

# Historic Preservation Month Ideas

The National Trust also has good ideas listed on their website. <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/preservation-month/>

Here are some activity ideas, the closer you can tie them to what is special about your community, the more successful they will be.

- Create a public display at city hall, the courthouse, or the library showcasing copies of photos of historic buildings with the dates they were added to your local historic property register or the National Register and a brief description.
- Send a press release to the local paper announcing historic preservation month, local initiatives and recent successes, and buildings already on your local historic property register or the National Register.
- Organize a community gathering where residents share their memories of growing up in the community.
- Invite a guest speaker to present about the history of the area or of a particular neighborhood.
- Organize a walking tour of historic buildings and neighborhoods. With planning, these tours could be coordinated to coincide with property owners holding their open houses for the Oregon Special Assessment program.
- Add a special feature to a website or add an article to another existing publication.
- Hold a historic cemetery clean-up day.
- Host a “how-to” workshop – repair windows, pick historic paint colors, research your property.
- Celebrate your other projects – mount the historic building signs during the month, have the façade repair ribbon cutting, etc.
- Create a guess the house display with historic and modern photos
- Ask to present at history, vocational and other appropriate classes at high schools and colleges.
- Host a special tour or presentation for local organizations like Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Associations, Rotary and other service organizations.
- Coordinate with the local newspaper to run a series of stories on historic sites in your community.

## **Fresh ideas that can work with social distancing**

- Award Ceremony – Hold an online ceremony at the city council or commission meeting. Video presenting the award outside at the property and post that video. Expand the variety of preservation that can be awarded, like cultural landscapes, sites, cultural practices in use, etc.
- Photo/Art Contest – Post the photos though out the community so people don’t have to gather to see them. Offer an online viewing platform. Video award presentation to winners.
- Cupcake Designing Contest – Post photos online and through social media
- Bike Ride - Lead a cycling tour of historic places.
- Video walking tours, open houses, etc.
- Engage in oral history with schools
- Hold a coloring contest of historic property image or scavenger hunt of historic building features.



- Hold and online lecture series – architectural history, local history, value of preservation, heritage resources in community disaster recovery, etc.
- Partners with other organizations to expand engagement and activity

