



For Immediate Release – County of Berks

America250PA Berks Honors Winners of Youth Voices of Independence Contest

Reading, PA— 07/30/2026 — The America250PA Berks Committee is proud to announce the winners of its Youth Voices of Independence Contest, a countywide competition that invited Berks County students in grades 6–12 to explore the meaning of the Declaration of Independence through creative expression.

Held as part of the local observance of America's 250th anniversary, the contest encouraged students to reflect on the ideals of freedom, democracy, and civic responsibility by submitting original artwork, written essays or poems, or short videos. The initiative was designed to inspire young people to engage with the nation's history while sharing their own perspectives on the enduring significance of the Declaration of Independence.

The committee received thoughtful and creative submissions from students across Berks County, highlighting the talent and insight of the county's young people.

The winners of the 2026 America250PA Berks Youth Voices of Independence Contest are:

Lia Patricola – Art category, entering 7th grade

Aubrey Moyer – Video category, entering 9th grade

Eleanore Eberly – Written Words category, entering 9th grade

Jack McRae – Written Words category, 2026 high school graduate

Elizabeth Boateng – Art category, entering her freshman year of college (Elizabeth's mother accepted the award on her behalf.)

Each winner received a \$100 VISA gift card donated personally from the County Commissioners in recognition of the students' outstanding work.

According to the America250PA Berks County committee, the Youth Voices of Independence Contest gave students an opportunity to connect with our nation's founding principles in a meaningful and personal way. The creativity, thoughtfulness, and historical understanding demonstrated by these students serves as a reminder that the next generation is ready to help shape the future of our communities and our country.

The contest is part of America250PA Berks, the county's local initiative supporting the statewide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For more information about America250PA Berks and upcoming anniversary events, visit the America250PA Berks website at <https://www.america250paberks.com/>

Sincerely,
America250PA Berks Committee
Berks County, Pennsylvania
www.america250paberks.com

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