

# AMERICA'S 250TH BACKYARD BBQ

## *Host Guide*

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### PURPOSE

The America 250 Backyard BBQ is designed to bring friends, neighbors, and community members together to celebrate Independence Day while reflecting on the ideals that shaped the United States. As the country approaches its 250th anniversary, gatherings like this offer a simple way to connect over food, conversation, and the shared responsibilities of living in a self-governing nation.

### ATMOSPHERE

**A few easy touches can help set the mood:**

- Small American flags or simple red, white, and blue table accents
- Outdoor string lights or lanterns for evening gatherings
- Background music with Americana, folk, or classic summer songs
- Picnic tables or casual seating areas that encourage conversation



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**ONE SMALL STEP**

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### EVENT FLOW

- **Guest Arrival:** Guests arrive, grab a drink, and settle in. Keep the environment informal and allow people time to mingle.
- **Food and Social Time:** Serve classic barbecue fare, burgers, hot dogs, grilled vegetables, salads, and simple desserts. Encourage guests to move around and meet new people.
- **Conversation Starter Cards** *(Optional)*: Place conversation starter cards around tables or near seating areas. These prompts help spark discussion about self-government, civic responsibility, and the American experience.

### JULY 4TH TOAST

Friends, before the celebration continues, I'd like to recognize why we gather today. Two hundred and fifty years ago, a small group of Americans made a bold claim: that people have the right to govern themselves. They believed freedom, opportunity, and responsibility belonged not to kings or governments, but to citizens. That idea has carried through generations who worked, served, and sacrificed to keep it alive. So as we enjoy good food, good friends, and the freedoms we share, let's remember America's story is still being written by all of us.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY,  
*and cheers to America.*



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ONE SMALL STEP