



Welcome to History Day!

Dear Parent or Guardian –

This year, your student will create a history research project as part of the National History Day® program. Through this program, students will learn valuable skills such as project management, teamwork, communication, and developing a strong argument, which will benefit them in life after high school.

Each year National History Day chooses a theme for the program, to help students and teachers frame the research. Your student will select a historical topic related to this theme, which can be found at nhd.org/theme. They will conduct research using various sources, including books, encyclopedias, archives, websites, and libraries. Students are encouraged to use historical materials like photos, diaries, letters, and newspaper articles to enrich their projects. Additionally, they may conduct interviews with individuals who have firsthand knowledge of their topic.

Students will present their research in one of five different formats: museum-style exhibit, documentary, website, performance, or research paper.

Students will have the **option** to enter their project in a competition starting at the classroom or school level. Selected projects will be invited to advance to higher levels of competition, including the statewide online competition (called Alaska History Day), held in April. Top projects at the state contest will be invited to attend the national competition, **but are not required or expected to attend**. That contest level is a significant time and financial commitment, as participants are responsible for travel costs and fundraising.

Throughout the school year, your student will spend a lot of time on this project. Your student will likely create this project for a grade in class. Your student's teacher will choose due dates, tasks, and assignments for the project. You can support your student by helping them think about topics, helping them access their research materials (in libraries, online, at cultural centers, etc.), reminding them of due dates, and talking with them about what they've learned. Encourage them to focus on the skills they gain through the process rather than the competition aspect.

This letter provides a basic overview of the program. For more details about classroom-specific deadlines and requirements, please speak with your student's teacher.

Who are we?

History Day is a national program. In our state, it is sponsored by Alaska Historical Society and called Alaska History Day. We support teachers and students through curriculum materials, workshops, and coordinating the state competition. You can learn more about Alaska History Day on our website, akhistoryday.org. Learn more about the National History Day program by visiting nhd.org.

Thank you for supporting your student as they create a History Day project!

Sincerely,

Leanna Williams

Coordinator, Alaska History Day

