

**Music Committee Chairman,
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MUSIC is so important in all of our lives! Most children learn much faster if a lesson is set to music – which is why we have a song about our alphabet. Many of us still remember the words to advertisements we heard in our childhood – it's no wonder there is still an Oscar Mayer Weinermobile!

I love our Idaho State Song, and really want to challenge you all to learn it by heart. But then I remember that this year is unique. 2026 is the 250th birthday of the United States of America. So I challenge every Unit to learn two verses of America the Beautiful.

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

Please teach it to your Junior Members, too. Sing it at your meetings. Sing it at District Meetings! Remind your community that this is a special year and encourage extra celebrations or parades. We have already had celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the forming of the United States Army and more will be coming. Let your local veterans know that you value the branch of service where they served. Host a karaoke night or a music contest. Challenge your youth to learn patriotic songs.

Don't forget to send pictures and tell us what you did to energize your Unit with music! Regular mail, e-mail, or contacting me via Facebook all works.

Thanks for encouraging your Unit with music!