



GUIDE FOR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Overview

Norwegian and North American history are full of stories of movement and migration, of people taking great risks to improve their lives, of people trading one home for another. A group of 52 Norwegian people who set sail on July 4, 1825, on the ship *Restauration* were among the first of hundreds of thousands of people – more than a third of the country’s population – who made that journey, changing Norway and North America, where today nearly 5 million claim Norwegian ancestry.

This 200th anniversary of those first migrants leaving Stavanger and arriving in New York gives us the opportunity to see again what it means to migrate, what it takes, what it gains, and what it costs. It can also lead to better understanding of the movement of peoples that continues into the present and that continues to shape and reshape both Norway and North America.

Organizations and individuals on both sides of the Atlantic have worked together to create a plan and framework for sharing this history, including a common theme, and a logo and promotional website (in process). The committee now encourages each organization to plan events and projects appropriate to its own mission and aspirations.

We offer the following ideas and resources for consideration and to aid in planning.

Objectives and Outcomes

- To think meaningfully about migration of Norwegians to North America;
- To examine Norwegian transatlantic migration within the broader context of human migration, past and present;
- To foster a fuller appreciation for the complexities of migration in the lives of individuals and nations, as well as the tensions of keeping the old and adapting to the new;
- To explore anew what it means to be “Norwegian-American” and to create an appreciation for the richness of cultures – immigrant and indigenous – in North America;
- Reinforce ties and goodwill between the United States, Canada, and Norway by commemorating our shared history.

Target Audiences

- Americans and Canadians of Norwegian descent
- Norwegians around the world
- Scholars and teachers of history and migration
- Contemporary immigrants
- All who are interested in the topics of history, heritage, ethnicity, and migration

Questions to consider

- What symbols, narratives, activities, and events will be meaningful in 2025?
- What contributions and legacies of 2025 do we want to leave our community or society as a whole? How would this event or exhibition contribute to the public good?
- Have you considered including the story of return migration to Norway in your event or project?
- Does your event include the perspective of Indigenous peoples?
- Can your event draw connections to migration in the larger, current context? If so, how can it lead to better understanding or positive conversations?
- Have you considered ways to include youth in your plans?

Messaging Styles

- Umbrella theme for events commemorating the bicentennial: Crossings
- North American tagline: 200 Years of Norway in North America
- See our full [style guide](#) for more information on using the Crossings identity.
- Keywords or phrases
 - The term *migration* includes *immigration* (arrival) and *emigration* (departure) and *return migration* (from North America to Norway).
 - The Norwegian-American community is *commemorating* the bicentennial.

Promotion

To have your event included on the official 2025 website, please submit the following information to the [Crossings website](#). Be ready to supply the following information:

- Event name
- Brief Event Description
- Event date and time
- An image to represent your event
- Venue
- Organizer details
- Sponsoring website
- Cost

Further Reading and Resources

Lovoll, Odd S. *Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2015.

Lovoll, Odd S. *The Promise of America: A History of the Norwegian-American People*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.

Lovoll, Odd S. *The Promise Fulfilled: A History of the Norwegian-American People*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007.

Meshbesh, Samuel. "Norwegian Immigration in Minnesota." MNopedia, Minnesota Historical Society. <http://www.mnopedia.org/norwegian-immigration-minnesota> (accessed November 17, 2020).

Norse-American Centennial Papers 1923–1927, Norwegian-American Historical Association

- [Digital collection](#)
- [Catalog record and finding aid](#)

Rosdail, Jesse Hart. [*The Sloopers. Their Ancestry and Posterity: The Story of the People on the Norwegian Mayflower — the Sloop "Restoration."*](#) Broadview, Ill: Norwegian Sloop Society of America, 1961.

Schultz, April. "'The Pride of the Race Had Been Touched': The 1925 Norse-American Immigration Centennial and Ethnic Identity." *The Journal of American History* 77, no. 4 (1991): 1265-295.

Additional Migration Resources

Lee, Erika. *America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2020.

Sverdljuk, Jana, Terje Mikael Hasle Joranger, Erika K. Jackson, and Peter Kivisto. *Nordic Whiteness and Migration to the USA: A Historical Exploration of Identity*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2020.

For more information

Email: crossings@norwegianamerican.com

Website: crossings.norwegianamerican.com

Crossings in Norway

Website: utvandremuseet.no/2025