



Date: October 8, 2025

**A Message from the Office of First Lady Tammy S. Murphy**

**2025 Drumthwacket Holiday Ornaments by NJ Schools: Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States and Honoring New Jersey’s Role**

Calling All New Jersey Schools!

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026, the Office of First Lady Tammy Murphy, the Drumthwacket Foundation, and RevolutionNJ invite schools across the state to send holiday ornaments to be displayed at Drumthwacket during the holidays!

Let your students shine by designing and sending a one-of-a-kind ornament inspired by the upcoming semi quinentennial celebration of America’s founding in 1776. These ornaments will be proudly displayed on the holiday trees at Drumthwacket, the historic Governor’s Residence in Princeton, New Jersey, and enjoyed by countless visitors both on official business as well as those exploring the historic mansion via our holiday tour series.

**Ornament Theme: "Honoring New Jersey’s Role in the Revolutionary War"**

Students are encouraged to reflect on what 250 years of American history means to them and their communities. This year’s theme supports RevolutionNJ, New Jersey’s official initiative to commemorate the nation’s 250th anniversary, by highlighting the state’s key contributions to the founding of the United States. Ornaments should celebrate and highlight New Jersey’s role in the Revolutionary War, including notable battles, figures and landmarks.

**Revolutionary War Sites in New Jersey for Inspiration:**

Students may choose to incorporate imagery or stories from these historic New Jersey landmarks:

1. Washington Crossing State Park (Titusville) – General Washington’s daring 1776 river crossing
2. Morristown National Historical Park – Winter encampment site of the Continental Army
3. Princeton Battlefield State Park – 1777 battle site and home to the historic Clarke House
4. Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Manalapan) – Site of the Battle of Monmouth and the legend of “Molly Pitcher”
5. Old Barracks Museum (Trenton) – Former British military barracks and revolutionary-era hospital
6. Fort Lee Historic Park – Overlooking the Hudson River, it played a key defensive role
7. Red Bank Battlefield Park (National Park, NJ) – Site of the Battle of Red Bank
8. Liberty Hall Museum (Union) – Home of William Livingston, New Jersey’s first governor
9. Colonial towns like Burlington and New Brunswick – Centers of revolutionary activity and troop movement

**Who Can Participate:**

- All K–12 schools across New Jersey
- Each school may submit one ornament to represent their community
- Please note: We will do our best to display all ornaments submitted. In the event of an overwhelming response, we may need to limit the number on display. However, every participant will receive a certificate in recognition of their contribution.

**Important Dates:**

- Submission Deadline: *Friday, November 14, 2025*
- Display Period: Ornaments will be exhibited on the holiday trees at Drumthwacket throughout the 2025 Holiday Season

**Submission Instructions:**

Mail ornaments to:  
Drumthwacket Foundation – Ornament Contest

354 Stockton Street  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Please include:

- The ornament (securely packaged)
- A short description (*100 words max*) of the ornament's inspiration
- School, name(s) of student(s) who designed it, and grade(s)
- Contact name, email address, and phone number

**Recognition:**

- All participating schools will receive a Certificate of Recognition
- Selected ornaments may be highlighted at a Governor’s Holiday Reception and in media coverage

**Tips for Success:**

- Encourage collaboration - this is a great cross-curricular project for art, history, and civics
- Let students tell their story - the 250th anniversary is about *every voice in every community*

**Questions?**

Email: Haley Tam, [Haley.Tam@nj.gov](mailto:Haley.Tam@nj.gov)

Thank you so much for participating and highlighting the important contributions our state made to the founding of our country. Here’s to another 250 years!



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