



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, January 26, 2024

Bucks County Historical Society Names Education Intern in Support of National History Day Competition

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS) is pleased to announce this year's *Ruth Maxson National History Day intern*, provided by a grant awarded by the Berger Family Foundation, to support the coordination of the annual National History Day (NHD) regional competition for Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

The *Ruth Maxson National History Day Internship*, named in honor of a beloved Bucks County Historical Society volunteer of nearly 50 years, supports the work of a promising university student who will join the BCHS team to expand their working knowledge of the education field and assist with National History Day.

Designed as an exciting opportunity for students considering a career in teaching and/or museum education, the *Ruth Maxson National History Day Internship* supports the museum's education department in the planning of the Bucks Mont NHD Regional Competition held at Delaware Valley University.

The National History Day Regional Competition enables Bucks and Montgomery County high school and middle school students to take history beyond the classroom. Hundreds of students from Bucks and Montgomery County schools participate in this regional event, and the winners will move on to the state level competition. This regional contest is coordinated by staff and volunteers of the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society. BCHS partners with Delaware Valley University for the in-person portion of the contest.

This year's *Ruth Maxson National History Day Intern*, Madeline Olesky, is currently attending the Cooperstown Graduate Program for her Master's in Museums Studies. She previously attended the University of Florida and got a bachelor's degree in psychology, with a focus on

neuroscience. She is passionate about museum education and the way museums can use programming to serve the public. Ms. Olesky is excited to work on NHD because the program demonstrates the power of getting young people to think about their place in history, and the role of museums in encouraging that thinking.

This internship experience will provide Ms. Olesky with the opportunity to interact with teachers, students, judges, and museum staff to help produce a regional educational event, as part of this national program.

Throughout the internship, Ms. Olesky will work closely with the BCHS Education Coordinator Katy Pownall, and assist with the program's database, provide support to the judges, teachers, students, and parents, assist in conducting training sessions, among other duties.

National History Day 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, as individuals or as a group, in one of five distinct categories: exhibits, papers, websites, documentary films and performances.

The 2024 National History Day regional competition award ceremony for Bucks and Montgomery Counties will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, PA.

For more information about the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Competition, visit mercermuseum.org/NHD.

###

About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 17,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912 and was the home of Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his residence and showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand-crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901. Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street in Doylestown, PA, 18901.

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For up-to-date ticket and schedule information, please visit mercermuseum.org.

For additional information, please contact:
Allison Hauser, PR & Marketing Manager
Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle
(215) 345-0210 ext. 143
ahauser@mercermuseum.org