



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Mary Ellen Lohmann
1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO 65201
Main: 573.882.7083 | Direct: 573.884.7904
LohmannM@shsmo.org | shsmo.org

Missouri Students Make their Mark on History

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 26, 2018 – On April 28, nearly 600 students who have advanced from National History Day in Missouri regional competitions throughout the state will gather on the University of Missouri campus to showcase their exemplary work. These state finalists represent 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 present original research projects in one of five competition categories: documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, or websites. Participants vie 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 Rachel Adger of Liberty. The South Valley Middle School student won the outstanding junior entry award at the 2017 national contest with her website, “The Freedom Riders: Taking a Stand by Sitting Down.”

Adger said the Civil Rights Movement resonated with her from the start, and her interest in the topic grew with each new primary source she found. “It’s extraordinary to hear people’s stories about what they’ve gone through and to see things like signs on walls that segregated blacks from whites,” Adger said. “It shows how it was during the times we are studying.”

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 get involved in National History Day in Missouri, contact the State Historical Society of Missouri 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