

HOPE OF AMERICA 2026

Set list in performance order *with instructions*

STAR SPANGLED BANNER *Stand and raise flag as color guard enters arena - right hand over heart, flag held still in the left. Keep flag raised through the pledge, the national anthem and the color guard exit from arena. (flag is stored in the cup holder in front of student's seat after singing)*

Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed, at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly
streaming.

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave?
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

HOPE OF AMERICA - *With actions*

CHORUS: We're the hope of America.
Where there's hope there's America.
She's a land that we love,
blessed by heaven above.
Please protect our rights and liberty.
We're the hope of America.
Stand and shout for America.
Where the brave, where the strong, where the dreams
belong - The hope of America.

Keep the spirit alive with a heart united
Working with each other every day.
Be courageous and strong with a voice that's singing
Hail to the USA!
We will fight for our honor, defend our freedom
Just like Abe Lincoln we will say.
United we stand, divided we fall.
This is our country she needs us all.

REPEAT CHORUS

America! America! America! My own!

OH, LAND OF LIBERTY - *Sing while video is shown*

Gather round and hear the tale of courage bold
Where the Patriots fought to have the truth be told
That all men are created equal strong and free
And endowed with rights by divine decree

Thirteen colonies were under iron chains,
They were taxed and ruled with an unjust reign.
Oh, rise up! Take arms and fight! The people cried,
For their liberty, each man would live or die.

CHORUS: Oh, Land of Liberty, bold and free,
Where justice rings for you and me,
The right to life, pursuit of joy,
For every girl, and for every boy.

On July fourth, gathered in a crowded hall
They were there to bravely answer Freedom's call.
Jefferson, with quill and with a steady hand,
Boldly declared rights for a troubled land.

REPEAT CHORUS

From Boston's shores to Charleston's gate,
The battles fought would change their fate
A nation forged for all the world to see.

Now two hundred fifty years and going strong
And the legacy they left lives on and on
Those courageous words declared will proudly soar,
As a guiding star that shines forevermore.

REPEAT CHORUS

So let the bells of freedom ring
For those who fought and dared to dream
A beacon bright for all to see. (A legacy for all to see)
Forever strong and forever free!

Land of liberty!

I HAVE A DREAM - *Sing while video is shown*

"I have a dream" that one day we will see
A world that's filled with hope, peace, and harmony.
A place where all are free and have equality.
That is the way it ought to be!

CHORUS: I have a dream, I have a dream
For all of God's children, let freedom ring!
Martin Luther King said, "I have a dream."
Now's the time for brotherhood. Let's all join hands and
sing.

"I have a dream" that one day there will be
Fair laws and civil rights for all humanity.
And justice is for all, men walk with dignity.
That is the way it ought to be!

REPEAT CHORUS

It doesn't really matter the color of our skin
But the content of our character is where we should begin!
"I have a dream" that one day we'll be free
From hate and racial strife and senseless cruelty
A brotherhood of man where all of us are free.
That is the way it ought to be.

REPEAT CHORUS

Now's the time for brotherhood. Let's all join hands and
sing. - I have a dream!

THE BILL OF RIGHTS – *With actions*

In our Constitution, there's a written guarantee,
That defends our rights and protects our liberty.
It's called The Bill of Rights, forever it will be
The document of freedom that will keep this country free.

CHORUS: Free to peaceably assemble.

Free without punishment or fear.

Free to petition any grievance,
we want our government to hear.

We are free to speak and print our thoughts.

Free to disagree with what they say.

Free to have a trial by jury.

Free to worship how we may.

We just cannot be deprived of life or liberty.

Due process of law is there protecting you and me.

We have the Bill of Rights, it's there to keep us free.

We have the right to choose and reach our destiny.

REPEAT CHORUS

ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE - *The chorus sings verse three times
with dance sequences between. On the training video, students
sing at 0:16, at 2:35, and at 5:00.*

All kinds of people came to America
to let their freedom ring.

All kinds of people came to America.
It's about them we sing.

All kinds of people came to America
and did it on their own.

All kinds of people came to America
to make this land their home.

(Dance segment)

REPEAT VERSE @2:35

(Dance segment)

REPEAT VERSE @5:00 America!

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE – *With actions.*

*RED and BLUE signs will be held by leaders on the floor. Divide
your class girls and boys, or odds and evens – in half, however
you'd like. In class, practice standing for RED or BLUE with ALL
students singing both parts. Remind students to keep hands
behind their backs for this song.*

(Red stands) The Declaration of Independence says "we
hold these truths to be."

(Blue stands) "All men are created equal" to live in
harmony.

(Red) "They are endowed by their creator with certain
unalienable rights.

(Blue) That among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of
happiness."

CHORUS: *(Everyone stands and claps)*

The Declaration of Independence

"In the name, and by authority

Declare that these united colonies

are "free and independent states"

A land of liberty!

(Red) It was written by Thomas Jefferson,
signed on the 4th of July.

(Blue) It declared our independence
and told the reasons why.

(Red) In support of this Declaration,
valiant men, strong and true

(Blue) They bravely "pledged their lives, their fortunes,
and their sacred honor" too.

CHORUS (tag) It declared our independence
and fought to keep men free!

*(This is not on the training video, but watch the
directors for a salute on the last beat of the song.)*

I LOVE AMERICA – *Sing with video*

I love to see a baby - a mother's tender care.

The future of America she is holding there.

I love to see small children with hands upon their heart.

They pledge allegiance to our flag before their lessons start.

I love to see "Old Glory" in the breeze

Stars and stripes shining bright - It tells the world we're free.

CHORUS: I love America! Long live this land of liberty.

I love America! This is the place I want to be.

I love this land from sea to shining sea.

I love America the homeland of the free.

I love to see the farmlands and smell the new mown hay,
A farmer on a tractor working hard each day,
I love to see a church house where people go to pray
They are seeking guidance to live from day to day.
Many different cultures I can see.
They all came to this land. They wanted to be free!

REPEAT CHORUS

We stand united all as one defending our liberty.
And honor those who fight to keep us safe from harm
Protectng our right to be free.

REPEAT CHORUS

I love America. I love America.
I love America, the homeland of the free

THANK YOU, MILITARY - *Stand with hand over heart, flags held still throughout verse in left hand. Do horizontal figure 8s with the flags at the phrase "And with our flags a wavin' we'll proudly stand and say" Flags freeze at the word "say." Flags held still for duration. Store flag in cup holder.*

It takes a lot of courage to have to say goodbye
Not knowing as you go to war if you will live or die.
Many make this sacrifice, and they fight to keep us free.
They're doing it for each of us. They're doing it for me!

CHORUS: Thank you, military. Our country's proud of you.
We are all so grateful for everything you do!
(figure 8 here) And with our flags a wavin', we'll proudly
stand and say (flag freezes and is held still for the duration)
Thank you, military. We honor you today.

It takes a lot of courage for families left behind.
They worry for your safe return.
You're always on their mind.
We pray your strength will change this earth –
that one day we will see
A world that's filled with hope and love with peace and harmony!

REPEAT CHORUS (horizontal figure 8 @ "and with")

The Army and the Navy, the Air Force and Marines,
To our Allied Forces and those behind the scenes,
Let's not forget our Coast Guard. They protect our homeland too.
America is grateful. We give our thanks to you!

REPEAT CHORUS (horizontal figure 8 again @ "and with...")

Thank you, military. We honor you today.

THIS IS AMERICA – *With actions*

This is America. Let Freedom ring.
This is America Everyone sing.
This is America. Land of the Brave
This is America.

Protecting liberty. Day by day.
Do it with dignity. All of the way.
We'll give our loyalty. It's here to stay
To the land we love - our own USA

CHORUS: This is America (America!) Let freedom ring.
This is America. (America!) Everyone sing.
This is America. (America!) Land of the brave.
This is America.
Protecting liberty. (Liberty!) Day by day.
Do it with dignity (Dignity!) All the way.
We'll give our loyalty (Loyalty!) It's here to stay.
To the land we love - our own USA.

(Musical and Spoken Bridge)

REPEAT CHORUS This is America!

AMERICAN HEROES – *Sing while video is shown*

Someone cries out for help, and you answer the call.
Courageous hero, you've given your all.
To save someone's life you put yourself in harm's way.
And that is the task that you do every day!

CHORUS: American heroes, you will always be
Forever remembered in our history.
American heroes, you'll never die in vain.
You live in our hearts and we honor your name!

Your task is not easy and the risk is so high.
With courage you rescue, and are willing to die.
To save someone else, you will search high and low
Risk your own life for those you don't know!

REPEAT CHORUS

American heroes, we honor your name!

OUR FLAG – THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE *Using flags and jumping up/waving them on cue. Students stand up and wave their flag as the song lyrics cue them (and only then): for the words "red", "white", "blue", "stars" (selected kids from blue schools), and "stripes" (red and white schools). Yellow shirts will wave flags through the entire song. See bolded lyrics below.*

A promise for our future, a reminder of our past
The flag of the United States, a symbol meant to last.
And when we see it waving, Let's pledge allegiance to
This symbol of our country – the red, white, and blue.

CHORUS: Red in our flag it stands for courage

Blue symbolizes loyalty.

White is the color - unlike all others - it stands for purity.

One **star** for each state in our union

Stripes for the thirteen colonies (stripes sit down)

Liberty under law, it is a symbol of a country that is free.

We're proud to see these colors wave over land and sea.
This banner of America says that we are free!
With hearts and hands together, we show our reverence to
This emblem of our country – the red, white, and blue.

REPEAT CHORUS

All our hearts are filled with pride when the flag goes
marching by.
This country will always be a land of liberty!

REPEAT CHORUS

AMERICA ROCKS – *With actions and sun glasses*

If you see a great big smile lighting up my face,
It's because I know I live in a downright wonderful place.
When I see red, white, and blue, my heart turns inside out,
From a feeling deep inside that makes me want to shout!

CHORUS: America Rocks! America Rocks!

From its busy bustling cities to its quiet country walks,
America Rocks.

It's totally cool, It's totally hot!

I mean it's like right there at the top!

America Rocks! America Rocks! America Rocks!

When you hear my happy voice singing clear and strong,
Maybe you could join right in and we'll all be singing along.
When we sing allegiance to this country that we love,
We can let the whole world know we're feeling great because

REPEAT CHORUS

Rocks! Rocks! Rocks! America Rocks!

(store sunglasses in cupholder in front of seat)

WE CAN BE A LIGHT – *with flashlights. Emphasis on flashlights COMPLETELY flat on student's knee to create our desired effect.*

Wherever there is darkness, together we'll bring light.
Let it shine on all God's children - shine with all your might.

For those who feel forgotten, who are lost along their way,
This light's a new beginning - shining bright,
it's there to light the way.

CHORUS: We can be a light, shining everywhere,

All across America, showing people that we care.

Oh, let your light so shine, helping others find their way.

We can turn the darkest night into the brightest day.

We can make this light shine brighter by reaching out our
hand

To the poor and to the needy all throughout this land.

Let's combine our lights together into one enormous ray.

This light's a new beginning, shining bright,
it's there to light the way.

REPEAT CHORUS

All across America, people reaching out their hand.
Bring your light and join our chorus.
Everyone, shine bright throughout this land.

REPEAT CHORUS

We can be a light shining everywhere. All across America!

AT THE MARRIOTT CENTER:

- **WAIT** to be dismissed
- Students will leave any tee shirt that they've been given for the setting of the flag on back of their chair.
- As they leave, students should pick up any flag, glasses, or flashlight that has been left behind by their group and give it to the teacher at the exit point.
- Students need to move quickly, never running, using all aisles, being careful not to lose sight of the people in front of them. Line leaders need to be aware of others behind them.
- Students are instructed to **STAY** at their assigned exit point to be picked up by their parent!