Legion Family membership at the time of registration:

- Small Posts: up to 249 members
- Medium Posts: 250–749 members
- Large Posts: 750 or more members

Within each tier, a **minimum** of three (3) Posts will receive placement awards based on the highest final combined score, calculated in accordance with Section 10 (Scoring and Judging), across all applicable scoring criteria, including:

- Membership Growth
- Volunteer Participation
- Community Partnerships
- Media Coverage and Visibility
- Total Number and Execution of Approved Events

Placement recognition within each tier will include, at a minimum:

- 1st Place – Best Overall Post
- 2nd Place – Second Best Overall Post
- 3rd Place – Third Best Overall Post

Following the close of Contest registration, 1Nation will review participation levels within each Post size tier and will expand the number of award recipients in each tier based on relative participation. This approach is intended to ensure that a meaningful number of Posts in each tier have a reasonable opportunity to be recognized for their efforts. The final number of award recipients per tier will be announced after registration closes.

Placements are determined solely by total points earned within each tier, in accordance with the scoring framework set forth in Section 10.

Scoring Continuity and Timing

Scores used for award placement reflect a Post's performance across all approved events conducted during the Contest period, as calculated under Section 10 (Scoring and Judging). Submissions are collected following each approved event; however, final scores and award placements are determined only after the Contest period concludes.

Award Value and Distribution

Awards for the Best Overall Post category will consist of a **minimum** aggregate award pool with an estimated total value of $175,000, comprised of mission-aligned Post upgrades, products, services, or resources, as further described in the Nature of Awards section below.

Awards will be distributed based on overall placement within each Post size tier, with higher-ranked Posts receiving a greater share of the total award value. Award values are associated with placement and are intended to recognize increasing levels of participation, impact, and performance demonstrated over the course of the Contest period.

Any expansion of award recipients based on participation levels will not affect scoring criteria or evaluation standards.

District Recognition (Additional Awards)

District recognition is separate from Post-level awards and does not affect Best Overall Post placements.

In addition to the Post-level awards described above, additional recognition and awards may be provided to American Legion Districts that generate the highest levels of Post participation in the Contest.

District-based recognition criteria, award structure, and the nature of any associated support will be announced as part of the final prize structure and may be informed by factors such as:

- the number of participating Posts within the District,
- sustained engagement throughout the Contest period, and
- overall District-level contribution to the success of the Sunshine State 250 Showdown.

Nature of Awards

All prizes will be structured as Post upgrades, mission-aligned items, products, services, or resources intended to enhance the quality, functionality, and long-term impact of winning Posts, rather than as direct cash payments.

In determining prize composition, 1Nation may consider recommendations, identified needs, or preferences submitted by participating Posts to help ensure that awards are meaningful, practical, and appropriately tailored to each Post's facilities, operations, and community mission.

Additional Support and Flexibility

Beyond the baseline support provided to all participating Posts including planning resources, volunteer engagement assistance, and communications toolkits, 1Nation may also provide additional, limited mission-aligned support to select Posts to assist with event planning or execution.

Such support may be provided in the form of in-kind materials, services, or other resources and will be informed by demonstrated participation, objective milestones, and identified needs. Information on how Posts may be considered for such support will be communicated through the Contest Platform and/or email to Designated Contacts during the Contest period.

Final prize composition estimated award values, and allocation may increase based on sponsorships, donations, availability, and logistical considerations. All prize awards are subject to final confirmation by 1Nation.

Administrative Requirements

A Post may be required to complete reasonable administrative steps to receive awards, such as confirming delivery information or completing any applicable documentation. Prize distribution details and timelines will be provided at the time awards are announced.

12) Winner notification and announcements

Winners will be announced on August 28, 2026, during National Convention. Winners will be notified in advance to support planning and attendance. If a winner cannot be present, 1Nation may still recognize the winner and may coordinate alternative methods to present the award.

13) Publicity, content rights, and use of materials

By entering, each Post grants 1Nation a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use, reproduce, publish, display, and distribute submitted photos, videos, written summaries, and related materials for Contest administration and for promoting the Contest, America 250 programming, and 1Nation's mission.

Posts must confirm that they have obtained all necessary permissions and releases for submitted materials, including releases for minors where required.

14) Privacy and data use

1Nation will use registration information and submitted materials for Contest administration, verification, communications, and related promotional purposes consistent with Section 13. 1Nation does not intend to sell Designated Contact information. 1Nation may share necessary information with the Department for coordination and reporting consistent with Contest objectives.

15) Disqualification

1Nation may disqualify any Entry, in its sole discretion, if a Post:

- Violates these Contest Rules
- Submits materially false or misleading information
- Engages in unsafe, unlawful, or inappropriate conduct associated with Contest activities
- Misuses branding or publicity in a manner that creates reputational risk or misrepresents the Contest or supporting organizations

16) Right to modify, suspend, or cancel

1Nation reserves the right to update, clarify, or amend these Contest Rules and the Contest administration process, including timelines, submission requirements, documentation standards, scoring procedures, and prize administration. Any material changes will be communicated to registered Posts through the Contest Platform and/or email to the Designated Contacts.

1Nation may suspend or cancel the Contest due to events beyond its reasonable control or to preserve the integrity and fairness of the Contest.

17) Limitation of Responsibility

Each Post is solely responsible for planning, organizing, and conducting its events and activities, including but not limited to securing any required permits, insurance, approvals, staffing, volunteer management, safety measures, and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Participation in the Contest is at each Post's own risk. 1Nation is not responsible for, and shall have no liability arising from, any incidents, losses, injuries, damages, claims, or expenses of any kind that occur in connection with a Post's events, activities, volunteers, partners, participants, or use of awarded items or resources.

Any guidance, toolkits, templates, scoring frameworks, or informational materials provided by 1Nation are offered for general support purposes only and do not replace a Post's independent responsibility to ensure safety, compliance, and suitability for its specific circumstances.

18) Governing Law

These Contest Rules and the Contest are governed by the laws of the State of Florida, without regard to conflict of law principles. Any disputes arising out of or relating to the Contest or these Rules shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the state or federal courts located in the State of Florida.