

Heritage Commemorations

The Oregon Heritage Commission is directed to coordinate “statewide anniversary celebrations.” To be more inclusive in recognizing the impact of important historical events on all Oregonians, and to expand the types of events that can be recognized, HB 2081 changes the Heritage Commission direction to coordinating statewide anniversary “commemorations.”

Sharing Oregon Stories, Commemorating Our Past



Photo courtesy of Reflections Photography



Consistent with the Oregon Heritage Plan, statewide anniversary celebrations educate the public about historic events, communicate the value of heritage across the state, and strengthen heritage tourism. This designation signifies official state recognition, which organizations find helpful in leveraging additional participation, collaborative partnerships, funding, and outreach. Moving from designating “celebrations” to “commemorations” creates valuable educational opportunities to increase our understanding of Oregon’s past.

Heritage Commission declared celebrations have included: Historic Columbia River Highway Centennial, Centennial of Birth of William Stafford, Centennial of Women's Suffrage in Oregon, Pendleton Round-Up Centennial, Oregon Statehood Sesquicentennial, Treaty With Tribes of Middle Oregon Sesquicentennial, Walla Walla Treaty Council of 1855, Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial. Future Heritage Commission declared “commemorations” could include: anniversaries of Japanese Internment, anniversaries of the Oregon Trail, and Civil War related anniversaries.

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