



250 Years of Freedom & Responsibility

General Public / Community Program Version

Audience: Community groups, volunteers, civic organizations

Time: 30–45 minutes

Program Overview

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, communities across the country are reflecting on what it means to be a citizen. Freedom provides rights, but it also carries responsibilities—including caring for the land and places we share.

In Sevier County, protecting natural spaces is especially important due to our proximity to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the millions of visitors who enjoy our region each year.

Environmental stewardship is one meaningful way citizens can celebrate America’s history while protecting its future.

Key Talking Points: Freedom and Responsibility

Being a citizen includes:

- Protecting shared spaces
- Respecting natural resources
- Helping to maintain a clean community
- Working together to solve problems

Why Environmental Stewardship Matters in Sevier County:

- Tourism brings millions of visitors annually

Litter and pollution can impact:

- Rivers and streams
- Wildlife
- Scenic landscapes
- Community pride
- Clean natural spaces support both quality of life and the local economy.

How Trash Travels

Trash left on the ground can move through:

Street → Storm Drain → River → Wildlife Habitat

This affects water quality and wildlife health.

Ways Community Members Can Help:

- Pick up litter
- Reduce single-use plastics
- Recycle properly
- Participate in community cleanups
- Educate others about protecting natural spaces

Community Engagement Activity

Ask participants:

“What is one action you can take this year to help keep Sevier County beautiful?” Invite responses and encourage local involvement.