Dear Educator -

Thank you for your interest in Ohio History Day! We have included information to answer some of the fundamental questions interested teachers have about the program.

What is History Day?
In 1974, History faculty at Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, created History Day as a way to reinvigorate the teaching and learning of history in elementary and secondary schools. Since then, National History Day has grown into a national project with nearly 600,000 students participating from every state in the Union, Washington D.C., and the U.S. territories.

This packet provides a brief overview of the program framework in Ohio. In short, students in grades 6-12 choose topics that relate to an annual theme. They research and share their findings in one of five presentation categories: Research Paper, Exhibit, Documentary, Performance, or Website. Students may then enter their projects into History Day competitions at school, regional, state, and national levels. The National History Day Contest Rulebook covers the project framework in detail.

Why participate?
History Day helps teachers meet a variety of standards. The skills that your students learn will continue to benefit them long after they leave your classroom.

“[Students] have an opportunity to visit archives, interview experts, read primary sources and visit museums and historical sites related to their topic. This is “boots on the ground” work and requires the students to think critically about the type and variety of sources they encounter. The ability to conduct wide ranging research is an essential skill for college.”
- Ohio History Day Teacher

How do I “do” History Day?
You can find History Day successfully implemented through several models of participation and on a variety of timelines. We have provided a rough outline of key dates and benchmarks, which allows the program to be adapted to best suit your needs. It’s important to remember, however, that you’re not alone! Ohio History Day coordinators are available to help with curriculum materials, classroom visits, workshops, and more.

How do I get involved?
There are many ways to bring History Day into your classroom! Maybe you’re ready to bring OHD to your classroom by reaching out to your Regional Coordinator and adding yourself to our mailing list. Maybe you want to learn more by serving as a judge at one of our 10 Regional contests (free food and OHD swag!). Maybe you want to jump in by joining us at a workshop, chatting on the phone, or inviting us into your classroom.

We’re excited to work with you and your students - and happy to help you get started!

Samantha Rubino
Unit Manager & State Coordinator, Ohio History Day

Ohio History Day is an affiliate of National History Day