Bucks Mont Regional National History Day Contest 2022
Introduction for Teachers

What is National History Day?

National History Day (NHD) is an annual nationwide academic enrichment program for students in grades 6-12 that encourages thoughtful historical research, project-based learning, and a dose of friendly competition.

NHD gets students out of the classroom and into the world as historians. They are doing research and tracking down information about historic people and events. This research leads them to craft a thesis and build original conclusions shared through their different projects. NHD supports and reinforces critical writing, reading, and research skills for students.

Staff of the Bucks County Historical Society, which operates the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle in Doylestown, PA, coordinates the NHD contest for students in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

How Does NHD Work?

Contest Progression:
The contest progression for NHD starts on the local school level. NHD can be part of a school’s curriculum or can be voluntary for students. Students, guided by teachers, work on NHD projects that they will submit at the regional level.

The Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest is the regional competition and has taken place both in person and virtually in recent years. Winners from this competition will advance the Pennsylvania State Contest. Top entries from the Pennsylvania State Contest then go to the National Contest.

Contest Divisions and Categories:
Students have the choice to communicate their historical argument and research as a project in one of five categories:

- Paper
- Website
- Documentary
- Performance
- Exhibit
Students can participate as individuals or groups, except in the paper category.

Categories are also divided by Junior and Senior divisions.

- Junior division: 6-8 grade
- Senior division: 9-12 grade

**Contest Theme:**
All students design their project in relation to a common theme. The NHD national office selects a theme each year that students at every level of competition are required to use to guide their research and historical argument. This year’s theme is *Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, and Consequences.*

- For more information about the annual theme, read the [2022 National History Day Theme Book](#) written by the national office.

- Additional information can be found on the [2022 National History Day Theme Introduction Video](#) and the [2022 National History Day Theme Webinar](#).

- To help students get started selecting a topic related to the theme, distribute the [2022 National History Day Theme Graphic Organizer](#)

**Judging Process:**
Teams of volunteer judges evaluate the student’s projects based on evaluation forms created by the national office.

Judges review and rank the projects, and ultimately provide written feedback to the students. Students who advance to the state and national levels can use that feedback to edit their project for the next level of competition.

In the past, student interviews were a beloved component of NHD contests, however, with Covid-19 and virtual contests, student interviews did not occur in 2021. A final decision on student interviews has not been made for 2022.
2022 Buck Mont Regional National History Day Contest- Important Dates

**Teacher and student safety is our top priority. National, state, and regional coordinators are keeping a close watch on the status of COVID-19 across the nation. At this time, all student submissions should be planned as virtual ones, with the hope of an in person component in 2022.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Registration Begins</td>
<td>Monday, Oct. 4, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Registration Begins</td>
<td>Monday, Jan. 3, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and Teacher Registration Closes</td>
<td>Friday, Feb. 4, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Student Projects Due Virtually</td>
<td>Friday, Feb. 4, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Contest:</td>
<td>Saturday, March, 19, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Either virtual awards announcement or in person ceremony TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA State Contest- University of Scranton</td>
<td>Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Contest</td>
<td>Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NHD Resources for Teachers and Students

Researching and designing an NHD project takes a lot of work and resources. Below is a list of helpful worksheets, videos, and webpages to help you and your students get started. The official National History Day website also has helpful resources for students and teachers.

1. Teacher Video Resources:
   - “Help I’m a New NHD Teacher” video series produced by NHD staff
   - “2022 NHD Teacher PD” video series produced by NHD and partner organizations
   - “2022 NHD Partner Tips” video series produced by NHD and partner organizations
   - “NHD 2022 Tips” video series produced by NHD staff

2. Student Video Resources:
   - “NHD Topic Tips” video series produced by NHD staff
   - “NHD Quick Tips” video series produced by NHD staff
   - “NHD Rules” video series produced by NHD staff
   - “Quick Digital Research Tips” video series produced by NHD staff
   - “National History Day 2021: Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training” video produced by the Association for Diplomatic Studies & Training
   - “NHD WebCentral” video series produced by NHD staff *for website category only*
3. **Contest Rules:**
   Please make sure you and your students read the full rules in the official National History Day contest rule book prior to students beginning their projects.

4. **Guide to Student Research and Historical Argumentation:** This comprehensive guide written by NHD, the Library of Congress, and nine NHD teachers from across the nation includes resources, activity sheets, and more.

5. **Website Resources from NHD Partners:**
   NHD partnered with multiple cultural organizations to curate a series of resources, including topic ideas, primary and secondary sources, lesson plans, and more, specific to this year’s theme. Click here to find links to all these websites and resources.

6. **2022 Debate and Diplomacy Theme: Suggested Local and Pennsylvania NHD Topics:**
   The following list is for those who are stumped finding topics. We strongly encourage your students to select a topic that speaks to their interests and passions.
   - Social and Cultural History
     - Jim Thorpe
     - 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia
     - Alice Paul
     - Lucretia Coffin Mott
   - Political History
     - First or Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia
     - Benjamin Franklin- as a diplomat overseas
     - William Penn’s Treaty of Shackmaxon
     - The Walking Purchase
     - Fries’s Rebellion
   - History of the Abolition Movement
     - 1688 Germantown Protest
     - Act for Gradual Abolition of Slavery in 1780
     - Pennsylvania Abolition Society
   - Labor History
     - Philadelphia General Strike (1835 or 1910)
     - Coal strike of 1902
   - Environmental History
     - Opposition to Delaware River Basin Commission’s water pump in 1984- “Dump the Pump”

**Questions?:**

Email the regional coordinator at historyday@mercermuseum.org or call 215-345-0210 ext. 125