



REBILD NATIONAL  
PARK SOCIETY

## THE REBILD DAYS

### The Rebild celebration is about human relationships

More than 150 years ago, almost 336,000 Danes emigrated to the United States. Many were poor people who had difficulty making a living in Denmark. The dream of building a new life with a better life for themselves and their families enticed them across the Atlantic to the United States.

They settled in many places in the vast new country. Some far from their compatriots. Others close to each other, where they established small communities, some of which still exist: Solvang in California or Elkhorn in Iowa, where the Price brothers years ago could see that the Danish imprint meant it was considered normal to eat medisterpølse with æbleskiver.

These people wanted to preserve the relations with Denmark for themselves and their descendants. Therefore, they bought a piece of land, Rebild Bakker, and in 1912 founded the Rebild National Park Society. They took the initiative to make annually a celebration around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Rebild Bakker – all to maintain connections across the continents.

And that's how it has been since the first celebration in 1912. - Every single year, regardless of rain or sunshine, war or peace, economic crisis or boom – yes, and regardless of who has been president or prime minister – the Rebild National Park Society has celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The celebration is about relationships and friendships between people.

We celebrate relationships and friendships with speakers who are relevant to the Danish-American relationship. Last year, the keynote speaker was the astronaut Andreas Mogensen, who is Danish and was sent into space by the American NASA, and we show gratitude to the Americans who are proud employees in Danish companies in the United States.

We are asked if we are a political organization. The answer is no. Even though we receive a greeting from the sitting American president before each celebration. We have always been honored and proud of this greeting – regardless of the political situation – because we see it as recognition of our efforts to maintain and strengthen Danish-American relations – not on a

political level, but in relation to those Americans who have a special connection to Denmark, as well as those Danes who have a special connection to the United States.

Similarly, we are pleased that the American ambassador to Denmark is a frequent guest at the parties and that many politicians have participated and supported our work and initiative over the years.

Every year we endeavor to make the Rebild Days relevant for everyone interested in friendships across our countries and relevant across time and place. The celebration should be a gathering place for people and companies that have connections between the United States and Denmark.

In recent years, we at the Rebild National Park Society have also focused on education, culture and business, and we award scholarships worth several hundred thousand kroner to young people who want to study in the United States. We do this because we want to inspire young people to improve their skills, dream big and travel abroad – just like our ancestors did around the turn of the century.

The Danish-American interpersonal relationship is long and deep and THAT is our purpose. We intend to hold on to that for as long as it is possible. We look forward to meeting in the hills of Rebild to greet and remind each other of where we come from and that we are ultimately made of the same thing.

Kind regards

The Board of Rebild National Park Society

31 March 2025

Jørgen Bech Madsen

President