



## Wyoming Secretary of State

2020 Carey Ave, Suite 600  
Cheyenne WY 82002  
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Greetings,

February 8, 2018 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Great Seal of the State of Wyoming. This unique symbol of our State was formerly adopted by the legislature in 1893 and was slightly revised in 1921. The seal commemorates numerous historical achievements for the State of Wyoming, including the dates of the territorial government and Wyoming's admission to the union, four major Wyoming industries – Oil, Mines, Livestock, and Grain, the prominent "Equal Rights" banner displaying the significant role Wyoming had in spurring the women's suffrage movement, the number 44 symbolizing Wyoming's admission to the Union, among others.

From February 8, 2018 through March 30, 2018, the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office is holding two contests in honor of this celebration: a coloring contest for K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders and a drawing contest for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. If the Great Seal were revised today, what would it look like? Students are encouraged to color and/or create a seal that demonstrates the significant achievements of Wyoming in today's world.

Winners will be determined by the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office. There will be several categories of winners: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each contest, the "Fan Favorite", and the "Secretary's Choice." 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will get special prizes and their artwork will be produced into a sticker that will be distributed statewide. In addition, these top 6 winners will be entered into a "Fan Favorite" contest to be voted on by the public via Facebook and the Secretary of State's website. The "Secretary's Choice" will be determined by Secretary of State Ed Murray.

### Eligibility:

- The Coloring Contest is open to K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.
- The Drawing Contest is open to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- The promotion will begin February 8, 2018.
- Entries must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office no later than midnight on March 30, 2018.
- The top 6 winner's will be announced on April 9, 2018 - Wyoming History Day.
- The "Fan Favorite" and "Secretary's Choice" will be announced at a later date.

We encourage you to spread the word and help our students learn more about Wyoming's history. We've included a couple of resources for reference and the submission forms for both contests.

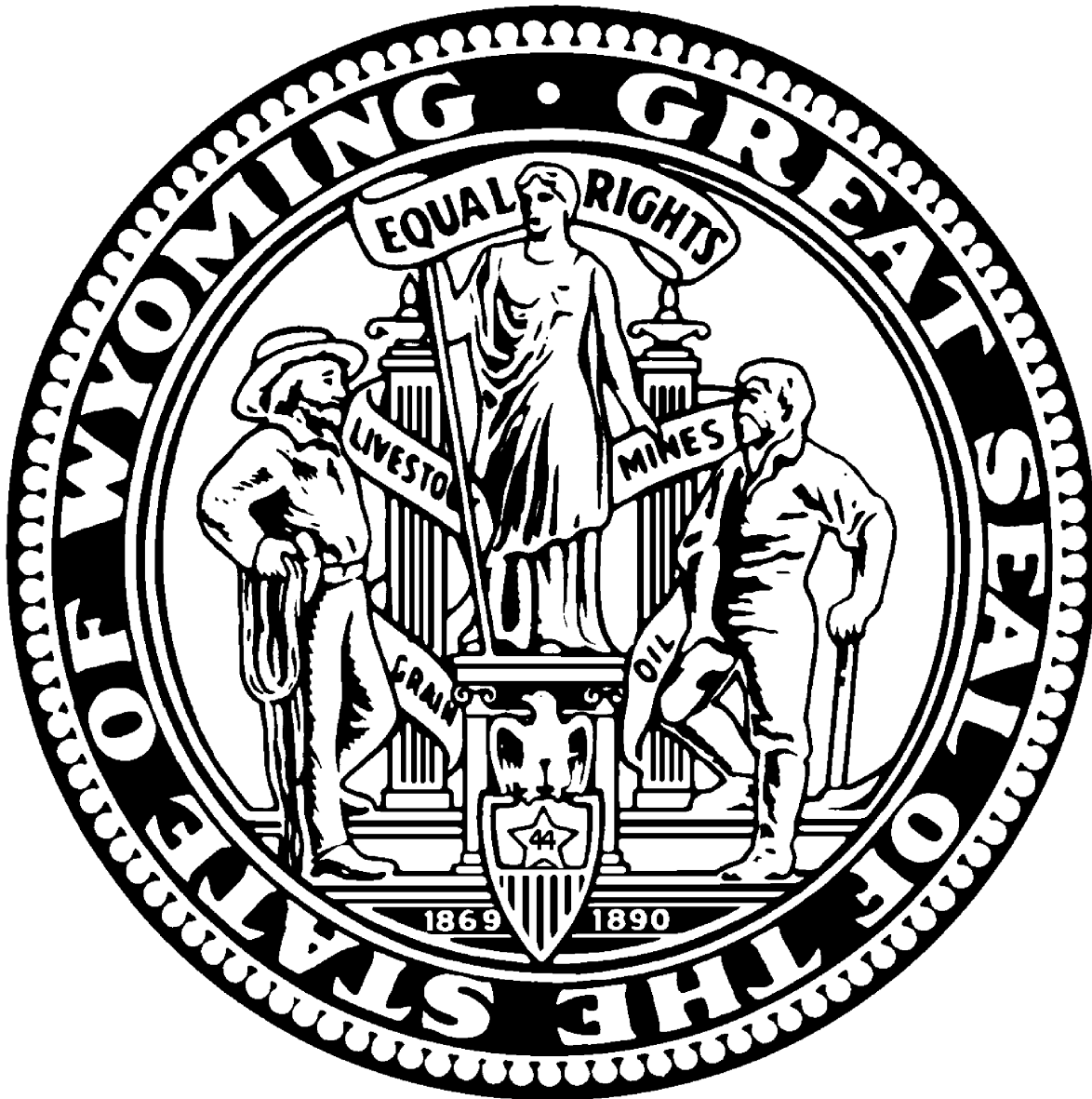
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Office, [secofstate@wyo.gov](mailto:secofstate@wyo.gov) or (307) 777-7378.

Thank you,

Wyoming Secretary of State's Office

# Great Seal of Wyoming Coloring Contest

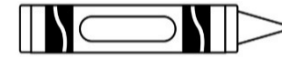
## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



Hey Kids,

In celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Seal, we have created a coloring contest for the best colored Great Seal of Wyoming. Please color and submit your best piece for a chance to win some really neat prizes!

### Rules:



1. Entries must be made by grades K-3.
2. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will have stickers made and distributed in honor of their artwork, and will be entered in to the "Fan Favorite" and "Secretary's Choice" contests.
3. All entries must be received **no later than midnight on March 30, 2018**. Please either mail **OR** email submissions to:

Wyoming Secretary of State's Office  
2020 Carey Avenue, Suite 600  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**OR**

SecOfState@wyo.gov

### Entry Form:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (307) 777-7378.

**GREAT SEAL  
of the  
STATE OF WYOMING**



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John M. ...", is written over the seal.

Secretary of State  
Custodian of the Great Seal

**GREAT SEAL  
of the  
STATE OF WYOMING**

Adopted by the Second Legislature of 1893  
Revised by the Sixteenth Legislature in 1921

The Secretary of State is the Custodian of the Great Seal. The signature of the Governor, the certifying signature of the Secretary of State, and the impression of the Great Seal represent the authority and sovereignty of the State of Wyoming.

The two dates on the Great Seal, 1869 and 1890, commemorate the organization of the territorial government and Wyoming's admission into the Union. The woman in the center holds a banner proclaiming "Equal Rights," symbolizing Wyoming as the first government to grant equal civil and political rights to women. The male figures typify the livestock and mining industries of the State. Upon a five-pointed star the number "44" appears, being the number of admission into the Union. On top of the pillars rest lamps from which burn the Light of Knowledge. Scrolls encircling the two pillars bear the words "Oil," "Mines," "Livestock," and "Grain," four of Wyoming's major industries.

## THE TERRITORY OF WYOMING GETS A GREAT SEAL

Did you know that Wyoming had a Territorial Seal before it was even a State? On July 25, 1868 the President of the United States, Andrew Johnson, signed the Organic Act which created the Territory of Wyoming. The Territory of Wyoming, which was almost named the Territory of Lincoln, was not officially organized until May 19, 1869.

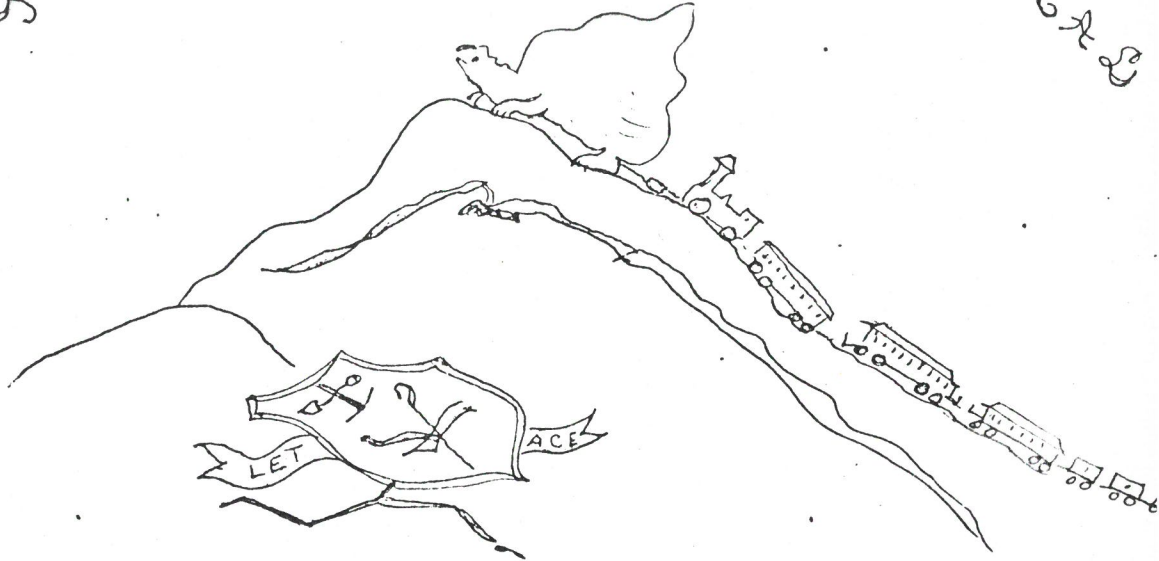
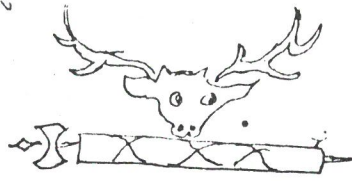
Wyoming's Territorial Officers were appointed on March 4, 1869 by the President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant. This is how J. A. Campbell became the first Territorial Governor of Wyoming. In order to get the new Territory up and running, Governor Campbell issued Proclamations making parts of the new government.

While Governor Campbell was on a trip to Fort Bridger in southern Wyoming, he made a pencil sketch of the first Territorial Seal that could be used on his official papers. Territorial Seals, much like State Seals today, were a way to identify Governor's orders as being authentic.

On May 19, 1869, Governor Campbell issued a Proclamation ordering his Territorial Seal to be used until another Seal could be adopted by the Legislature. Governor Campbell's historical sketch has a dinosaur pulling a train up a mountain which did not become part of the Seal that was actually used by the Territory of Wyoming.

WYOMING TERRITORY

SREAS SEA



Gov. Campbell's design for the Territorial Seal  
Made while on a visit to Fort Bridger

(an original pencil sketch - undated)

Except for the turtle or dinosaur ~~which~~ this is much the same  
as the original description found in Blue Book, 1944, Page 531

B-89

Source: COPY PROVIDED BY THE WYOMING STATE  
ARCHIVES, RECORDS MANAGEMENT, AND  
CENTRALIZED MICROFILM DIVISION

Selected documents from the vault.  
Box 2, Cabinet 2-F

DESCRIPTION OF WYOMING STATE SEAL  
DESIGNED BY GOVERNOR JOHN A. CAMPBELL. (Translation)

A mountain with locomotive and train of cars crossing over its summit; near the summit a spring from which flows two streams of water one to the east and one to the west; in foreground at base of the mountain a shovel and pickaxe, a sheperd's crook and a plough grouped; all engraved on a shield; running from left to right on each side and underneath the shield the motto "Let Us Have Peace". Over the mountain the figures 1869.

Crest: - An elk's head surrounding fuscus (sic), the whole surrounded by a double circle with the words, "Wyoming Territory. Great Seal."

Ordered - that the above be the great seal of the Territory of Wyoming until another is adopted by the Legislature.

J A C

## The Great Seal's 125th Anniversary Trivia Questions

1. What is the Great Seal of the State of Wyoming? **Hint: It does not swim.**  
The impression of the Great Seal represent the authority and sovereignty of the State of Wyoming when used with the signature of the Governor and the certifying signature of the Secretary of State.



2. When was the Great Seal first adopted by the Wyoming State Legislature? **Trick question.**  
On January 10, 1891, the first State Legislature passed an act providing for a State Seal. However, the chosen Seal design that left the House with the enrolled act for the Governor to sign never reached him; the Seal design was substituted while on its way to the Governor's office. The Governor signed the enrolled act unknowingly but once discovered, it caused a controversy. This Great Seal was never used.

The Second Legislature adopted a new Great Seal which was signed into law on February 8, 1893. The Great Seal was then revised by the Sixteenth Legislature in 1921.

3. Who was the Governor that signed the first adopted Great Seal legislation?  
Governor Amos W. Barber.
4. How many people are in the Great Seal?  
Three ~ a woman and two men.
5. Who is the Custodian of the Great Seal?  
The Secretary of State.
6. What two dates are on the Great Seal? What do they mean?  
The two dates on the Great Seal, 1869 and 1890, commemorate the organization of the territorial government and Wyoming's admission into the Union.
7. What figure is standing in the center of the Great Seal on a pedestal?  
The woman.
8. What is the woman holding?  
She is holding a staff with a banner proclaiming "Equal Rights," symbolizing Wyoming as the first government to grant equal civil and political rights to women.
- \*From the Wyoming Historic Blue Book: "Standing upon the pedestal shall be a draped figure of a woman, modeled after the statue of the "Victory of the Louvre," from whose wrists shall hang links of a broken chain, and holding in right hand a staff with a banner....."
9. Are the men holding anything?  
The man on the right is holding a rope and the man has a pick.

10. Is there a bird in the Great Seal?  
Yes, an eagle.
  
11. Does the number “44” have any significance to the State of Wyoming?  
Wyoming was the 44<sup>th</sup> state admitted into the Union. Admission was granted on July 10, 1890.
  
12. Where is the number “44” located in the Great Seal?  
In a shield within a five-pointed star is the number “44.”
  
13. The male figures on each side of the woman figure represent what industries of the State?  
They represent the livestock and mining industries.
  
14. How many scrolls are on the two pillars? What are they?  
There are four scrolls encircling the two pillars that bear the words “Oil,” “Mines,” “Livestock,” and “Grain.” They are four of Wyoming’s major industries.
  
15. Is there any type of light in the Great Seal?  
On top of the pillars rest lamps from which burn the Light of Knowledge.
  
16. How big is the circle design of the Great Seal as per Wyoming State Statutes?  
The circle design of the Great Seal of the State of Wyoming is one and one-half (1½) inches in diameter.
  
17. On the outer edge or rim of the Great Seal are seven (7) words. What are they?  
“Great Seal of the State of Wyoming”
  
18. Is anyone wearing a hat?  
Yes, the man holding the rope is wearing a cowboy hat. **Go Pokes!**