



Dear Educator -

2023-2024

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.

“For many years, I hated studying history. Having to memorize scores of dates and facts about hundreds of years – it was unbearable. With National History Day, it was different. I got to focus on a topic of my choosing; by studying that topic so thoroughly, I found I could relate to it. History became a fascinating story, rather than a mile-long list of information. When I study history now, I’ll be able to better imagine myself in the time period and enjoy the experience more.”

-Ohio History Day Student

“NHD is a great opportunity for students to have fun creating, planning, and presenting a story for something in history. They’ll learn about confidence they didn’t know they had by interviewing, artistic talents through creating a display, play, or movie, and important studying skills when researching. This is the event that will prepare them for college, and whatever career they may choose!”

-Ohio History Day Parent

“[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!

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Ohio History Day is an affiliate of National History Day

