

Sponsorship Packet

2025 Annual Conference - Sheridan , WY

Built by the Sheridan Land Company and opened May 27, 1893, the Sheridan Inn played an important role in early Sheridan. It was the social center of the area, bringing together area ranchers, townspeople, and rail passengers, along with being a popular stagecoach stop. The Inn was well known for its association with Buffalo Bill Cody, its owner from 1894-1901, who is said to have auditioned acts for his Wild West Show on the large wrap around porch. The business was closed in 1965 until the Sheridan County Historical Society rallied the community to save the building and the dining room was reopened in 1967. In 1990 the Sheridan Heritage Center formed to save the historic site from the bulldozer once again. Now the Sheridan Inn is known for its connection to Buffalo Bill and its status as a National Historic Landmark.

Downtown Sheridan Association



WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE • SHERIDAN, WYO

Dear Partner,

The Wyoming Historical Society is thrilled to announce a landmark event for our state: the First Annual Wyoming Historical Society's Conference, which will also host our 72nd Annual Membership Meeting. This exciting gathering will take place in Sheridan, Wyoming, from September 12-14, 2025.

We are incredibly proud to host this inaugural conference at the historic Sheridan Inn, a true Wyoming treasure. Attendees will enjoy an unforgettable experience, including:

- An exclusive preview of the brand-new Museum at the Big Horns, where our Friday night reception will be held.
- A private tour of the remarkable King's Rope and Saddlery Museum.
- Exciting and exclusive treks and excursions to local historical sites and breakout sessions from local historians.
- An inspiring keynote address from the renowned speaker Bill Yellowtail.
- A private concert featuring Wyoming's own acclaimed musician, Jalan Crossland.

This conference is more than just a meeting; it's a vital opportunity to support local historical sites, groups and museums across our state - directly contributing to the mission of the Wyoming Historical Society. Your sponsorship and donations are crucial to the success of this event and the Society, enabling us to provide valuable resources and foster collaboration among those dedicated to preserving Wyoming's rich heritage.

By partnering with us, you'll demonstrate your commitment to historical preservation and gain significant visibility among a passionate audience of historians, educators, community leaders, and history enthusiasts from across Wyoming.

We offer various sponsorship levels with benefits tailored to meet your philanthropic and marketing goals. We would be delighted to discuss these opportunities with you further and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering this request to support the First Annual Wyoming Historical Society's Conference. Together, we can ensure the vibrant future of Wyoming's history. Please let us know by August 15, 2025.

Sincerely,



Beki Speas, President

307.899.4094

pres.whs@gmail.com



HISTORY OF THE WHS



PHOTO BY CHAS. J. BELDEN, PITCHFORK, WYOMING

For close to 75 years, the Wyoming Historical Society (WHS), an independent, non-profit organization with over 1300 members, who not only reside in Wyoming, but throughout the United States and the world, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and Israel, have been promoting the collection and preservation of Wyoming's history. Since its beginnings in 1953, the Society has also served as a strong advocate for Wyoming's historical resources.

The Wyoming Historical Society has had its own growing pangs throughout the years since first being authorized by the Wyoming legislature in 1895. That effort didn't take hold and in 1921 the formation of a state historical society was attempted once again. Mrs. Cyrus Beard took the lead and her efforts led to encouragement membership at \$1.00 a year. In 1924 the Society began publishing what is today the *Annals of Wyoming*; The Wyoming History Journal.

By 1932 Wyoming again was without a statewide organization. Several county historical societies remained active at this time, but it was not until the early 1950s that a stronger effort prevailed thus launching the organization as we know it today, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Lola Homsher. She traveled the

state discussing the importance of a Society and encouraged people to participate in an organizational effort. Her work resulted in a meeting held at the Woman's Club House in Casper on October 18, 1953, attended by more than seventy people from all areas of Wyoming.

The attendees to the first annual meeting selected Frank Bowron of Casper as President of the new Wyoming Historical Society, adopted a constitution and by-laws, and determined that its purpose shall be "to collect and preserve all possible data and materials including historical relics, relating to the history of Wyoming and illustrative of the progress and development of the state; to promote the study and preservation of such data and materials and to encourage in every way possible interest in Wyoming history." Shortly thereafter county chapters began to form, with the Fremont County Historical Society being the first. For dues of \$3.50 per year WHS members received copies of *Annals of Wyoming* and the Society's newsletter, *Wyoming History News* both published by the department.

In 2021, the the "state" was dropped from our official name to better promote our independent, non-profit status. The Society publishes the award winning and prestigious journal, *Annals of Wyoming* in cooperation with the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

The WHS encourages quality teaching of Wyoming history in all schools and since the early 1980s has been a supporter of Wyoming History Day which is administered by the American Heritage Center in cooperation with the Society. Other activities advocated by the Society include its popular annual trek, which is one of the best ways to get to know Wyoming; it supports historical preservation efforts in Wyoming, and recognizes individuals and organizations for contributions to Wyoming history through a strong annual awards program.

It continues to publish a newsletter, *Wyoming History News*, both printed and digitally, supports efforts historical preservation and sharing of historical knowledge in all forms, and has a publications program to assist authors in publishing their works on Wyoming history. Membership in the WHS open to all persons who support and enjoy the history of Wyoming.

ABOUT US

Since 1953, the Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Historical Society has served as a cornerstone event, bringing together history enthusiasts from across Wyoming and beyond. These annual gatherings provide a vital platform for recognizing significant contributions to the state's historical record through an awards program, fostering educational discussions, and facilitating networking among those dedicated to preserving and sharing Wyoming's unique past.

This year, for our 72nd Annual Meeting, we're excited to present a full conference experience. This expanded format allows us to better serve our donors and partners, and more effectively share Wyoming's rich history.



Dedicated to preserving, exploring, and sharing Wyoming's history for the benefit and enjoyment of all generations.



Our partners provide essential collaboration, amplifying our reach and strengthening our ability to engage communities across the entire state.



Donors and sponsors are vital, fueling our efforts to preserve Wyoming's unique heritage and share its stories for generations.



INDIAN PAINTBRUSH
(*castilleja linariaefolia*)

State Flower
(*Adopted January 31, 1917*)

Sponsorship Opportunities

Explore our sponsorship levels and join us in making a difference for Wyoming's rich history. Your contribution helps us preserve the past, educate the present, and inspire the future.

\$5000 | Presenting

As the Presenting Sponsor, your organization gains the highest level of visibility, with unparalleled opportunities to showcase your commitment and connect with our engaged audience. You'll be prominently featured in all marketing, on the main stage, and with prime brand placement for maximum exposure and lasting impact.

\$3000 | Dinner Gala

As a President's Gala Sponsor, your organization is crucial to our most prestigious event. This offers significant brand visibility to a distinguished audience of key stakeholders. Your commitment will be recognized with prominent logo placement and exclusive access, aligning your brand with the gala's success and its impactful initiatives.

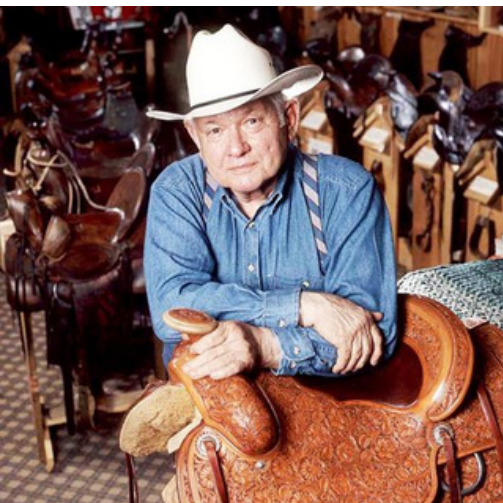
\$2500 | Awards Lunch

As an Awards Luncheon Sponsor, your support directly celebrates those preserving and sharing Wyoming's history. This offers excellent visibility among an audience passionate about our state's heritage, aligning your brand with recognizing significant contributions to Wyoming's historical record.

\$1500 | Annual Meeting

As an Annual Meeting Sponsor, you'll support our 72nd Annual Meeting, gaining valuable exposure to members and stakeholders dedicated to Wyoming's history. Your brand will be recognized for its commitment to our ongoing mission.





\$1250 | Reception Sponsor

As the Reception Sponsor for our event at the Museum at the Big Horns, your organization will host an engaging evening amidst the rich historical context of Sheridan County. This provides a unique opportunity for your brand to connect with attendees in a relaxed, memorable setting, celebrating Wyoming's heritage.



Excursion Sponsors*

Sponsor an excursion to iconic Sheridan County locations like the Don King Museum, Historic Downtown Sheridan, Kendrick Mansion, Historic Mint Bar, Ft. Phil Kearny, the Historic Sheridan Inn, and others. Your brand will be prominently featured as attendees explore the rich history and unique character of Wyoming.



\$750 | Gala Table Sponsor

As a President's Gala Table Sponsor, you provide a crucial contribution to our most prestigious event, securing a prime table for your guests. This sponsorship offers excellent visibility for your organization among influential attendees and key stakeholders, aligning your brand with a memorable evening celebrating our initiatives.



\$350 | Awards Table Sponsor

As an Awards Luncheon Table Sponsor, you secure a prime table for your guests and help us recognize and support the awards given to those who helped share Wyoming's history this past year.

Excursion Sponsorships

These curated experiences offer an unparalleled opportunity to connect your organization with the preservation and appreciation of our state's vibrant past and present, providing memorable engagement for all participants while showcasing your commitment to the community.

\$1000| Ft. Phil Kearny+

Support an engaging and educational excursion to Fort Phil Kearny, a pivotal site in the Bozeman Trail and Red Cloud's War. This immersive experience includes visits to the Fetterman Massacre site and the Wagon Box Fight site, connecting your brand with the frontier history and struggles of Wyoming's past.

\$750| Don King Museum

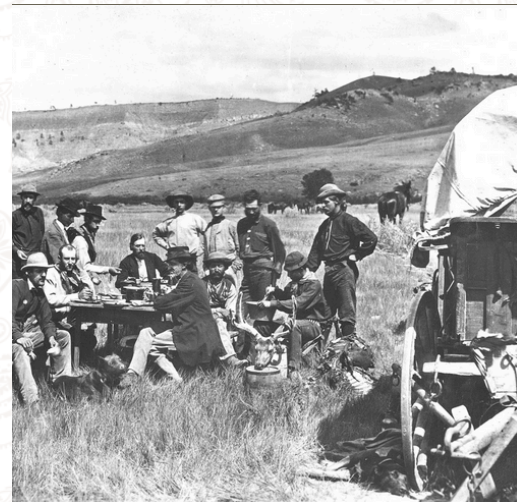
Sponsor an immersive journey into the Old West at the Don King Museum, showcasing your brand alongside authentic cowboy memorabilia, unique Western art, and the history of renowned saddlemaker Don King.

\$500 | Kendrick Mansion

Become an Excursion Sponsor for the tours of the elegant Kendrick Mansion (Trail End State Historic Site), offering your brand visibility at this preserved estate of Governor and Senator John B. Kendrick, a true testament to Wyoming's early 20th-century elite.

\$350| Historic Downtown Sheridan

Support three guided explorations of Historic Downtown Sheridan's vibrant past and iconic art. Your sponsorship highlights your commitment to local heritage as attendees discover the charming architecture and stories of this iconic Wyoming main street.





\$250 | Sheridan Brewery

Sponsor a behind-the-scenes look at Sheridan's brewing heritage. Attendees will enjoy a short presentation by Mark Demple about the history of the Sheridan Brewery, followed by a brief walk to Blacktooth Brewery for a behind-the-scenes tour. Your brand will be highlighted as attendees discover the vibrant local brewery scene and taste the spirit of modern Wyoming craftsmanship.



\$250 | Mint Bar

Sponsor a step back in time at the Historic Mint Bar, a legendary Wyoming saloon. Your brand will be associated with this iconic watering hole, rich with cowboy tales and local lore.



\$250 | Historic Sheridan Inn

Sponsor an exclusive tour of the Historic Sheridan Inn, a National Historic Landmark with ties to Buffalo Bill Cody. Your brand will be associated with this beautifully restored landmark, a cornerstone of Wyoming's hospitality history and the Historical Society.



\$ANY | Mission Sponsor

Beyond our structured sponsorship levels, we welcome and deeply appreciate any additional contribution you wish to make directly to the Wyoming Historical Society's mission. Every dollar given helps us further our commitment to preserving, sharing, and celebrating Wyoming's rich and vibrant history. Your generous support, no matter the amount, directly impacts our ability to maintain historical sites, expand educational programs, and make Wyoming's past accessible for generations to come.

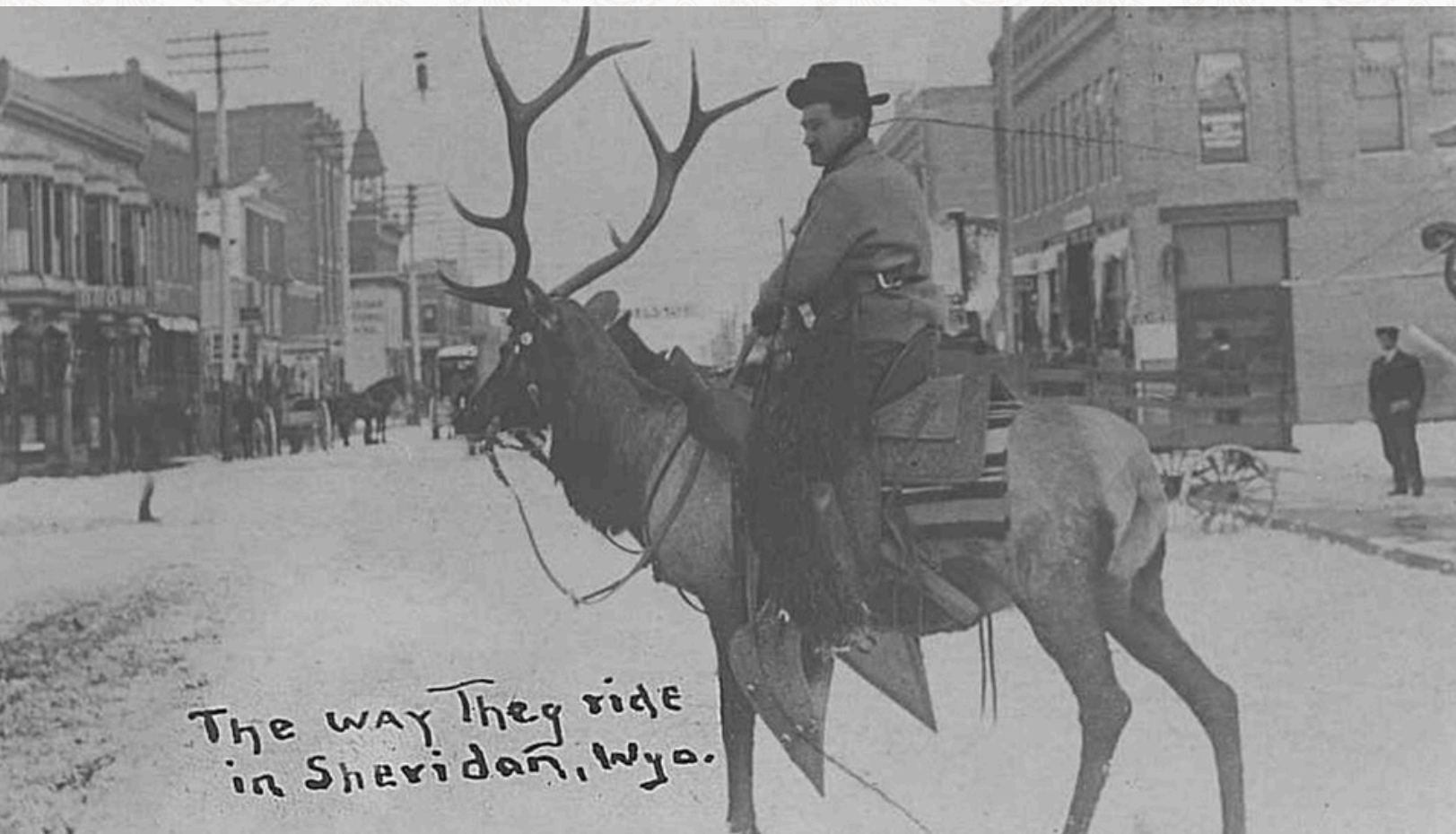
Sponsorship Levels

Explore our sponsorship levels and help us preserve Wyoming's history.

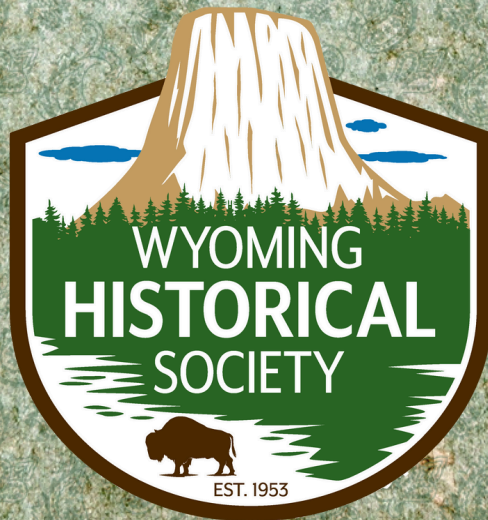
	Sheridan	King	Eaton	Kendrick	Wallop
Benefits of a Minimum Cash or In-Kind Donation	\$250	\$500	\$1000	\$2500	\$5000
Thank you acknowledgement in post-event communications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mention in event program	✓ Name	✓ Name	✓ 1/4 page Ad	✓ 1/2 Page Ad	✓ Full Page Ad
Website & Social Media Spotlight	✓ Group	✓ Group	✓ Individual	✓ Individual	✓ Individual
Logo placement on select signage			✓	✓	✓
Tickets to Full Event (Conference & Excursions)			Ticket (1)	Ticket (1)	Tickets (2)
Standard booth/exhibit space			✓	✓	✓
Table or Tickets at / to Awards Luncheon			Tickets (2)	Table (8)	Table (8)
Table or Tickets at / to President's Gala			Tickets (2)	Tickets (4)	Table (8)

This photo was taken on Main Street in Sheridan, WY, in the early 1900s. The image is taken from a postcard titled "The Way They Ride in Sheridan, Wyo." The man sitting atop the mounted elk is Otto Ernst, longtime Sheridan businessman. The same elk appears in several early Sheridan photos.

Photo and caption courtesy Museum at the Big Horns



*Dedicated to
preserving, exploring,
and sharing Wyoming's
history for the benefit
and enjoyment of all
generations.*



www.wyshs.org

PO Box 33 - Riverton, WY - 82501