



Steam Locomotive Heritage Association

August 8th, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Soo Line No. 1003 Steam Locomotive to Operate in Celebration of America's 250th Birthday

Historic Steam Trip Scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2026

Hartford, Wisconsin — The Steam Locomotive Heritage Association, The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society, are pleased to announce that the historic **Soo Line No. 1003** steam locomotive will return to operation on **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, as part of the national celebration commemorating **America's 250th Birthday**.

Built in 1913, the Soo Line No. 1003 is one of the few operational mainline steam locomotives remaining in North America. As the United States marks 250 years of independence, this special display run will celebrate the vital role railroads played in shaping the nation's history. Long before the interstate highway system, railroads connected communities, fueled economic growth, supported westward expansion, and transformed commerce throughout America.

The public run will operate between Hartford and Burnett Wisconsin, offering thousands of spectators the opportunity to experience the sights, sounds, and power of a working steam locomotive.

Excursion Information

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2026

Approximate Departure: 8:30 a.m.

Route: Hartford – Horicon – Burnett – Horicon – Hartford

Coal Stop: Burnett, Wisconsin (approximately 10:30 a.m.)

All operating times are approximate and subject to change.

The trip is free for the public to enjoy from designated public viewing locations along the route. Spectators are encouraged to bring their families and cameras to witness this rare opportunity to see living railroad history in operation.

"This event is about more than operating a historic steam locomotive," said representatives of the sponsoring organizations. "It is an opportunity to celebrate the innovation, determination, and spirit that helped build America. Railroads connected our nation for generations, and the Soo Line No. 1003 remains a powerful reminder of that legacy."

Public Safety

The safety of spectators, volunteers, railroad employees, and train crews remains the highest priority.

Members of the public are reminded to remain at least **25 feet** from the railroad tracks at all times. Railroad property is private property, and visitors should observe all posted signs, remain in designated public viewing areas, and follow instructions from railroad personnel and local law enforcement. Never walk on or near railroad tracks.

Supporting Railroad Preservation

The operation of Soo Line No. 1003 is made possible through the dedication of volunteers and the generous support of donors who share a commitment to preserving America's railroad heritage. Contributions to the Steam Locomotive Heritage Association directly support the restoration, maintenance, and operation of this historic locomotive, ensuring future generations can continue to experience living railroad history.

Additional event details, route information, and updates will be released in the weeks leading up to the excursion.

For more information on Soo Line No. 1003 and railroad organizations, please visit:

Steam Locomotive Heritage Association

<https://steamlocomotiveheritage.org/contribute/>

Wisconsin Chapter – National Railway Historical Society

<https://www.nrhswis.org/>

Soo Line Historical & Technical Society

<https://www.sooline.org/WP/>

Media Contact

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