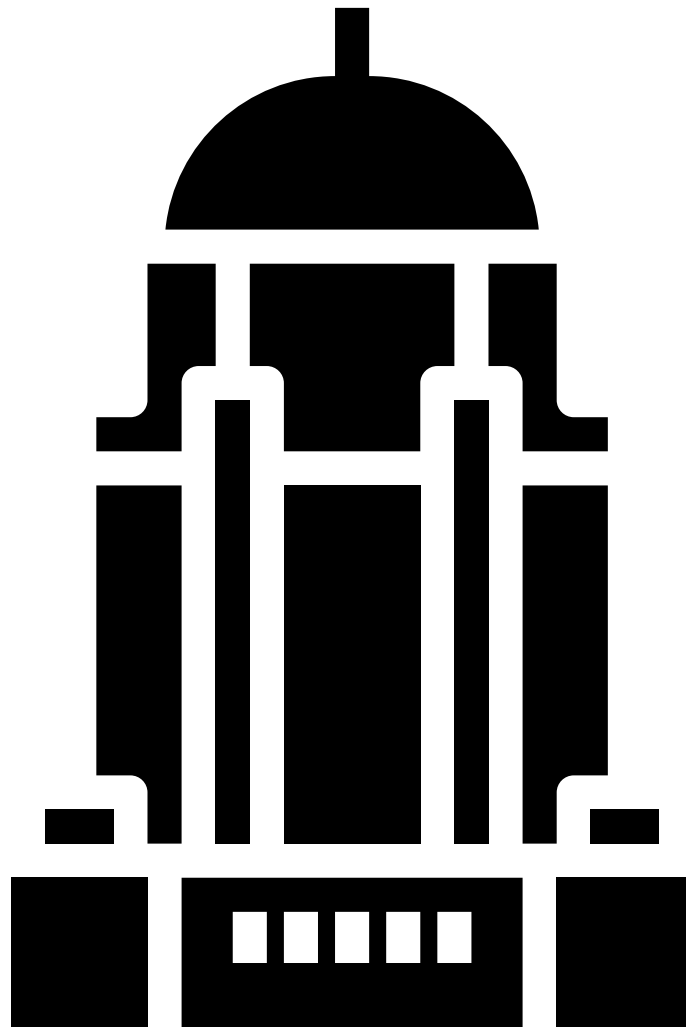


Unlocking History:

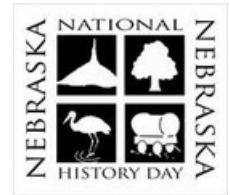
# **Your Guide to Nebraska National History Day**

Everything You Need to Know to  
Prepare, Participate, and Succeed!



# NEBRASKA

## NATIONAL HISTORY DAY



Dear State Qualifier,

**Congratulations** and welcome to the Nebraska National History Day State Contest! We can't wait to see you and your project in action on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Family, friends, and sponsors are welcome to attend, cheer you on, and explore the incredible projects created by other students!

To help you prepare, please read the [State Contest Information Guide], which gives a full overview of what to expect. Most of your questions can be answered there, but you can also check out <http://NebraskaNHD.org> for additional contest details.

### Registration & Important Deadlines

- Your district contest registration info carries over! Just log in to the state registration site, confirm your details, and generate, print, and send in your invoice with your \$12 registration fee.
- Registration closes Friday, March 21 – make sure everything is entered and correct by then!
- Project submissions are due by Friday, March 28.

### Contest Day Details

- Preliminary interview schedules will be sent to your teacher about a week before the contest and posted on the website a few days before.
- Check-in is between 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM.
- If your interview is before 9:30 AM, arrive early so you have plenty of time to check in before presenting your research.

### How to Pay

Make checks payable to Nebraska NHD and mail them to:  
Nebraska National History Day  
Nebraska Wesleyan University  
5000 St. Paul Ave.  
Lincoln, NE 68504

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out! You can call me, Ray Stallworth (the event coordinator), at 531-289-8458 or email me at [rstallwo@nebwwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebwwesleyan.edu).

We're looking forward to an amazing day of history and can't wait to see your work on April 12!

Best,

Ray Stallworth  
Event Coordinator  
Nebraska National History Day



Sponsoring Institution  
5000 St Paul Ave  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
Office Phone 402-465-2439



# Overview

Nebraska National History Day is affiliated with the National History Day program, which began in 1979. The national office is located near the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. The program is currently held in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and U.S. Department of Defense Schools throughout the world.

Nebraska National History Day is divided into seven districts: Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Northeast, Omaha, Peru, and Western. Each district invites local students to participate in the district History Day contest. The top two or three winning entries in each category from the district level compete at the state contest, held at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

The first and second place entries in each category at the state competition are then invited to participate at the National History Day contest which will occur June 8-12, 2025 in College Park, Maryland.

This guide contains information to help teachers, students, and parents register and prepare for the Nebraska National History Day State Contest. Key features of the guide include:

- Deadlines
- Registration/Log-In
- Fee Requirements
- Policies and Procedures
- Schedule of Events

Please refer to the National History Day Contest Rule Book for specific project rules. It can be accessed electronically at:  
<https://www.nebraskanhd.org/documents>

**Congratulations on submitting a winning entry!**  
**We look forward to seeing you on April 12, 2025**  
**in Lincoln, Nebraska!**

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## State Contest Deadlines

Friday, March 21, 2025 at 11:59pm CST - REGISTRATION CLOSES

Friday, March 28, 2025 at 11:59pm CST – SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 8:00am CST - STUDENT FEES DUE

Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 9:00am CST - EXHIBITS MUST BE SETUP

**Students creating exhibits and performances must submit their written work (title page, annotated bibliography, and process paper) by the submission deadline.** This written work will be assessed by the judges prior to the presentation of the exhibits and performances on the actual contest date. Students creating documentaries and historical papers will need to submit their documentary or historical paper in addition to this written work so that the judges may review it before the contest date. Websites will also be locked out on this date. Written work for the research you conducted should be integrated into the project. No additional paper copies need to be brought on the day of the contest, except for your own reference.

# Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing (email is acceptable format) and received by the Nebraska NHD office (Ray Stallworth, [rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu)) by Friday, April 4. Nebraska National History Day is unable to provide refunds for cancellations after April 4, 2025. For group entries, cancellation is only necessary if all group members are absent. See page 5 of the rule book for more information about absent group members.

# Registration/Log-In

**Registration must be completed by Friday, March 21, 2025 at 11:59pm CST.**

Students must log in (option on the upper right of the page) to the state registration and confirm the information entered at the district level, complete permissions and waivers, select payment terms, and self-nominate for special prizes.

The username and password will be the same as the district contest. Students can access the link for the state contest through the website's state contest page <https://www.nebraskanhd.org/statecontest> or <https://ne.nhd.org>. The link is also available in the advancement notification email. **DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT.**

**If a password has been forgotten, there are two options for resetting:**

- Students can select "Forgot Password" to go through the process of resetting. The student must have entered an email account that does not block outside emails – school systems often block outside emails – in order to get the reset link.
- Email [rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu) to have the password reset. A new password will be reset within 48 hours and emailed back.

Remember to access the State Contest, not District, when confirming information and submitting!

# Student Fee

**\$12 per student**

**Send to:**

**Nebraska Wesleyan University**

**Attn: National History Day**

**5000 St Paul Ave**

**Lincoln NE 68504**

ATTENTION: All students in a group entry are required to pay the student fee whether they plan on attending the contest or not; if the entry is competing, the student's work is competing. The students listed in a group project cannot change from district to state or from state to nationals.

# Special Awards Nomination

Students can nominate an entry through the online registration system; teachers can nominate an entry by clicking on a student listed under “My Students” and selecting the Nomination Tab.

NEBRASKALand Foundation Award:

The NEBRASKALand Foundation Award honors the best entries in both the Junior and Senior Divisions that deal with a person, place, event, institution or other development that contributed to the heritage of Nebraska. Each division award carries a cash prize: \$300 for first place and \$200 for second place (divided among participants if awarded to a group entry) plus two honorable mentions (no monetary award) in the Junior and Senior Divisions.

The following Awards are automatically awarded to the highest-ranking entry in a specific category:

- Nebraska Wesleyan University Award:
  - Nebraska Wesleyan University will award a \$500 scholarship for NWU tuition to the first-place winner of each Senior Individual Category at the State Contest.
  - The scholarship will be honored upon enrolling at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

# Improving Projects

Students are encouraged to review judges’ suggestions from the district contest and consider them when revising their projects for the state contest. Feel free to look at the national website ([nhd.org](http://nhd.org)) webinars and google chats for additional guidance. Students should take the time to check their work (project, title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) for typographical errors and misspellings. These types of errors should not be occurring at the state level. All projects should be polished by the time they reach the state level!

# Waiving the Interview

The state contest will be in person and will not offer to waive the interview. No student representation may be considered for extenuating circumstances by writing to Ray Stallworth at [rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu).

# Absent Students for Group Entries

A replacement student, one who did not compete at the district contest, is not allowed to participate at the state contest for any category. Group projects are allowed to compete without all members present. All group members are still required to submit the student fee (see the student fee section on page 5).

For a live performance category, if a student is unable to attend the state contest, the entry must be redesigned/rewritten to accommodate only the participating students, even if that means a last-minute re-scripting is necessary.

# Check-In Day of Contest

All students attending must check-in at the Nebraska National History Day state contest. If students do not check-in before the scheduled time, they may miss an updated interview time, therefore being counted as a no-show. Sponsoring teachers or parents may not sign in for students – and students may not check-in for other students!

Registration will take place in the Great Hall of the Smith-Curtis Classroom-Administration Building on the Nebraska Wesleyan University campus (see campus map) and will be held from 8:00am to 9:00am.

Late check-in will be from 9:00am to 10:00am at the teacher check-in table. To arrange a later check-in, contact the state office at [rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu). Lines can be long, students scheduled to be judged before 9:30am. should check-in early! Teachers may sign in near student check-in to receive their teacher gift.

# Judging Locations (Tentative)

Each entry will be given an entry number and assigned to a location in one of several buildings on Nebraska Wesleyan's campus. Teachers will receive a preliminary schedule of their student's time and location the week before the contest. Judging times will be posted on the Nebraska National History Day website a day or two before the state contest (<https://www.nebraskanhd.org>), however, last minutes changes sometimes need to be made; therefore, students will receive confirmation of the time and location for their judging when they check-in at the contest.

Students should report to their judging area at least 15 minutes ahead of their scheduled judging time.

It is important that students be quiet and respectful of others who are being judged while they are waiting for their interview. Judges are volunteering their time and talents, be respectful of their observations and contributions.

# Judging of Student Entries

For a detailed description of each category and applicable contest rules, as well as basic judging criteria per category refer to the National History Day Contest Rule Book and visit [NebraskaNHD.org](http://NebraskaNHD.org).

## Historical Papers

Paper submission is through the online registration system as a single PDF including the title page, process paper, historical paper, and annotated bibliography and must be done before Friday April 5 at 11:59pm (Central Time). The state office is not responsible for formatting issues with electronic submissions. Historical Paper is a pre-judged category; the judges will read and evaluate the papers prior to contest day. Judges will interview the student and may review all or portions of the paper with the student on the day of the contest. Students should keep copies of their papers for their own records and bring a copy of their paper to the interview for their reference.

Only the judges and student being interviewed are allowed in the interview rooms.

## Exhibits

Set up the day of the contest: Students may have no assistance from judges, audience, parents, guardians, or chaperones with the exhibit set up, take down, or operation of equipment. Students may have assistance in delivering the exhibit to the judging room. Nebraska NHD will provide tables on which to place exhibits and will provide power strips as needed. Students need to provide any other equipment required for their exhibits. Please note in the online registration if the exhibit requires a floor versus table placement and if power is needed. Students in the Exhibit category cannot dress in costume. (See National History Day Rule Book, Rule 12: Costumes.)

Exhibits must be set up by 8:45am. We suggest that for exhibits, students should arrive 30 minutes prior to the judging. Once their exhibit has been judged, students may leave the area. Exhibits must remain in place until 1:45pm. Exhibits may be taken down beginning at 1:45pm. and must be removed by 4:00pm.

Written material (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) must be submitted to the online system by Friday March 28 at 11:59pm CST. Only the judges and students being interviewed are allowed in the exhibit area during judging due to noise distraction.



## Documentaries

A link to the documentary as well as written materials (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) must be submitted through the registration system before Friday, March 28 at 11:59pm CST. Documentary is a pre-judged category; the judges will read and evaluate the documentary prior to contest day. Judges will interview the student(s) and may review all or portions of the documentary with the student(s) at the contest. NWU will have the documentary available on the instructional equipment in the classroom.

**Once a presentation begins no one will be allowed to enter or exit the judging room.**

## Performances

Performance the day of the contest Students must provide any equipment or props used in their entries. The setting up and taking down of props may not occur while other students are performing. Students may not have assistance from judges, audience, parents, or chaperones with the performance set-up or take-down or operation of equipment on stage. Students may have assistance in delivering the props to the judging room and onto the stage. Written material (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) must be submitted to the online system by Friday, March 28 at 11:59pm CST. Written material (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) must be submitted to the online system by Friday, March 28 at 11:59pm CST.

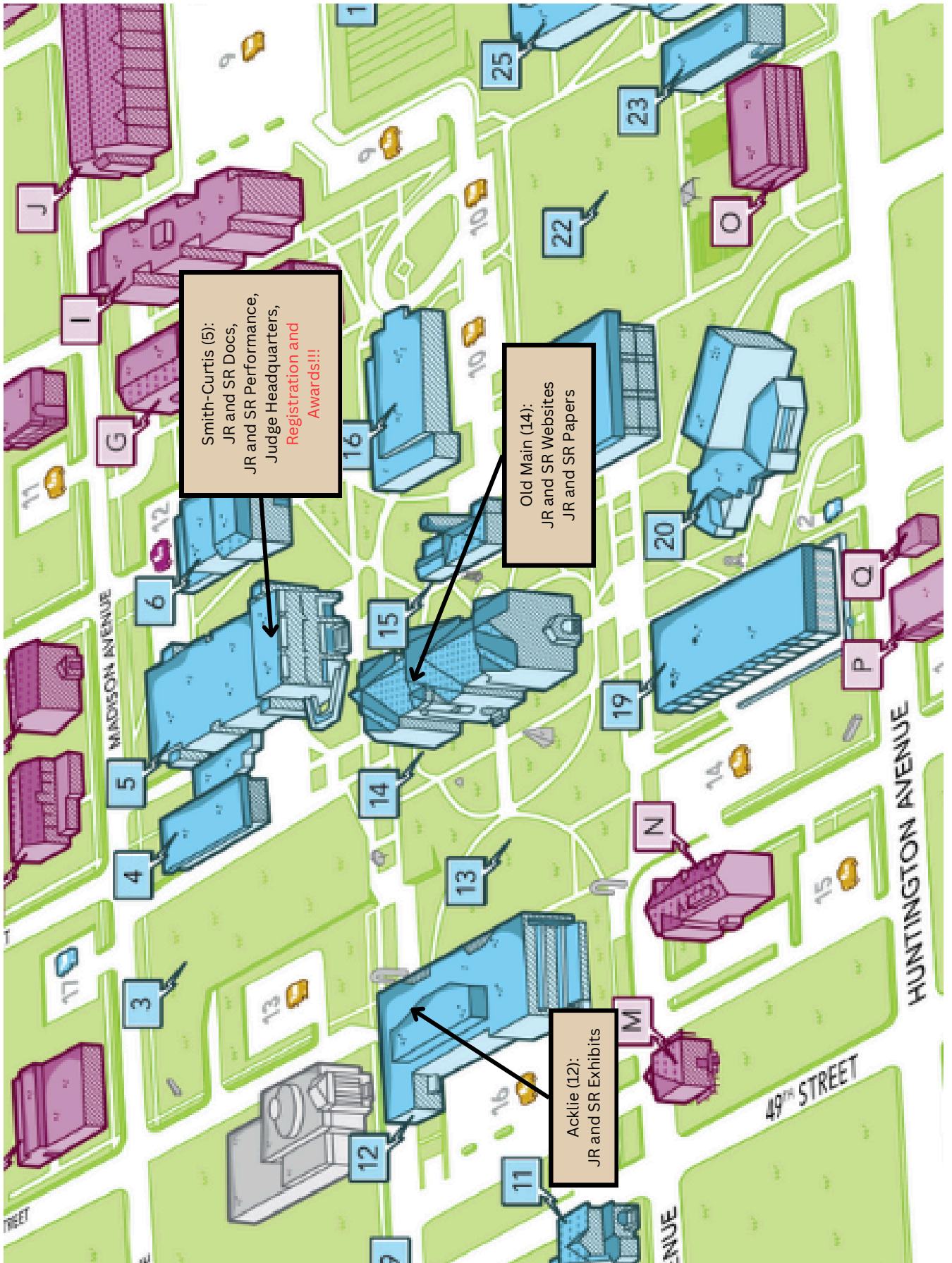
**Once a presentation begins no one will be allowed to enter or exit the judging room.**

## Websites

Students will be able to edit their websites until Friday, March 28 at 11:59pm CST. Website is a pre-judged category, the judges will review and evaluate the website prior to contest day. Judges will interview the student(s) and may review portions of the website with the student(s) on the day of the contest. NWU will have the website available on the instructional equipment in the classroom. The process paper and annotated bibliography must be integrated within the website as cited in Section E7: Required Written Materials (page 35).

**Once a presentation begins no one will be allowed to enter or exit the judging room.**

# Campus Map



## Lost and Found Items

Nebraska National History Day is not responsible for lost or stolen items, however, each year several items are left behind. Lost items may be claimed by contacting Ray Stallworth at the Nebraska National History Day office at (531) 289-8458 or [rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu).

## Chaperone Policy

All students attending the state contest must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. One chaperone may accompany a group of students. Chaperones are responsible for the behavior of the students in their charge. Large groups should have enough chaperones to be attentive to all members of the group.

## Technology Policy

NWU equipment will be used to show documentaries and websites (including large screens, computers, and DVD players). If there is a technical issue, either the judges or student assistants can call for assistance. Please respect the use of Nebraska Wesleyan University equipment (NHD students will be held responsible for any damage). Except for Jr Group Website and Sr Individual Website, the rooms have PC computers.

## Student Conduct

As guests of Nebraska National History Day and Nebraska Wesleyan University, students are expected to conduct themselves according to conventions of civility and decency and all rules as set forth in the *National History Day Rule Book*.

- Students may not possess or use alcoholic beverages or other drugs except those prescribed by a doctor.
- Smoking is prohibited by students and not allowed by adults except in designated areas.
- Students may not abuse, vandalize, or steal any property or service, including exhibits, props, and equipment.
- Students may not possess any weapon, firecrackers, or other flammable materials.
- Students may not physically harm, threaten, or harass any person, including provoking and/or engaging in physical fights or malicious pranks.
- Students must abstain from vulgar, racist, or sexually explicit language or conduct.
- Students may not create excessive noise or disruptions which interfere with the judging of student entries and/or other activities during Nebraska National History Day.

Students who violate stated rules will be subject to disqualification from Nebraska National History Day and cannot represent Nebraska at the national contest at the University of Maryland.

# Parking

## On-Campus

Students, teachers, and families may park in any campus parking lot **except** those requiring a blue parking permit. Vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense if parked in areas posted Loading Zone, Deliveries Only, Fire Lanes, No Parking, or Handicapped Parking (without a Handicapped vehicle permit).

Exhibits can utilize the parking behind Acklie – avoiding blocking the alley or using parking spaces that belong to the apartment complex to the west.

## Off-Campus

The City of Lincoln Ordinance prohibits parking within twenty-five feet of an intersection, within five feet of a driveway, and fifteen feet of a fire hydrant.

# Contact Information

Contact us at:

Nebraska National History Day  
Nebraska Wesleyan University  
5000 St. Paul Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504-2794

Ray Stallworth, Event Coordinator  
[rstoallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstoallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu)  
Steve Wills, State Coordinator  
[swills@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:swills@nebrwesleyan.edu)

(531) 289-8458

Or send us a message through the state website:

<https://www.nebraskanhd.org/contact>

Please include your name, e-mail address, and your comment or inquiry.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who will I be competing against?

Students from across Nebraska will be competing at the state level. Students, who like you, placed in the top of their category at their District contest.

### **Can my friends or family come with me on Saturday, the 20th?**

Yes! Parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends are all invited and encouraged to be a part of your day. Chaperones are required for those under age 19. You and your family members are encouraged to view other projects with one exception, the Historical Paper category interviews are not open to the public. Due to possible noise interference, the public will be asked to leave the exhibit areas during judging. Public viewing will be during lunch break and after judging has been completed (signs will be posted during public viewing times).

### **Do I have to stay all day?**

No. You do need to check-in at registration before 9:00am and show up for your interview time (arrive at least 15 minutes before and stay until you have completed your interview). Check with the NWU student assistant at the door if your name has not been called and it is 10 minutes past your scheduled time. You are not required to stay for the Awards Ceremony, although we love to have everyone there!

### **I have a conflict that day, can I just submit my entry?**

We are excited to return to an all-in-person contest. A request for entry submission only will be very limited. Any request for this type of accommodation must be submitted via email by Thursday, March 28 to Shari Sorenson at [rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu).

### **The contest is the same day as the FBLA, or I have a sports practice that morning, or the school prom is that night, can I request what time I interview?**

The vast majority of interviews will occur between 9:00am and 12:00pm. You may make an “early or late” request in your registration and best efforts will be made to accommodate.

### **One of the students in my group performance is sick, can a friend step in?**

Only the students registered can be in the performance; if a member cannot attend due to unforeseen circumstances, the missing member’s role must be rewritten/reassigned to the remaining members, no matter how last minute it is. This reflects the circumstances of any real performance!

### **I can’t attend the contest, but my other group members will be there. Do I still have to pay the \$12 registration fee?**

Yes, all members of an entry that is advancing to the next level must register and pay the student fee whether they are attending or not. This applies to the state and the national competition.

### **If my exhibit falls apart or I forget part of my costume, will you have supplies?**

No unfortunately we can’t predict what you may need; however, there is an Office Depot, Staples, Goodwill, and Target nearby. You are responsible for being prepared by your interview time.

**Do I need to prepare a formal presentation for the judge's interview?**

No, the entry is to stand on its own – meaning the judges can evaluate your research and thesis by viewing the project without your input. No formal presentation is to be given but you will be asked questions by the judges; questions can vary widely.

**I lost my bibliography; can you print it out?**

You do not need to bring any printed copies for the judges as it is part of the material submitted before the contest, but you may bring one for your own reference.

**What are the rules for disqualification?**

Plagiarism, tampering with another entry, reusing an entry from a previous year, and entering an entry in multiple contests or categories within a contest year will result in disqualification. Minor infractions, such as a few words over the limit or a few seconds over the time will put the entry at a disadvantage – requiring a ranking lower than a similar project; major infractions by exceeding the word count by 25 or exceeding the time limit in excess of 15 seconds gives the project an unfair advantage and may keep you from advancing.

**I have to leave before the awards ceremony, how will I know if I won? And if I won, how will I get my medal and information about the national contest?**

The winners' list will be posted on the website (NebraskaNHD.org) by Sunday evening, April 21st; you may also be able to see a list of winners on the registration site the evening of the contest. We do allow teachers or fellow students to pick up medals and other materials during the awards ceremony; any medals and certificates not picked up will be mailed the next week. If you are a national qualifier, you will be contacted by email and any information shared during the national qualifiers meeting will be shared with you.

**When will I get back the evaluation sheet from the judges?**

Judge evaluations will be made available through the registration system the week after the contest. Both students and teachers will have access to judge feedback by clicking on the "My Evals" tab in the online registration system.

**If I win, will I get a free trip to the national contest?**

No, sorry! We are however excited to announce that the national contest has returned to in-person. The contest will be June 8-12!

**How many students are selected to advance to the national contest?**

Two entries from every category are selected to advance to the national contest where they will compete with entries from across the nation – and some from other areas of the globe; approximately 3,000 students participate in the national contest. If either of the top two ranking entries from Nebraska cannot participate in nationals, the next ranking entry will be invited.

**The contest is over; can I get rid of my project?**

No – wait! If either of the 1st or 2nd place winners chose not to participate, the next ranking entry will be asked to compete. We suggest you do not discard your project until May 20!



NEBRASKA NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IS SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:

STATE COMPETITION AND  
OVERALL PROGRAM  
DEVELOPMENT

DISTRICT COMPETITION AND  
DISTRICT PROGRAM



THE DF DILLON FOUNDATION

If you are interested in sponsoring the Nebraska National History Day program through scholarships, outreach development, curriculum distribution funds, or some other means, please contact Ray Stallworth at 531-289-8458 or [rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rstallwo@nebrwesleyan.edu).