**For Immediate Release**

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**Top students compete virtually to represent the Show-Me State**

 [YOUR CITY], Mo. [Date], 2021 – Over 5,000 motivated students in grades six through twelve participate in the National History Day in Missouri program each year. In April, over 400 students who advanced from regional competitions throughout the Show-Me State gathered virtually 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 2021 state competition after placing at regionals.

“[More on the student’s 2021 experience here],” [Student’s Last Name] said. “[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;
* become better writers who write with a purpose and a clear voice while marshaling evidence to support their point of view;
* gain experience as critical thinkers who digest, analyze, and synthesize information;
* learn crucial career skills, including how to collaborate with team members, manage their time, and persevere.

“The National History Day in Missouri program provides students with the opportunity to explore their interests and gain a stronger understanding of the world,” Gary Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, said. “The impact on students is tremendous: they build confidence, develop their critical thinking, and learn important communication skills.”

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 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.* *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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