**For Immediate Release**

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**Missouri Students Make their Mark on History**

[YOUR CITY], Mo. [Date], 2018 – On April 28, nearly 600 students who advanced from National History Day in Missouri regional competitions throughout the state gathered on the University of Missouri campus to showcase their exemplary work. These state finalists represented the best of over 5,000 sixth- through twelfth-graders participating in the 2017-2018 program, which is sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.

At the state contest, students presented original research projects in one of five competition categories: documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, or websites. Participants vied for the opportunity to be one of 60 students representing the Show-Me State at the national competition in College Park, Maryland, in June.

According to SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, the program encourages students to learn about history by doing hands-on research. Students select topics that range from local history to global issues, find sources on their topics, and craft presentations, either as individuals or as part of a group.

“The National History Day in Missouri program transforms the way kids view history,” Kremer said. “Students learn about their world and themselves. They also build confidence as they become experts on topics they choose.”

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 2018 state competition after placing at regionals.

“[More on the student’s 2018 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].”­­­

In 2017, Missouri students brought home two out of five gold medals offered at nationals. Beyond accolades, the National History Day program benefits students in numerous ways. A national evaluation found that students who participate accomplish the following:

* they outperform their peers on state standardized tests, not only in social studies but also in reading, science, and math;
* they become better writers who write with a purpose and a real voice while marshaling solid evidence to support their point of view;
* they gain experience as critical thinkers who digest, analyze, and synthesize information;
* they learn crucial workplace skills such as how to collaborate with team members, talk to experts, manage their time, and persevere through obstacles and challenges.

To learn more about 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 annually. Over 5,000 students compete in the Missouri program, with 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.* *Visit: nhdmo.org*

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

*Founded in 1898 and established as a trustee of the state a year later, SHSMO is the premier center for the study of Missouri state and local history. Through its education program, the Center for Missouri Studies, SHSMO collects, preserves, and publishes materials that enhance research and support learning opportunities in the study of the Midwest at six research centers around the state, with headquarters on the University of Missouri campus. Visit: shsmo.org*

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