

## Cannabis events taken off website of Colorado tourism

Listings for cannabis hospitality businesses, pot lounges and tour services have been removed from the colorado.com website.

According to the Colorado Tourism Office, the removal is only temporary as it works with the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division and state Cannabis Business Office to "update the cannabis section of the Colorado.com website to ensure consistency across state agencies.

"We plan to publish revised guidelines and opportunities on the Colorado.com website. Affected businesses are being notified and will also be notified when the new guidelines are published," adds Tourism Office communications manager Hayes Norris.

The listings were taken down in March, according to Colorado Cannabis Tours owner Michael Eymer, whose pot-friendly tour service was licensed and approved to hit the road last year. Although Eymer and other business owners were at first skeptical about why their listings were removed, the state agencies insist that cannabis hospitality information will return soon.

"We are working with the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) to help them revamp their cannabis hospitality webpage to help consumers distinguish licensed marijuana hospitality businesses

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Photo: SerrNovik, via iStock.com

## States, counties & cities across the country prepare for 2026's Semi-quincentennial

It will be one of the biggest celebrations of a historic event in 2026 when localities across the country honor the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date the nation declared its independence: July 4, 1776.

Tourism organizations across the country are joining with other government agencies to plan events for their residents and visitors alike to enjoy.

*Here are some examples:*

Hundreds of **Connecticut's** amateur and professional historians gathered recently in a Central Connecticut State University auditorium to begin the two-year sprint of planning and preparation for the 250th commemoration.

The Connecticut Semi-quincentennial Commission, which the governor created in a 2022 executive order, is aimed at enhancing education, preservation, recreation, economic

development and tourism while commemorating the biggest national anniversary since the 1976 Bicentennial.

Planning for **Wyoming's** celebration of the United States Semi-quincentennial is being coordinated by the Wyoming Semi-quincentennial Planning Task Force.

Created by the governor's executive order, the task force will make recommendations on the planning of projects, events, and activities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

Members of the task force represent the Wyoming Legislature, the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes, Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Wyoming Office of Tourism, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, University of Wyoming and Wyoming Community

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from other tourism opportunities,” MED communications manager Heather Draper says. “The Marijuana Enforcement Division will be emailing licensed marijuana hospitality businesses to inform them of the opportunity to be listed on the CTO site and will provide them with CTO contact information. We hope to do that within the next week or so.”

Getting listed with the Colorado Tourism Office doesn’t cost money, but it does require that business owners and organizations apply online and “verify you are part of the tourism industry,” according to the form.

According to the Tourism Office, applications for new pot hospitality listings will be open in time for qualified businesses to appear on the website by April 20, or 4/20, the unofficial cannabis holiday.

– westword.com

## Hawai‘i connects visitors with volunteer opportunities

The Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA) has partnered with Kanu Hawai‘i to make it easier for visitors to search and sign up for enriching volunteer opportunities throughout the state.

Travelers planning their trips in the Hawaiian Islands can now access the Mālama Hawai‘i Volunteer Dashboard at GoHawaii.com/malama, the state’s official website for visitors.

Visitors can sign up by submitting an RSVP, which generates an email to the partner who will respond with further information. Visitors can also provide monetary donations directly to the nonprofit organizations if they choose to.

– hawaiiitourismauthority.org

## States, counties & cities prepare for nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday

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Colleges, and other non-governmental and industry organizations.

In **Kentucky**, Bell County’s America 250 Committee is made up of representatives from Bell County Historical Society Museum, Bell County Tourism, the Middlesboro Chamber of Commerce, among other organizations.

In **New Jersey**, one of the original 13 colonies, the state Historical Commission, an agency within the Department of State, held a daylong conference in Trenton, itself the site of a pivotal battle during the American Revolution.

Sara Cureton, the executive director of the Historical Commission, says New Jersey plans to highlight its rich history, boost “heritage tourism” and encourage students across the state to research events that took place in their own communities.

Many of the original 13 colonies have already started celebrating events leading up to 2026.

**North Carolina** is launching its multi-year commemoration of America’s 250th birthday in 2026 with “Halifax Resolves Days: Prelude to Revolution” in conjunction with Halifax Resolves Day April 12-14 at the Historic Halifax State Historic Site.

In the spring of 1776, delegates from across North Carolina met in Halifax to take part in the 4th Provincial Congress, the forerunner to the modern legislature.

The America 250th **South Dakota** Commission recently discussed an assortment of possible ways for marking 2026.

One idea from Nick Harrington is challenging people to hike 250 miles. Harrington is communications director for the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks. He said there

are more than 400 miles of trails in state parks.

In **Ohio**, preparations are being led by the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semi-quincentennial, also referred to as America 250-OH.

Locally, the Ottawa County Commissioners passed a resolution establishing the Ottawa County-America-250 Committee. The volunteer committee will help guide celebratory events in Ottawa County.

The purpose of the committee is to engage stakeholders from across the county; inspire individuals, organizations, schools and businesses to participate in the celebration; collaborate with groups on joint projects and share information with the America-250 Ohio organization.

– ctinsider.com, thecheyennepost.com, middlesboronews.com, jsplightnews.org, coastalreview.org, keloland.com, portclintonnewsheald.com