NHD 2027 Category Guidelines – Exhibit

Bucks Mont Regional National History Day Contest

For the 2027 Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest, all student exhibit projects will be submitted **virtually** and must follow the guidelines detailed below.

Exhibit category entries will present their work in person at Delaware Valley University on **Sunday, March 21, 2027**. All categories will have interviews with volunteer judges that day.

Exhibit Category

An exhibit is a three-dimensional physical representation of the historical argument, research, and interpretation of the topic's significance in history.

All student submissions will be judged on Historical Quality (80%) & Clarity of Presentation (20%)

- **Historical Quality:** This section focuses on the strengths of the historical argument, research, and relationship to the year's designated theme.
- **Clarity of Presentation:** This section evaluates how well the project communicates the argument using the tools of the category.

General Rules for Student Exhibits:

Please make sure to read your category's full section in the official National History Day contest rule book for a full and complete explanation of these rules.

1. Exhibit Elements
   - Student analysis must be clear and evident to the viewer in the exhibit itself. Students must not rely on supplemental material or media devices to deliver the message.
   - The argument must be supported with, but not overwhelmed by, visual and textual evidence.
   - Exhibits must conform to all general and category rules.
2. Exhibit Size Requirements
   - The overall size of the exhibit when displayed for judging must be no larger than 40 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 72 inches high.
   - Circular or rotating exhibits, or those meant to be viewed from all sides, must be no more than 30 inches in diameter or diagonal.
   - Measurement of the exhibit does not include the table on which it rests.
   - Measurement of the exhibit does include any base that the student creates, any table drapes, and any supplemental materials placed on the table.
3. Word Limit
   - A 500-word limit applies to all words that students write. Each word or number counts as one word.

- The following words count toward the overall word count:
    - Text that the student writes, including titles, subtitles, captions, graphs, timelines, media devices, or supplemental materials (e.g., photo albums or scrapbooks).
- The following words **do not** count toward the overall word count:
    - Primary or secondary materials or quotes included in the exhibit or in media or supplemental materials.
    - Source credits.

4. Media Devices
    - If used, media devices or electronics in an exhibit must not run for more than a total of two minutes and must not loop continuously.
    - Any media devices must not include dramatic or narrative student involvement.
    - Judges must be able to control media devices by using clearly visible and accessible on/off and volume controls.
    - Media devices must fit within the size and word limits of the exhibit.
    - Anything that links externally, such as QR codes, is prohibited.
5. Crediting Sources
    - All quotes and visual sources (e.g., photographs, paintings, charts, graphs) must be credited on the exhibit and cited in the annotated bibliography.
    - Source credits do not count toward the word limit.
6. All student exhibits must also include the following written materials in this order before their exhibit:
    - **Title Page** – the title page must include **only** the title of the entry, name of student(s), contest division and category, and applicable word count.
    - **Process Paper** – the process paper must be 500 words or fewer and must not include quotes, images, or captions. Your process paper must answer the following questions:
        1. How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?
        2. How did you conduct your research?
        3. How did you create your project?
        4. What is your historical argument?
        5. In what ways is your topic significant in history?
    - **Annotated Bibliography** – the annotated bibliography must list all sources that were consulted in the creation of the entry, must be sorted in primary and secondary sources, and must combine photos or other materials from the same collection into a single citation. Each annotation must be no more than two or three sentences and should explain the following:
        1. How you used the source
        2. How the source helped you to understand the topic

Exhibit Category- Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest Submission Requirements
All required materials must be submitted to the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest website between Monday, January 4, 2027 @ 9:00 am and **Tuesday, February 16, 2027 @ 5:00 pm.**

1. Students in the exhibit category must follow the NHD Physical Exhibit Submission for a Virtual Contest template to upload their physical exhibits on the virtual platform. Students can use the following two templates to accomplish this:
    a. Google Slides—Download the NHD Physical Exhibit Submission for a Virtual Contest Template
    b. Microsoft PowerPoint—Download the NHD Physical Exhibit Submission for a Virtual Contest Template
2. Slides must include:
    a. A full photo of the exhibit.
    b. Photographed sections of the exhibit with the accompanying text typed out.
3. Students **may not** add additional slides to the templates.
4. Exhibit slides/files will need to be combined with the category's required written materials and submitted as one PDF file.
5. Name the file as your last name and project title (i.e. LastName_ProjectTitle.pdf).
    a. If you are doing a group project, include all your group members' last names then the project title (i.e. LastName1LastName2_ProjectTitle.pdf).
6. To submit your project:
    a. Make sure you have registered and created a student login at the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest website. Please note that your teacher must also be registered before you can register or submit your project.
    b. Log in to your student account on the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest website.
    c. In the top right corner, click on your name and select "My Profile."
    d. Click the "Entry" tab at the top of the page.
    e. Next to "Written Materials" click the button that reads "Add File" to upload the PDF file with all required materials.
    f. Always remember to click "Save" before exiting this page.
    g. You may delete and re-upload your project as many times as you like until the deadline on **Tuesday, February 16, 2027 @ 5:00 pm.** It is your responsibility to ensure your project is in the system by that time. No exceptions will be made.

For more information, please contact historyday@mercermuseum.org