



REBILD NATIONAL
PARK SOCIETY

The Rebild celebration – questions and answers

April 2, 2025

Is the Rebild National Park Society a political organization?

No. The Rebild National Park Society was founded by Danish emigrants who wanted to maintain their relationship with Denmark. That is why they bought a piece of land in Rebild Bakker, where Danes and Americans could meet once a year. The association has and has never had any other purpose than to nurture Danish American relations and historical ties.

Every year you receive a greeting from the American president – doesn't that indicate political activity?

We have always been honored and proud of this greeting – regardless of what the political situation may have been. We see it as recognition of our work to maintain and strengthen Danish American relations.

Last year, Minister of Defense Troels Lund Poulsen spoke at the Rebild celebration, and you can read in your member magazine that your chairman emphasizes that the Minister of Defense emphasized the importance of defense cooperation between the United States and Denmark. How can you say that it is not about politics?

Over the years, we have had many politicians visit the celebration, and we are proud and honored of this. Many of them have also spoken from our podium – but it is up to them what they think.

Are you going to cancel the Rebild celebration this year?

The Rebild celebration has taken place every year since 1912 without exception. It has been held regardless of sunshine or rain, war or peace, or economic crisis or boom. And regardless of who has been president or prime minister.

Therefore, we cannot imagine not having a celebration this year. Our association was founded to maintain the Danish-American relations, which go back to the wide emigration from Denmark to the USA in the beginning of the 1900s. These relations are the DNA of our association – regardless of what the rest of the world may look like.

Don't you think it is difficult to celebrate when the relationship between Denmark and the USA is so challenged?

Our association is not about politics. It is about holding on to and strengthening relationships that have roots far back in history. The world has been in many difficult situations, but we held the Rebuild celebration regardless and we intend to continue to do so.

Are you experiencing a loss of members or sponsors?

We have had inquiries, also critical ones, where we have been asked about several things, which we try to answer as best as possible. But we generally experience that our members are aware of the background of the society and do not flee because of political disagreement.

Are you afraid that there will be demonstrations or actions during the celebration?

The Rebuild celebration has experienced protests before, and we would be sad if that happened again. Our mission is to strengthen human ties and relationships that go back many, many years. We hope that people will respect this purpose and not use the celebration as an opportunity to state anything but what the celebration is about.