



# Bicentennial Guide



# Alabama is Celebrating 200 Years

Join a three-year statewide celebration:

**2017** places

**2018** people

**2019** stories

Alabama is celebrating its Statehood Bicentennial throughout 2017, 2018 and 2019 and your motorcoach groups are invited to enjoy the activities. Towns and cities are scheduling special events that are “group friendly.”

Our numerous historic sites are eager for you to visit.

Our state is spotlighting the four previous Capital Cities in St. Stephens, Huntsville, Cahaba, Tuscaloosa plus the current Capital, Montgomery.

Sweet Home  
**Alabama**

Visit [www.alabama.travel](http://www.alabama.travel) to learn how you can play a part in commemorating beautiful Alabama.

**FOR GROUP TOUR INQUIRIES**

**CONTACT:** Rosemary Judkins, Alabama Tourism Department 334-242-4493 | [rosemary.judkins@tourism.alabama.gov](mailto:rosemary.judkins@tourism.alabama.gov)



## Alabama Bicentennial Celebration: ALABAMA 200

### What is the bicentennial?

- Alabama became the nation's twenty-second state on December 14, 1819. ALABAMA 200 is a three-year celebration of statehood and our history.
- Between January 2017 and December 2019, Alabamians all over the state and beyond will create and take part in educational and enriching opportunities to discover, explore, preserve, and share those stories.
- The official launch will be held in Mobile in 2017.
- **Mission:** The mission of ALABAMA 200 is to support, create, and execute events and activities that commemorate the stories of our people, place and path to statehood. Between 2017 and 2019, ALABAMA 200 will engage residents and visitors in educational programs, community activities, and statewide initiatives that teach, inspire, and entertain.
- **Vision:** ALABAMA 200 is an unprecedented opportunity to experience and explore the state of Alabama. It is a chance to celebrate our place in each of the 67 counties that stretch from the Shoals to the shores. It is a moment to remember the people who made our state and to nurture the generations who will carry us forward. It is an opportunity to chart a vibrant, prosperous future for the state with history as our guide.

### Projects of ALABAMA 200:

- The projects serve the entire state, local communities, and schools. More information—and additional projects—will be added over the next few months. Please check back often.
- Alabama Bicentennial Education
  - Alabama Bicentennial Education will focus on three major areas to support the vision and outcomes for the bicentennial: developing new and supporting existing curricular resources, professional development for classroom teachers, and supporting school projects for public, private, and homeschool students.
- Alabama Family History and Heritage Project
  - Focusing on collecting, digitizing, and preserving genealogy resources, AFHHP in partnership with the Alabama Department of Archives & History will make these resources available to all. Another priority is to provide workshops on family research, the fastest growing hobby in the United States.
- Alabama PastPort Project
  - The Alabama PastPort Project is a guide to the people, places, and

events in Alabama represented by historic sites, state parks, museums, natural history centers, and other destinations. APP's engaging printed passport is supported by a robust digital app that provides more information.

- Making Alabama: A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit
  - Spearheaded by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, this traveling exhibition on Alabama history, culture, and geography will travel to every one of Alabama's 67 counties.

### **Purpose of committees and how to establish one:**

- A bicentennial committee can help organize efforts and ensure success in getting your community and the Bicentennial connected.
- Look for an already established committee in your area at <http://www.alabama200.org/contact-us/get-involved/local-committee/>
- If there isn't one, contact them for resources to get your community involved
- Encourage anyone and everyone to get involved, including city and county government officials, chamber of commerce, public library, schools and school boards, businesses, community centers (event venues, youth programs, senior programs) or historical and cultural community organizations.

### **How to send in a resolution:**

- Make your newly formed committee official by adopting the ALABAMA 200 resolution <http://www.alabama200.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ALABAMA200-Resolution.pdf>
- Include the following information
  - Contact person and contact information
  - List of committee members (if available)
  - Physical mailing address and email address
  - Requests for additional information, materials or assistance that will help place for bicentennial events and projects.
- Mail or email a copy of your resolution and additional information to [Debra.Pascal@bicentennial.alabama.gov](mailto:Debra.Pascal@bicentennial.alabama.gov) or mail it to the address at the end of this packet, with attn.: Debra Pascal.

### **Tips on forming Bicentennial events:**

- Between 2017 and 2019, celebrations, festivals, exhibitions, and performances will take place in every corner of the state
- ALABAMA 200 projects and events will offer something for everyone. Some—such as traveling exhibits, teacher training, and the Alabama Family History and Heritage Project—are already in development. You can bring others to life. Encourage your city to think about what it might do. Reach out to organizations, businesses, and schools. Talk with friends and family.

- The bicentennial lasts for three years, with a theme for each year. Use the themes (2017-Explore Our Places, 2018-Honor Our People, 2019-Share Our Stories) as inspiration for connecting events in your community with the bicentennial.
- This is a great time to start a new event; however, if a festival, fair, play, or other event is already a tradition, perhaps it can take on a bicentennial focus for a year or two.

### **Still confused or unsure? Attend an information session!**

- ALABAMA 200 information sessions bring the who, what, when, where, and why of the bicentennial to you. Each session offers an overview of statewide plans as well as information about next steps in your community.
- What's the purpose of the information session? Learn about...
  - ALABAMA 200 overview, goals, objectives and timeline
  - ALABAMA 200 projects and resources
  - How to form local committees and use the resolution
  - How to create bicentennial projects, initiatives and commemorations
  - How to put a "bicentennial twist" on existing projects, initiatives and commemorations
  - How to find funding, support and other resources
- Who should attend?
  - Project partners, funders and resource providers
  - Anyone interested in learning about or participating in the bicentennial, such as
    - Representatives of history, heritage or arts groups
    - Public libraries
    - Schools and school boards
    - Civic, social and service organizations
    - City and county governments
    - Media and local businesses
- To book and schedule a session, contact the Alabama Bicentennial Commission office.
- Staff directory: <http://www.alabama200.org/leadership-2/meet-the-commission/>

#### **Contact:**

Alabama Bicentennial Commission  
[info@bicentennial.alabama.gov](mailto:info@bicentennial.alabama.gov)  
 (334) 242-4537  
 P.O. Box 246  
 Montgomery, AL 36103

#### **Follow along on social media**

Facebook: Alabama 200  
 Twitter: @al200  
 Instagram: @al200official  
 Pinterest: Alabama 200  
 LinkedIn: Alabama Bicentennial Commission

**Sign up for the newsletter** to stay updated on ALABAMA 200 via the website [alabama200.org](http://alabama200.org).

**ALABAMA 200 community grants will be officially announced on Friday,  
March 3**

**Who is eligible for an ALABAMA 200 grant?**

Official bicentennial committees working in conjunction with their city and/or county government

**What types of projects will be considered for funding?**

Project ideas can fall into many acceptable categories such as: historical, educational, cultural and recreational. Examples include fairs and festivals, tours of historic homes, cemetery surveys, concerts, theatrical productions, community gardens and farmers' markets, exhibitions and oral history and publication projects.

**Are existing community events eligible for an ALABAMA 200 grant?**

Yes. If you already execute a successful event or program, give it a bicentennial twist or ALABAMA 200 branding.

**What criteria must the project meet?**

- Open and accessible to the public
- Relevant to Alabama and the state's bicentennial
- Culturally inclusive
- Celebratory

**Who is excluded from receiving an ALABAMA 200 grant?**

- Individuals (ex. Candidates for public office)
- For-profit ventures
- Political organizations

**If our project qualifies for funding, what reporting will be expected?**

- Project overview
- Financial overview
- Photos or video of completed project

## Regional Community Workshops

The purpose of the regional community workshops is to convene local people across the state who have previously shown a vested interest in managing, executing, or supporting programs and events unique to the bicentennial. To share resources and materials, to provide access to community and industry experts, to prompt idea sharing and collaborative efforts across county lines, and develop marketing and promotional plans.

ALABAMA 200 is requesting your help with securing host destinations, facilities, services, prospective dates, guest lists, and promotional materials and media for approximately twelve one-day workshops held from April through September 2017.

ALABAMA 200 staff has determined the following specifications for hosting a regional workshop. However, they recognize circumstances, resources and opportunities can vary among different venues and encourages the local expertise and creativity when planning. They want this to be a collaborative effort and would like to work together in planning.

- Organizations interested in hosting should provide available dates for meeting spaces.
- Host organizations will be asked to help coordinate with local community partners, share media contacts and disseminate promotional materials prior to the workshop.
- Host organizations should have access to sufficient facilities and resources (meeting facilities, catering and technology services) to accommodate the pre-registered number of attendees, along with staff, partners and guests. This includes:
  - **Meeting Facilities:** Information as to meeting room availability, breakout rooms or spaces, and dining facilities, as well as details regarding the number of attendees each room can accommodate.
    - General session seating for 100 (depending on location), AV/IT, including adequate sound system, lighting and Internet.
    - Up to 3 concurrent breakout session and/or meeting rooms that will accommodate groups ranging from 20-50 people.
    - Space for all participants and guests to enjoy lunch.
    - Registration area: Space for two 8-foot tables or equivalent counter space. Ability to connect to the Internet.
  - **Catering:** Host organizations will be asked to provide detailed cost information for food and beverage (based on per person) for 75-100 (or a suitable alternative, where a speaker can present during a meal). Catering estimates should include the costs for two coffee/tea/water services, one continental breakfast/light snacks, and one lunch.
  - **Technology:** Host organizations will be asked to coordinate with the ALABAMA 200 staff to develop a list of necessary audio-visual equipment available and cost estimates or complimentary items for projectors, microphones, screens, podiums, and sound systems.

### **Historic Marker: Moundville Archaeological Park**

Called “The Big Apple of the 14th Century” by National Geographic, Moundville Archaeological Park was once the site of a powerful prehistoric community that, at its peak, was America’s largest city north of Mexico. Located on the Black Warrior River at Moundville, Alabama, the park preserves 326 acres where, 800 years ago, Mississippian Indians constructed 28 massive flat-topped earthen pyramids, arranged carefully around a vast central plaza. The mounds served as elevated platforms for civic and ceremonial structures and the homes of nobles.

Begin your visit by viewing the short film at the park entrance building that explains the remarkable history of this site. Throughout the grounds, you will find interpretative panels that provide details about the different sites. The park has a museum that combines the latest technology with more than 200 stunning artifacts

to describe one of the most significant Native American archaeological sites in the United States. Visitors will find life-size figures displaying the clothing and jewelry of Mississippian cultures, ceremonial feather decorations hand-sewn by Native-American artists, stunning pottery and other artworks placed in display cases that light up when recorded narratives talk



about them. The park also has a 1/2-mile nature trail that winds through scenic old-growth hardwood forests. In addition, the park offers picnic areas, great views of the Black Warrior River, and a campground. The Moundville Archaeological Park is a featured West Alabama birding site on the Alabama Birding Trails system of trails.

Amenities: Parking, restrooms, camping, picnic, trail, food, gift store

Park Hours: 9 a.m.-dusk

Museum hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fee: Adults \$8, seniors \$7, students and children \$6, under 5 free, Native Americans (with tribal membership card) free

13075 Moundville Archaeological Park

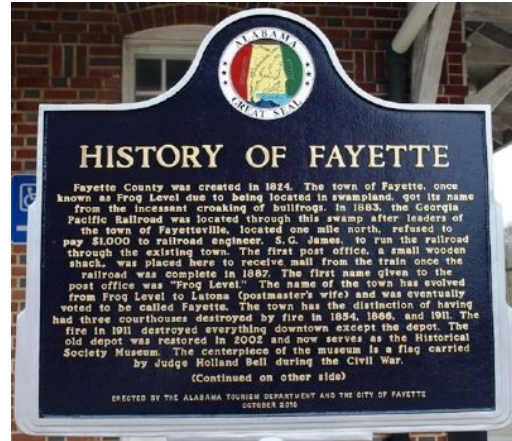
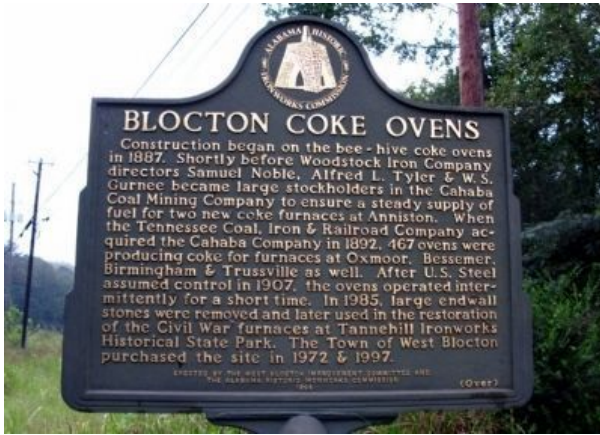
Moundville, Al 35474

(205) 371-2234

<http://moundville.ua.edu/>



## Other Examples of Historic Markers



## Historical/Cultural Festival: Black Belt Roots Festival

This unique celebration brings together craft people, musicians, dancers, storytellers, food specialists, artists and community workers- all of whom are considered bearers of the traditions and folkways of the West Alabama region.

August 26 and 27, 2017 [www.alblackbeltheritage.org](http://www.alblackbeltheritage.org) (205) 372-0525



### Community History Write-Up: Tuscaloosa

*This write-up about the history of Tuscaloosa touches on the people, places and stories of the community.*

Tuscaloosa is much more than its Saturday traditions and gridiron action. The city is built on a history of progress and growth that precedes its athletic excellence. Tuscaloosa was founded on December 3, 1819 and was named for the chieftain of a Muskogean-speaking people. Chief Tuskaloosa (which means "Black Warrior"), and his people were defeated by Hernando De Soto at the Battle of Mabila in 1540. Tuscaloosa's first permanent settlers were Thomas York and his family, who settled along the Black Warrior River in 1816. W.M. Nichols designed a new state capitol building, which held the first session of legislature in 1829. The University of Alabama was established soon after in 1831. During the last weeks of the Civil War, a brigade of Union troops led by General John T. Croxton, raided the city and burned the campus of the university. Only four of the buildings were saved and still stand today: Maxwell Hall, The Little Round House, The Gorgas House and the President's Mansion.

Tuscaloosa has traditionally been known as the "Druid City" because of the numerous water oaks planted in its downtown streets in the 1840s. Since serving as the capital city from 1826 to 1846, it has been the regional center of industry, commerce, healthcare and education for West Alabama. Tuscaloosa is home to a vast array of remarkable sights that are known only inside its bounds. With hundreds of restaurants, activities, museums and parks, it has managed to become one of Alabama's most progressive cities. Visitors come to enjoy the refreshing atmosphere, historic features and bustling nightlife that Tuscaloosa has to offer. With its great energy and eyes on the future, Tuscaloosa continues to thrive on being your one and only.

### **Activity Ideas**

1. Re-enact living history or music (period music and/or dance instruction)
2. Homecoming events
3. Hold a public discussion on the history of your town as a fun coffee hour
4. Describe what you want and what should be on a historic marker
5. Host a movie screening of a movie relevant to your community or Alabama as a whole
6. Collect historic photos and then have an art gallery showing of them
7. Hold a public poetry or story reading for community members to share their creative interpretations about the past
8. Organize a collection of stories and memories of older residents in written form and distribute
9. Host a dinner or potluck with historically significant recipes, passed down from generations
10. Play trivia with historic facts
11. Host a community-wide day of service to spruce up historical places in your area with landscaping, signage, etc.
12. Read a book on a local person or history as a community
13. In a popular, central location, set up a large timeline to show things like how your county or community came to be, how it grew, what events happened when, etc.
14. Develop a brochure on your community and its history
15. Think of events your community already organizes and incorporate history (of the event or of your community) or the Bicentennial (Alabama history) into it
16. Special exhibits by local community groups
17. Create a historical tour for people, mapping out different landmarks and giving as much detail as possible (timing, distances, blurbs about the landmarks). Create a flier or brochure with the information so families and residents can go on the tour when it works for them
18. Host a block party for a neighborhood/town/community
19. Plant a community garden or trees in parks or schools around town
20. Create a time capsule to be opened on the state's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday

### **School Ideas**

1. Collecting oral histories from your community: High school or college students host oral history recording sessions at local library of grandparents and upload the content to a website portal to be shared
2. Create a local timeline for educators to use in schools
3. Have the band perform an Alabama-themed program
4. Take a field trip to a historic site in your county
5. Have students study and report on the Native American tribes of Alabama
6. Create PTA programs featuring 4<sup>th</sup> grade Alabama History classes
7. Host an essay competition with the prompt "What Alabama Means to Me"

### What To Add To Your Website

- Photographs
- Timeline of county events
- Videos
- Articles and media from past newspapers, news channels, magazines or books
- Bicentennial events and information
- Interviews with longtime residents
- Graphics on community history

### Historic Places Inventory Template

Category	Name	Address	Phone	Website	Hours	Tours?	Admission	Description

### Historic People Inventory Template

Category	Name	Living?	Contact Info	Location	Description

These inventories can be handwritten. However, if you are doing them on a computer, I would recommend using Excel rather than Word. Word was used in these examples to be able to show the suggested headings and categories easier.