

Pennsylvania Celebrates 342nd Birthday with Display of William Penn's Charter and Free Admission to PA Trails of History Sites and Museums

March 12, 2023

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) celebrated the commonwealth's 342nd birthday, with a rare display of William Penn's original charter at The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg and free admission to many of the historic sites and museums along the [Pennsylvania Trails of History](#).

Pennsylvania was created when England's King Charles II granted a charter to William Penn in 1681. Once each year, the [Pennsylvania State Archives exhibits the original document](#) for a limited time at The State Museum of Pennsylvania. The 342-year-old Charter is written on parchment using iron gall ink. The State Archives preserves the document in a high-security vault, shielding it from strong light and environmental fluctuations.

Admission to The State Museum is free on Charter Day, Sunday, March 12 only, and includes visits to the Curiosity Connection and galleries. Free timed tickets are required for the Curiosity Connection. Quantities are limited.

The Penn Charter will remain on display at the museum until 1:00 PM, Friday, March 17, when the documents will be returned to the vault for another year.

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