



Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum

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February 2026 Report to the Hoover Presidential Foundation

By Thomas F. Schwartz

The National Archives and Records Administration witnessed two federal government shutdowns: one lasting 43 days from October 1 to November 12, 2025, and the most recent of four days from January 31 to February 3. Full funding is appropriated for the remainder of FY26 ending on September 30. We are down to ten full-time staff with the departure of Kari Schmidt who was a term museum store clerk. The federal hiring freeze remains in place. I have notified my superiors that we need to hire three museum store clerks to reopen. These employees are paid out of my Trust Fund—money earned through admission and museum store sales—not Operations dollars appropriated by Congress, so no taxpayer dollars are involved.

The library and museum staff continue to review and comment on graphics, gallery text copy, and scripts submitted by BRC. We are also writing the captions for BRC at their request. We continue to work with the Foundation and the contractors on issues to move the project forward. As the renovation enters the final phase, many issues large and small require daily attention. BRC has a staff onsite to oversee the transition of the galley spaces from Shive Hattery to BRC for installation of the exhibits.

The Hoover “Bible,” a compilation of his public speeches from 1917 to 1964 is available in the National Archives Catalog [NAC]. Archivists are working on sections of Hoover’s Presidential Papers for inclusion on the NAC. Lynn Smith sent the first batch of Lou Hoover’s remaining Kodacolor movies to Digital Solutions for preservation work. This batch includes film of the Hoover Dam construction. The museum staff arranged to have the University of Iowa’s Conservation staff examine the John Locke volumes from George Washington’s personal library owned by Herbert Hoover. Once they provide a treatment proposal for the National Archives conservators to review and approve, preservation work can commence. The University of Iowa provides the National Archives the paper used for repairing the Constitution and the Declaration. There will be no cost involved and we plan on showcasing the volumes along with other materials in our collection relating to George Washington’s bicentennial celebration during Hoover’s presidency before and during the July 4th Freedom 250 celebration.

Throughout the museum closure, Bridget Nash has continued a robust level of programming both at partner locations and virtually. Attached is her proposed program schedule. The library and museum will resume its concerts in the park with Iowa Brass on

Memorial Day and July 4. Invitations have been sent to scholars for the Hoover Forum on August 8 and I am waiting for confirmations. Planning with the Foundation on reopening remains a priority as we get closer to determining a realistic time based on construction completion.

2026 Scheduled Programming

April 2026

- 9th: Anamosa School District STEAM Night
- 18th: World Thinking Day - Girl Scout Council event
 - (A250 focus)
- 25th: Citizenship Day - Scout event
 - (A250 focus)
- 30th: Where in the World is Herbert Hoover

May 2026

June 2026

- 9th: Virtual “Celebrating America” presentation for the Johnson County Public Library in Franklin, IN
 - (A250 focus)
- 15th & 16th: Hoover Summer Institute
 - (A250 focus)
- 20th: GS History Mystery
 - (A250 focus)
- 27th: National Youth Takeover Day (TBD)
- 29th: “Celebrating America” presentation for WBPL
 - (A250 focus)

July 2026

- 11th: GS Day of Democracy event
 - (A250 focus)
- 15th: Belin-Blank Educator Institute presentations
 - (A250 focus)
- 16th: Community STEM Day at Collins Aerospace
- 18th: Virtual “Beyond Little House on the Prairie: Rose Wilder Lane and the Great Depression” presentation for the Johnson County Public Library in Greenwood, IN
- 21st: Truman Institute presentation TBD
 - (A250 focus)

August 2026

- 10th: George Washington's Mount Vernon and Hoover Educator PD
 - (A250 focus)
- 15th: Textile Artist Workshop

September 2026

- 12th: GS Laura Ingalls Wilder Experience

October 2026

- 24th: GS Behind the Ballot workshop
 - (A250 focus)

November 2026

- 14th: Merit Badge University - Scouting event

December 2026

Programs Needing to be Added to the Calendar:

1. Beyond the History Books: A Hoover Summer History Challenge
 - a. Virtual, national program
 - b. (A250 focus)
2. Slice of History
 - a. (A250 focus)
3. Wish Wall
 - a. (A250 focus)
4. BS American Heritage workshop
 - a. (A250 focus)
5. BS History Mystery
 - a. (A250 focus)
6. BS Moviemaking
 - a. (A250 focus)
7. BS Citizenship in the Nation
 - a. (A250 focus)