



STATE OF WYOMING EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Order 2023-03

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WYOMING SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL PLANNING TASK  
FORCE**

**Whereas**, the United States Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, representing the founding of our union;

**Whereas**, 2026 will mark the semiquincentennial anniversary, two hundred and fifty years, since that date;

**Whereas**, the signing of the Declaration of Independence is of major significance in the development of the United States' national heritage, establishing foundational American values of individual liberty, representative government, and the attainment of equal and inalienable rights;

**Whereas**, this national heritage, and the rights it embodies, have had a profound influence on the State of Wyoming and around the world;

**Whereas**, the State of Wyoming is a part of this union and proudly recognizes the significance of the Declaration of Independence, as well as the history and rights that it represents;

**Whereas**, in order to commemorate this important anniversary, Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016 to provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States through local, state, national, and international activities; and

**Whereas**, the State of Wyoming intends to participate in the commemoration of this important anniversary through the planning and coordination of events and activities celebrating our national heritage and history;

**Now, Therefore**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Wyoming, I, Governor Mark Gordon, do hereby order and direct:

1. The Wyoming Semiquincentennial Planning Task Force (the “Task Force”) shall be created and composed of members appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Wyoming Legislature. The Task Force may contain up to fifteen (15) members including, but not limited to, members from the following groups:
  - a. Wyoming Legislature
  - b. The Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes
  - c. Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources
  - d. Wyoming Office of Tourism
  - e. The Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction or her designee
  - f. University of Wyoming and Wyoming community colleges, and
  - g. Appropriate non-governmental or other industry organizations.
2. The Task Force is authorized to perform the following duties and functions:
  - a. Meet as necessary to carry out its duties under this Order;
  - b. Investigate and prepare proposals for the planning and coordination of events and activities celebrating the semiquincentennial anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence;
  - c. Collaborate and engage with all necessary stakeholders in the development of proposals and plans, including the United States Semiquincentennial Commission; and
  - d. Develop any internal bylaws and operating procedures as necessary to carry out the duties described in this Order.
3. The Task Force is not authorized to expend or obligate funds, unless specifically appropriated by the Wyoming Legislature.

This Executive Order is Effective 30 June, 2023. It shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded.

Given under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Wyoming this 30th day of June, 2023.



Mark Gordon  
Governor