

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yellowstone National Park**

Source: <https://www.yellowstone.org/>

Yellowstone was established as the world's first national park by Congress and signed into law on March 1, 1872, by President Ulysses S. Grant.

Yellowstone is located at the convergence of the Great Plains, Great Basin, and Columbia Plateau. For more than 10,000 years before Yellowstone's designation as a park, Native American people lived, hunted, fished, gathered plants, quarried obsidian, and used thermal water for religious and medicinal purposes. The first people that called Yellowstone home throughout history were the land's first conservationists, protecting it for its important resources and cultural significance.

In the early 1800s, European-American trappers returned home from trips west of a place where the earth hissed and bubbled, where multicolored hot springs and spouting geysers filled the landscape. These reports were largely dismissed as delusions or tall tales until formal expeditions of what is now Yellowstone commenced in 1869.

These early expeditions resulted in reports of hydrothermal features, huge waterfalls, canyons, and herds of wildlife that fueled curiosity in American politicians in Washington, D.C. Further proof of Yellowstone's unique geothermal and geologic features in the form of Thomas Moran's artwork and William H. Jackson's photographs are said to have helped convince Congress that the Yellowstone landscape was worth protection.



Provided by the  
Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Commemorative Events 2022-2024