

1 **State Trails Week Designation**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Doug Owens**

Senate Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill designates a commemorative period.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

7 ▶ designates the week ending on the fourth Saturday of September as a commemorative  
8 period known as State Trails Week; and

9 ▶ makes technical changes.

10 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

11 None

12 **Other Special Clauses:**

13 None

14 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

15 AMENDS:

16 **63G-1-401**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 351

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17 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

18 Section 1. Section **63G-1-401** is amended to read:

19 **63G-1-401 . Commemorative periods.**

20 (1) As used in this section, "commemorative period" means a special observance declared  
21 by the governor that annually recognizes and honors a culturally or historically  
22 significant day, week, month, or other time period in the state.

23 (2)(a) The governor may declare a commemorative period by issuing a declaration.

24 (b) The governor shall maintain a list of all commemorative periods declared by the  
25 governor.

26 (3)(a) The governor's declaration of a commemorative period expires the year  
27 immediately following the day on which the governor issues the declaration.

28 (b) Subsection (3)(a) does not prevent the governor from redeclaring a commemorative  
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- 31 period before or after the commemorative period expires.
- 32 (4) Notwithstanding Subsections (2) and (3), the following days shall be commemorated  
33 annually:
- 34 (a) Utah History Day at the Capitol, on the Friday immediately following the fourth  
35 Monday in January, to encourage citizens of the state, including students, to  
36 participate in activities that recognize Utah's history;
- 37 (b) Day of Remembrance for Incarceration of Japanese Americans, on February 19, in  
38 remembrance of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II;
- 39 (c) Utah State Flag Day, on March 9;
- 40 (d) Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, on March 29;
- 41 (e) Utah Railroad Workers Day, on May 10;
- 42 (f) Dandy-Walker Syndrome Awareness Day, on May 11;
- 43 (g) Armed Forces Day, on the third Saturday in May, in honor of men and women who  
44 are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces around the world in  
45 defense of freedom;
- 46 (h) Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita Awareness Day, on June 30;
- 47 (i) Navajo Code Talker Day, on August 14;
- 48 (j) Rachael Runyan/Missing and Exploited Children's Day, on August 26, the  
49 anniversary of the day three-year-old Rachael Runyan was [~~kidnaped~~] kidnapped  
50 from a playground in Sunset, Utah, to:
- 51 (i) encourage individuals to make child safety a priority;
- 52 (ii) remember the importance of continued efforts to reunite missing children with  
53 their families; and
- 54 (iii) honor Rachael Runyan and all Utah children who have been abducted or  
55 exploited;
- 56 (k) September 11th Day of Remembrance, on September 11, in honor and remembrance  
57 of the first responders and persons killed and injured in the terrorist attacks on  
58 September 11, 2001;
- 59 (l) Constitution Day, on September 17, to invite all Utah adults and Utah school children  
60 to read directly from the United States Constitution and other primary sources, and  
61 for students to be taught principles from the United States Constitution that include  
62 federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, limited  
63 government, and the necessary and proper, commerce, and supremacy clauses;
- 64 (m) POW/MIA Recognition Day, on the third Friday in September;

- 65 (n) Victims of Communism Memorial Day, on November 7;
- 66 (o) Indigenous People Day, on the Monday immediately preceding Thanksgiving; and
- 67 (p) Bill of Rights Day, on December 15.
- 68 (5) The Department of Veterans and Military Affairs shall coordinate activities, special
- 69 programs, and promotional information to heighten public awareness and involvement
- 70 relating to Subsections (4)(g) and (m).
- 71 (6) The month of April shall be commemorated annually as Clean Out the Medicine
- 72 Cabinet Month to:
- 73 (a) recognize the urgent need to make Utah homes and neighborhoods safe from
- 74 prescription medication abuse and poisonings by the proper home storage and
- 75 disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications; and
- 76 (b) educate citizens about the permanent medication disposal sites in Utah listed on
- 77 useonlyasdirected.org that allow disposal throughout the year.
- 78 (7) The second full week of April shall be commemorated annually as Animal Care and
- 79 Control Appreciation Week to recognize and increase awareness within the community
- 80 of the services that animal care and control professionals provide.
- 81 (8) The first full week of May shall be commemorated annually as State Water Week to
- 82 recognize the importance of water conservation, quality, and supply in the state.
- 83 (9) The third full week of June shall be commemorated annually as Workplace Safety
- 84 Week to heighten public awareness regarding the importance of safety in the workplace.
- 85 (10) The second Friday and Saturday in August shall be commemorated annually as Utah
- 86 Fallen Heroes Days to:
- 87 (a) honor fallen heroes who, during service in the military or public safety, have
- 88 sacrificed their lives to protect the country and the citizens of the state; and
- 89 (b) encourage political subdivisions to acknowledge and honor fallen heroes.
- 90 (11) The third full week in August shall be commemorated annually as Drowsy Driving
- 91 Awareness Week to:
- 92 (a) educate the public about the relationship between fatigue and driving performance;
- 93 and
- 94 (b) encourage the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation to
- 95 recognize and promote educational efforts on the dangers of drowsy driving.
- 96 (12) The month of September shall be commemorated annually as American Founders and
- 97 Constitution Month to:
- 98 (a) encourage all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations, and public and private

99 educational institutions, to recognize and observe this occasion through appropriate  
100 programs, teaching, meetings, services, or celebrations in which state, county, and  
101 local governmental officials are invited to participate; and

102 (b) invite all Utah school children to read directly from the United States Constitution  
103 and other primary sources, and to be taught principles from the United States  
104 Constitution that include federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers,  
105 popular sovereignty, limited government, and the necessary and proper, commerce,  
106 and supremacy clauses.

107 (13) The third full week of September shall be commemorated annually as Gang Prevention  
108 Awareness Week.

109 (14) The week ending on the fourth Saturday of September shall be commemorated  
110 annually as State Trails Week to educate the public about:

111 (a) the importance of trails for recreation and public health;

112 (b) the development, maintenance, and preservation of the state's trail system; and

113 (c) opportunities for public participation in trail stewardship and volunteer activities.

114 [~~14~~] (15) The month of October shall be commemorated annually as Italian-American  
115 Heritage Month.

116 [~~15~~] (16) The month of November shall be commemorated annually as American Indian  
117 Heritage Month.

118 [~~16~~] (17) The first full week of December shall be commemorated annually as Avalanche  
119 Awareness Week to:

120 (a) educate the public about avalanche awareness and safety;

121 (b) encourage collaborative efforts to decrease annual avalanche accidents and fatalities;  
122 and

123 (c) honor Utah residents who have lost their lives in avalanches, including those who  
124 lost their lives working to prevent avalanches.

125 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

126 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.