

ARRL Celebrates Semiquincentennial with America250 WAS Award

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During 2026, ARRL will celebrate the semiquincentennial of the US by holding a year-long America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award operating event.

To seek the America250 WAS Award, contacts must be uploaded to and confirmed within Logbook of The World® (LoTW®). The award is a for-purchase WAS certificate suitable for framing.

For this operating event, ARRL will provide a listing of all W1AW/portable stations, who will operate for 7 days from a Wednesday through the following Tuesday for 2 separate weeks in the year, an early week and a late week. A few weeks will be listed as non-W1AW/portable weeks due to contests and ARRL Field Day.

Endorsements

There will also be endorsements available that add to your working all 50 states, including:

- WAS by contacting W1AW/portable stations
- WAS by contacting ARRL Affiliated Club stations
- WAS Triple Play by contacting all states on all three modes (phone/CW/digital)

Operating Etiquette

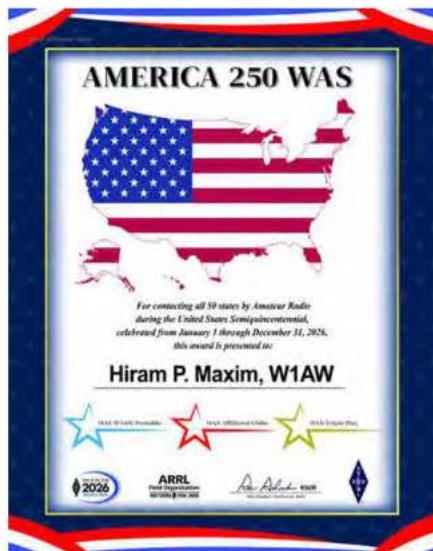
Use of the W1AW call sign is a privilege, and W1AW/portable stations should show best practices and courtesy when operating. Operators must operate using the privileges granted only by their personal license class serving as a control operator (or within the operator privileges of the highest-class control operator present and observing operations).

While the object of the America250 WAS event is to hand out as many contacts with W1AW/portable stations as possible, on as many bands and modes as possible, all operators are encouraged to explain celebrating America's 250th anniversary with the ARRL America250 WAS Award to the degree that your operating time allows.

Bands

Activity is encouraged on bands (including WARC bands) from 2200 meters LF through all of HF, through

all of VHF/UHF/SHF, and through all of the microwave bands including via light (but excluding 60 meters). While all three modes (CW/phone/digital) are allowed, please balance CW and phone activations against the ease of just making digital contacts.



Earn the America250 WAS Award certificate in 2026.

QSLs

There are no planned QSL cards for any of the W1AW/portable America250 operating event stations during this event. All W1AW/portable contacts will be confirmed via LoTW.

Stations who contact W1AW at ARRL HQ can upload such contacts to LoTW and/or send QSL cards (with SASE) to W1AW, ARRL HQ, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 — for contacts only made directly with the W1AW Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station.

Applications

Applications for the America250 WAS Award can be made via LoTW once a minimum of 50 state QSO confirmations appear in LoTW for contacts made in 2026. To apply within LoTW, look at your usual LoTW WAS page summaries, which will show your progress toward the America250 Award, then when applying in LoTW, the usual WAS Award processing fees will be displayed for the America250 certificate and shipping.

After the initial America250 Award certificates are issued, endorsements can be sought. These will be supplied as America250 endorsement stickers to apply to your America250 Award certificate. Contact awards@arrl.org with any questions.