



AMERICA250PA – MERCER COUNTY

~Youth Opportunities~

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES/CONTESTS FOR GRADES K-12: FALL 2025

Several educational activities/contests are planned for all Mercer County school-aged students.

- **Grades K-3: Coloring Activity.** Grade-appropriate patriotic coloring pages will be provided to Mercer County schools.
- **Grades 4-6: Patriotic Creativity Project.** Art teachers will be asked to facilitate a no-limits, creative, patriotic project that could range from a poster to a diorama to a decorated light bulb. Each art teacher/school will submit their top three creations for judging. First, second, and third place county-wide winning projects will receive a monetary prize and be displayed at the Mercer County Courthouse.
- **Grades 7-8 and 9-10: Essay Contest.** Two grade appropriate prompts will be provided for this contest. First, second, and third place county-wide winning essays in each age group will receive a monetary prize and be recognized at the Dec. 4, 2025, Mercer County Board of Commissioners meeting.
- **Grades 11-12: FOREVER Stamp Art Contest.** Advanced art classes will be asked to create a patriotic America250 FOREVER stamp design. Each art teacher/school will submit their top creation for judging. The winning design will win \$500, be displayed at the Mercer County Courthouse, and be presented to our federal legislators for consideration as an actual FOREVER stamp. The winning artist will be recognized at the Dec. 4, 2025, Mercer County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Dates: Details will be distributed in September 2025; submissions due Nov. 6, 2025

Coordinator: Deborah L. McEwen (dlmcewen@zoominternet.net)

MIDDLE SCHOOLER CIVICS SUMMIT: 11.21.2025

The **Middle Schooler Civics Summit** is an event designed to engage young students (grades 5 & 6) in civic education, leadership, and active citizenship. It will include discussions and interactive activities that introduce students to key concepts such as government structure, voting rights, civic responsibility, and community involvement.

Key Features

- Guest Speakers: Elected officials, community and civic leaders
- Workshops: Hands-on sessions covering topics like voting, democracy, local government, and public service
- Q&A Sessions: Allows students to interact with policymakers and civic professionals

The goal of the summit is to empower middle schoolers with knowledge and skills that help them become informed and active citizens in their communities. Each Mercer County school is invited to send five total students from 5th and/or 6th grade. Transportation is the responsibility of the school.

Date: Friday, Nov. 21, 2025 from 7:30 am – noon at Penn State Shenango

Coordinators: Ann Coleman (acoleman@mercercountypa.gov) & Frank Gargiulo (fxg5107@psu.edu)