

INTRO TO NHD GUIDEBOOK



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT IS NATIONAL HISTORY DAY	2
PROJECT TYPES	2
DIVISIONS.....	2
COMPETITION VS CLASSROOM PROJECT.....	2
SCHEDULE & PLANNING	3
SAMPLE SCHEDULES.....	3
COMPETITION CYCLE.....	4
CONTEST EVALUATIONS.....	4
HOW WE CAN HELP.....	4
ADDITIONAL TOOLS	4

QUESTIONS?

Contact NHD in Wisconsin at
historyday@wisconsinhistory.org

The National History Day in Wisconsin office at the Wisconsin Historical Society has based this manual upon material from the National Office of NHD, NHD Utah, and NHD Idaho.

Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories since 1846
816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

wisconsinhistory.org

What is National History Day?

National History Day is a year-long (or shorter depending on your school schedule) academic program focused on historical research, interpretation and creative expression for 6th- to 12th-grade students. National History Day (NHD) is a terrific combination of scholarship, hard work, imaginative problem solving and fun. NHD teaches critical thinking, writing, and research skills and boosts performance across all subjects. By participating in NHD, students become writers, filmmakers, web designers, playwrights and artists as they create unique contemporary expressions of history. The experience culminates in a series of contests at the local and state levels and an annual national competition in College Park, Maryland in June.

Types of Projects

Documentary (Individual and Group option)

Exhibit (Individual and Group option)

Paper (Individual only)

Performance (Individual and Group option)

Website (Individual and Group option)

Divisions

There are 2 divisions: Junior (Grades 6-8) and Senior (Grades 9-12). Within the divisions students are separated into individual or group sections for judging.

Note: A group can have between 2 to 5 members and if students compete in the competition cycle they will do so in the group category, even if not all of the members of the group are able to compete.

Competition vs. Classroom Project

Is competition required to participate in NHD? Nope! Your students are not required to compete in order to partake in the NHD program. The NHD framework is a fantastic way for teachers to introduce a research project into their classroom. They'll still have the same access and help as they would if they competed.

If students decide to compete they will only be judged against students who are within their own division and category, meaning that a group of 6th graders creating a website would only be judged against other Junior Group Website entries and a Sophomore writing a paper would only compete against other projects in the Senior Paper category.

Schedule & Planning

The first step is to think about the amount of time that is necessary to complete the introduction, research and creation of a project. This will vary from teacher to teacher and is customizable based on your school schedule. Below you will find a timeline that you can adjust based on your time and curricular requirements.

If you plan to compete, take note of your Regional Contest date so you can plan accordingly. The Regional Contests occur between February & April, with the State Contest happening in April. Work backwards from the registration date to plan out your schedule and if possible include a buffer week.

- **Need to know when your Regional is?** You can find it on www.wisconsinhistory.org/nhdcontests
- **Don't know which regional you should attend?** Contact us at historyday@wisconsinhistory.org to register your school and learn which regional you'll be a part of.

The sample schedules below can give you an idea of how long it may take you to cover each section of content. If a more intensive approach works for you a shorter 8 weeks schedule might be the best fit or if you only want to spend 1-2 days a week on NHD then the 15 weeks schedule might be a better fit.

Sample Schedules:

	8 weeks	12 weeks	15 weeks
NHD Intro Annual Theme	1 week	1 week	1 week
Topic Exploration & Selection	1 week	1 week	2 weeks
Research Strategies Source Tracking System Why We Cite Secondary Source Research Historical Context Primary Source Research Source Analysis	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks
Main Event Summary Thesis/Historical Argument Significance in History	1 week	2 weeks	2 weeks
Project Outline & Layout Final Research Revised Thesis	1 week	2 weeks	2 weeks
Project Creation Process Paper Annotated Bibliography	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks

Courtesy of NHD Utah and NHD Idaho, 2000.

Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories since 1846
816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

wisconsinhistory.org

Competition Cycle

The contests are optional, but provide an opportunity for students to showcase their project, receive additional feedback and public recognition. Teachers will have access to the same materials and support from NHD in WI staff whether they compete or not.

When competing students will have to make sure their project follows the rules laid out in the NHD Contest Rule Book, which can be found here: www.nhd.org/rulebook . It includes the rules that govern all projects in addition to category specific rules. One of the additional steps that students who wish to compete must do is to write a process paper, which answers 5 questions about the creation of their project.

There are 3 stages of competition: Regional, State and National, with some teachers choosing to also have a contest at the local or school level. Students are provided with feedback at each stage of the competition. They are encouraged to use that feedback to strengthen their project for the next round, if they have been selected to move on to the next level, and to strengthen their project skills for their future work.

Students will be interviewed about their work by the judge team that is assigned to their project. This is an opportunity for the judge team to get to know the students and it does not impact the assessment of the students' projects. It is a chance for students to practice their interview skills.

Contest Evaluations

The evaluation forms are divided into 2 sections. **Historical Quality**, which is worth 80% and **Clarity of Presentation**, which is worth 20%.

Historical Quality covers: Historical Argument, Theme, Wide Research, Primary Sources, Historical Context, Multiple Perspectives, Historical Accuracy, and Significance in History.

Clarity of Presentation generally covers the technical aspects as they relate to each category and Student Voice.

There are few questions at the end of the evaluation which focus on rules compliance (e.g.: process paper and annotated bibliography are attached, word count or time limit is not exceeded.) The last part of the evaluation allows the judges to jot down helpful feedback for students in order to allow them further improve their project.

You can look at the evaluations ahead of time and show your students what is on them so they understand what the judges are looking for when evaluating their project. These evaluations can also be used as an in class rubric for students. By having access to the evaluations it will help students to ensure that they are covering all of the different required parts of the project.

How We Can Help

There are a variety of resources located online at www.wisconsinhistory.org/nhd including a Teacher Guidebook, Resource Book and topic suggestions.

Additionally by emailing us at historyday@wisconsinhistory.org you can inquire about:

- an virtual workshop with NHD in WI staff
- an NHD focused tour at the Wisconsin Historical Museum
- a visit to the Library & Archives at the Wisconsin Historical Society

If you have questions about the process, students have a tricky problem or you need support please email us at historyday@wisconsinhistory.org and we are happy to help!

Additional Tools

Here are some videos that can help you get started and are great for using as part of your classroom materials. These include the webinars that NHD produces and their Quick Tips series. Additionally they have an awesome Help! I'm a new NHD Teacher! Series to guide newer teachers through the NHD process.

NHD's YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NationalHistoryDay>

- ✓ **Webinars:**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgMH911UHQ52pEigTkfOAvjaqGr-IR-59>
- ✓ **Category Rules:**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgMH911UHQ52dD2SwOaaZRcHqtx0Nbvvg>
- ✓ **Quick Tips for Digital Research:**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgMH911UHQ50665mVTGIGOG6smkyJjNU8>
- ✓ **Quick Tips(Breaking down definitions & tough concepts):**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgMH911UHQ52dJISyOFmC5YQ1XKCjNrw5>
- ✓ **Help! I'm a new NHD Teacher! series:**
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgMH911UHQ52cu8j_nua1gVTb84ksB4IV
 - **Part 1: Getting Started-** <https://youtu.be/9adWpWVcQO0>
 - **Part 2: Theme-** https://youtu.be/_Y2vJtQCf8o
 - **Part 3: Topic Selection & Research-** <https://youtu.be/fDPO6qXaD9M>
 - **Part 4: Essential Project Elements-** <https://youtu.be/w6NJaN4gU5o>
 - **Part 5: NHD Contests-** https://youtu.be/lyp1pm_-XAs