



Silverton 2076: Visions of Our Future, *An America250 Youth Essay Contest*

As our nation looks forward to the Semiquincentennial (250th) celebrations this year, we want our local youth to look even further into the future! Today's youth will be the ones who will share the memories of our town with the Silverton residents of 2076. What will our beloved hometown of Silverton look like 50 years from now when the United States celebrates its Tricentennial in 2076?

We invite local students to put on their time-travel shoes and share their creative, thoughtful, and imaginative visions for the future of Silverton. Every essay will be placed in a **sealed time capsule** at the Silverton City Hall, officially marked: ***"Not to be opened until July 4, 2076."*** Your words will literally become a part of Silverton's future history!

The Essay Prompts

- **Elementary School:** If you stepped out of a time machine in Silverton in the year 2076, what would you see? Will there be flying cars over the high school or robot gardeners in the parks? Describe a day in the life of a Silverton kid 50 years from now! (*Suggested length: 150–300 words*)
- **Middle & High School:** Think about how much Silverton has changed over the decades—now imagine the next 50 years. How will technology change our daily lives, schools, and environment, and how can we preserve the community traditions we love today? (*Suggested length: 300–500 words*)

Prizes & Categories

Winners will be selected from each of the following grade divisions:

- **Division I:** Grades 3–5 | **First Prize:** \$25 Amazon Gift Card
- **Division II:** Grades 6–8 | **First Prize:** \$25 Amazon Gift Card
- **Division III:** Grades 9–12 | **First Prize:** \$25 Amazon Gift Card

Winners will be announced on Sunday, August 9th at the Silverton Museum. All entries will receive a certificate of participation and a limited-edition Silverton Country Historical Society America250 sticker. Winning essays will also be featured on our Facebook page and archived for future generations to read in our 2076 Time Capsule.

How to Enter

- **Submission Deadline:** Saturday, August 1, 2026
- **Format:** Essays can be neatly handwritten or typed. Please include the completed **Parental Consent and Release form**.
- **Where to Submit:** Drop off entries, including the parental permission form at The Silverton Country Historical Society museum at 428 S. Water Street or email to silverton.museum@live.com

AI Generated Entries will be disqualified



428 S. Water Street, Silverton, OR 97381

PARENTAL CONSENT & RELEASE FORM

Silverton 2076: Visions of Our Future, *An America250 Youth Essay Contest*

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. Permission to Participate

I, the undersigned, am the parent or legal guardian of the student named above. I give my permission for my child to participate in the "America250 - Silverton 2076" Essay Contest hosted by the **Silverton Country Historical Society**.

2. Archival & Publication Release

I understand that the goal of this project is to document the perspectives of today's youth for future generations. By signing this form, I agree to the following:

- **Time Capsule:** My child's essay will be placed in a sealed time capsule to be displayed at the Silverton City Hall, intended to be opened in the year 2076.
- **Museum Display:** The essay (or excerpts from it) may be displayed in the museum or on the official websites/social media of the Silverton Country Historical Society as part of the America250 celebration.
- **Media:** The student's name and grade may be shared with local media (such as the *Our Town*) in connection with contest announcements.

3. Ownership of Work

The student retains the copyright to their original work. However, the Silverton Historical Society is granted a non-exclusive, perpetual license to preserve and display the work for educational and historical purposes.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ Phone/Email: _____