**For Immediate Release**

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**Missouri students uncover history and enhance learning through competition**

[YOUR CITY], Mo. [Date], 2015 – More than 3,000 motivated sixth- through twelfth- graders compete in National History Day in Missouri each year. On April 25 roughly 600 students who have advanced from regional competitions throughout Missouri will gather at the state competition on the University of Missouri campus to showcase their exemplary work.

Each National History Day in Missouri project is unique, a result of extensive research and creativity from an individual student or group. The program encourages young scholars to present their findings *their* way through documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, or websites.

This was the case with [Your Student’s Name] of [Student’s City], Mo.

“[Quote from your student on the rewards of the program here],” [Student’s Last Name] said.

A [student’s grade in school] at [Name of School], [Student’s Last Name] completed [a/an project type (ex. documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website)] about the impact of [topic] and advanced to the 2015 state competition after placing at regionals.

“[More on the student’s 2014 experience here],” [Student’s Last Name] said. “[Perhaps you can highlight what they most enjoyed learning or what the experience of making it to state felt like].”­­­

A national evaluation of National History Day found students who participate:

* Outperform their peers on state standardized tests, not only in social studies but also in reading, science, and math.
* Are better writers who write with a purpose and a real voice while marshaling solid evidence to support their point of view.
* Are critical thinkers who digest, analyze, and synthesize information.
* Gain 21st-century skills, learning how to collaborate with team members, talk to experts, manage their time, and persevere.

The opportunity for student leadership, empowerment, and growth is one of the most important aspects of National History Day in Missouri, said Gary Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, which sponsors the program in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.

“The impact on students is tremendous and well worth the investment from the Society and from teachers and parents,” Kremer said. “Students build confidence, develop their critical thinking, and learn important communication skills. National History Day in Missouri prepares them for college and beyond.”

To get involved in National History Day in Missouri, contact the State Historical Society ofMissouri at 573.882.7083.

***About National History Day in Missouri***

*Launched in 1980, National History Day in Missouri is the state affiliate of the National History Day educational program, which has half a million participants. Over 3,000 students compete in regional Missouri competitions, with roughly 600 advancing to the state competition held on the University of Missouri campus.*

*National History Day in Missouri is sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.*

***About The State Historical Society of Missouri***

*Founded in 1898 and established by statute a year later as Missouri’s official repository for state history, the State Historical Society of Missouri maintains centers in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield. Together, the centers house irreplaceable records of Missouri’s past collected over more than a century of service to the state. Visit: http://shs.umsystem.edu*

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