



CITY of
GENESEO
Where the *future* grows.

How to Participate

- The Hunt: From May 1st through August 15, 2026, the City will announce various historic locations around Geneseo on the City's Facebook Page.
- The Photos: Visit these spots and snap a photo!
 - o Students do not need to be in the photo themselves.
 - o Students under 18 should get permission from their parents/guardian before participating.
 - o Focus on creative composition to catch the judges' eyes.
 - o Save your photos from May – August 15th and then get ready to submit the compilation for judging in late August!
 - o Non-Facebook users are welcome to stop by City Hall and pickup the released passport locations.

Submission Details

- Organization: Participants can organize their collection of photos however they like for final submission between August 15, 2026 – August 28, 2026.
- Deadline: All entries must be submitted by August 28, 2026.
- Submit your entry into the competition between 08/15/26 – 08/28/26:

1. In-Person: Drop off physical entries at the Central Schoolhouse Inn.

2. Digital: Text a link to your digital file/album to the Daughters of the American Revolution at: (309) 830-9378.

Prizes & Judging

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will judge entries based on creativity. Winners will be announced at the Labor Day Celebration at Richmond Hill on September 5, 2026.

Passport Recap – 8 Locations:



City of Geneseo, Illinois

May 12 · 🌐

Kicking off your Passport to America 250 journey? Your first stop takes you right to the roots of Geneseo!

📍 Step Back in Time at Site #1

At the corner of S. State St. and Oakwood Ave, you'll find the site of the First Pioneer Structure (1836). This isn't just a marker; it's where the very first log cabin stood when the Geneseo Colony arrived from New York nearly 190 years ago!

Did you know?

The historic boulder marking this spot has been on quite a journey! After years of research, it's finally been moved to its most historically accurate location yet.

How to participate:

Visit the boulder at State & Oakwood.

Snap a photo of the marker.

For additional contest information and how to participate, please see the link below:

<https://www.geneseocurrent.com/.../geneseo-america-250...>

#GeneseoIL #America250 #PioneerHistory #PassportToHistory #LocalHeritage #IllinoisHistory

See less





City of Geneseo, Illinois

May 27 · 🌐



📷 PASSPORT PHOTO CONTEST: SITE #2! 📷

Ready to check another destination off your city passport? For our next stop, we are throwing it all the way back to the very roots of our community! 📍

Site #2: The First Congregational Church

Did you know that the story of this historic spot actually starts back in 1836? The church congregation was organized by a group of anti-slavery colonists in New York before they even climbed into their Conestoga wagons to head out west. They braved a brutal winter journey to settle right here, eventually building this beautiful church as a beacon of justice and community.

Fun fact: When the current sanctuary building was dedicated in 1856, it was considered one of the finest church buildings west of Chicago! Today, it stands as a wonderful piece of our city's heritage and a perfect backdrop for your next contest entry.

How to Enter:

Head over to 101 W. Pearl St. Snap a creative picture of Site #2 (selfies, family shots, or artistic angles are all welcome!). For additional contest information and how to participate, please see the below link:

<https://www.geneseocurrent.com/.../geneseo-america-250...> See less



AMERICA ★ 250!

Daughters of the
American Revolution



City of Geneseo, Illinois

June 2 · 🌐

📷 Passport Photo Contest: Stop #3! 📷

For our third stop, we are throwing it back to a building with a seriously moving history—literally!

📍 Location #3: American House & Klavine Motor Co.

🏠 Address: 119 S Center St

Before this building settled into its current location, the American House (1854) had historic ties to local education and boarding. But that's just the beginning of the story!

Did you know this spot was a hub for global innovation?

D.F. Sargent & Son Cart Works manufactured road and mail carts that were invented right here in Geneseo. These carts weren't just local favorites—they were shipped all across America and Europe, playing a massive role in the transportation and utility sectors of the era and helping Geneseo grow into the city it is today.

Fast forward to 1925, and the building transitioned from horse-drawn carts to horsepower, becoming home to Klavine Motor Co.

👉 How to Enter:

Head over to 119 S Center St. Snap a creative picture of Site #3 (selfies, family shots, or artistic angles are all welcome). For additional contest info and how to participate, please see the below link. This contest is open to all Geneseo students.

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AMERICA ★ 250!

Daughters of the
American Revolution



City of Geneseo, Illinois

June 23 · 🌐



Passport Contest: Post #4

This beautiful home at 205 South State St. has a fascinating architectural secret—it was actually built as two separate houses at two different times!

- The North House (1855): The original home was built by George Richards.
- The South House (1867): Brothers Hiram and George Wilson added a second house seamlessly matching the original style, complete with its own separate front and rear entrances.

Beyond its unique architecture, this incredible location holds a profound place in history as a known stop on the Underground Railroad, offering shelter and safety to freedom seekers. Check out this stunning colorized photo by Trent Briggs bringing its history to life!

How to Enter:

Head over to the passport site. Snap a creative picture of Site #4 (selfies, family shots, or artistic angles are all welcome). For additional contest info and how to participate, please see the below link. This contest is open to all Geneseo students.

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City of Geneseo, Illinois

July 16 · 🌐



Passport Contest: Post #5

From historic schoolhouse to architectural gem!

Our next stop takes us to 115 E North St., home of the historic Central Schoolhouse (built in 1856). This building has worn many hats over the last 170 years:

The Early Years (1856): It served as Geneseo's very first public school building, welcoming students of all ages before transitioning into the south elementary building as the town grew.

The FLW Connection (1913): Attorney Harry Brown saved the building from demolition, hiring Cecil E. Bryan—a protégé of legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright (and son-in-law to Mayor Goembel)—to beautifully convert the four-room schoolhouse into a family home.

A Trailblazing Legacy: The home was also the residence of Harry's daughter, Mabel Brown, Jr., who made local history in 1941 as the first woman to practice law in Geneseo!

Today: The beautifully preserved landmark lives on as the Central Schoolhouse Inn and Event Center.

How to Enter:

Head over to the passport site. Snap a creative picture of Site #5 (selfies, family shots, or artistic angles are all welcome). For additional contest info and how to participate, please see the below link. This contest is open to all Geneseo students.

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AMERICA
★ 250!
Daughters of the
American Revolution



City of Geneseo, Illinois

July 27 at 3:36 PM · 🌐

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HISTORICAL PASSPORT CONTEST #6: City Park Gazebo (1891)

Right in the heart of downtown on Main Street, City Park has been the center of community life since the very beginning—and it holds some of the most colorful history in town!

Long before the current gazebo was built in 1891, this park was the gathering spot for major milestones. It hosted our very first 4th of July celebration way back in 1839. Decades later, during the 1876 Centennial celebration, local pioneer Peter Hammond led the festivities by roasting an entire buffalo right in the park for the town!

Today, the gazebo stands surrounded by veteran memorials and historic markers that honor the generations who built and served our community.

How to Enter:

Head over to the passport site. Snap a creative picture of Site #6 (selfies, family shots, or artistic angles are all welcome). For additional contest info and how to participate, please see the below link. This contest is open to all Geneseo students.

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AMERICA ★ 250!

Daughters of the
American Revolution



City of Geneseo, Illinois

August 6 at 8:16 AM · 🌐



Passports out, history lovers! It's time for Entry #7 in our Historic Passport Contest! 📖 ✨

Stop by Atkinson Hall (1892) at 108 W. Main St.

Designed by architect J.E. Hosford in the striking Romanesque Revival style, this local gem was originally built as the music department for the Geneseo Collegiate Institute. After the school closed in 1922, it went on to serve as the American Legion Hall (Shearer Post #350) starting in 1926.

How to Enter:

Head over to the passport site. Snap a creative picture of Site #7 (selfies, family shots, or artistic angles are all welcome). For additional contest info and how to participate, please see the below link. This contest is open to all Geneseo students.

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City of Geneseo, Illinois

August 10 at 11:30 AM · 🌐

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Passport Photo Contest #8

Where in Geneseo?

Take a stroll down State Street in the Geneseo Historic District and you'll walk right through local history! This stretch features incredible historic buildings that have stood the test of time:

Geneseo House (1877): Originally built as a hotel, this historic landmark is now home to the award-winning The Cellar Restaurant.

Rastede & Wenke Store: Once a classic downtown store, this spot now houses Gaslight Grocer & Wine Bar.

Can you identify which building is now Smith Studio & Gallery?

Special thanks to Trent Briggs for colorizing these fantastic pieces of history!

How to Enter:

Head over to the passport site. Snap a creative picture of Site #8 (selfies, family shots, or artistic angles are all welcome). For additional contest info and how to participate, please see the below link. This contest is open to all Geneseo students.

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