



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
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Independence National Historical Park

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For Immediate Release

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Park Service Commemorates Reading Of Declaration of Independence

On Sunday, July 8th, at 12:00 noon, National Park Service Rangers will mark the anniversary of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence with a commemorative reading of the Declaration in the square behind Independence Hall, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets and 5th and 6th Streets. The public is invited to attend to hear the words that changed the course of history and participate in this interactive event. The Declaration will be read near the site where it was first proclaimed 231 years ago.

The colonial custom of bell ringing to summon people to hear announcements will be followed in Independence Park when park staff will hand ring the Centennial Bell in the tower of Independence Hall to begin the ceremony at noon. At the conclusion of the reading, at approximately 12:15 pm., the bell will peal in jubilation.

Park Rangers in period clothing will mingle with visitors and will also distribute free copies of the Declaration of Independence. The reader, costumed participants and other park staff will be available for interviews and pictures.

Congress approved the Declaration late on Thursday, July 4, 1776. Copies were printed and the committee to draft the Declaration (which had agreed that Thomas Jefferson would be its author) designated the following Monday, July 8th for the first public reading.

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