



Hello Parents and Teachers!

Welcome to National History Day (NHD)!

What is NHD, you ask? NHD is a nationally recognized program for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders that gets students excited about history! Similar to a science fair, students complete a project on a theme-guided topic of their choosing, based on primary source research, in a method of their choosing. NHD offers five categories of projects- exhibits, documentaries, papers, websites, and performances- allowing students to complete their project in the medium that allows them to best express themselves and present their information. Students who have completed a project may enter them into their local NHD competition, and try to work their way toward the national competition, held each year just outside of Washington, D.C.! Our regional competition is held in early March, our state competition in mid- April, the national competition in held in early June.

NHD introduces and exemplifies a variety of skills that are beneficial for students, and is a near perfect match with Common Core, state, and other skills-based curriculum standards. The goal for students participating in NHD is to improve a variety of these skills, including but not limited to – research skills, communication skills, analysis skills, and organizing their thoughts and research into a coherent argument. Studies have shown that NHD students not only perform better in the skills listed above, but also on non-tested skills such as evaluating information found online and knowledge of events not studied in school.

The United States Marshals Museum is a big supporter of, and believer in, NHD, and we are here to help you! For teachers, we offer professional development opportunities related to NHD, focusing most often on new teachers that are interested in building a program in their school. This year we will be hosting a series of virtual workshops each Tuesday afternoon for the month of September, discussing a range of NHD topics and answering your questions. PD credit is available. For students, we offer a variety of assistance, from topic suggestions to research materials to work days at the museum with NHD-trained staff to assist. For more information about our teacher and student programs and for NHD materials, visit the Online Learning Page on our website (available October 2020), or call the Museum.

For more information about NHD in general, please visit the NHD website: [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org).

For more information about the benefits of NHD, please visit: [www.nhd.org/why-nhd-works](http://www.nhd.org/why-nhd-works).

For more information about our state and regional NHD program, please visit: <https://ar.nhd.org/>.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, for more information, or for specific assistance.

Happy Researching!

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