



Alaska History Day State Contest Guide 2020

Contest Coordinator Contact Info:

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Contest registration site (open from March 2020): <https://ak.nhd.org/>

Alaska History Day website: <http://www.akhf.org/ahd>

Alaska History Day Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaHistoryDay>

This contest guide contains information specifically for teachers and student participating in the Alaska History Day State Contest 2020. The contest is entirely online, so please read these instructions carefully as they cover different processes than the National History Day (NHD) contest rules.

Introduction

Alaska History Day (AHD) is Alaska's affiliate of NHD, a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history. AHD was established in 1989 and has been coordinated at the state level by the Alaska Humanities Forum since 2017. AHD is also supported by the Alaska State Libraries, Museums and Archives.

Contest Divisions and Categories

Each category in each division is judged separately. Groups may include between two and five students. There are two divisions organized by school grade:

- **Junior Division:** grades 6, 7, 8
- **Senior Division:** grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Students may make a project in any of the nine categories:

- Paper (Individual only)
- Individual exhibit
- Group exhibit
- Individual documentary
- Group documentary
- Individual website

- Individual performance
- Group performance
- Group website

Eligibility

An annotated bibliography and process paper are required for all state contest entries. (The one exception is that papers do not require separate process papers.)

An adult sponsor is required for all contest entries.

A title page is required for all categories except websites. Title pages must include only the title of the project, name(s), contest division and category, and applicable word counts. Examples of title pages are on page 17 of the [NHD contest rulebook](#).

If there is an AHD contest in a student's home community, that student must compete in a local/regional contest before they can advance to state. The coordinator of the local/regional contest will submit the names of winners to the state coordinator. Maximum three students from each category and division (IE, Sr. Individual Documentary) may be deemed eligible to advance to the state contest.

If there is not a local contest in a student's area, teachers can submit their top students' entries directly to the state contest. In this case, the top two entries from each category may be selected by the teacher.

Registration Procedure

Registration for the state contest runs from **Monday, March 16 @ 8 AM -Thursday, March 19 @ 5 PM**. Registration is done via an online registration system hosted by NHD. There is no registration fee.

After registering, students must send their projects (including title pages, process papers, and annotated bibliographies) to Kari Lovett at klovett@akhf.org. **Note: Students competing in website and paper categories do not need to do this; they will provide the site link/upload a PDF of their paper during the registration process.**

Registration Instructions for Teachers

- **You must register before your students.** Please note that in this system, users need to be able to accept emails from zfairs.com. If you use your school email address, you may need to check with your IT department to make sure these emails are not getting blocked. You may also choose to use a personal email address to register.
- Go to <https://ak.nhd.org>, click on "Create Account" in the top left corner, and select your role (teacher).
- Complete the personal contact info page.
- Choose your school(s) from the list.
- Agree to NHD permissions.
- Continue to the completion page. Note your login/password for future use. You will then receive a confirmation email from zfairs.com that your registration is complete.
- **To view or edit your students' information**, log in and click on the "My Students" tab at the top of the page. This will take you to a list of all students who are linked to you in the system. If you

click on a student, you can choose to view or edit their information, or link/unlink them to a project.

Registration Instructions for Students

- Once your teacher has created their account, go to <https://ak.nhd.org>, click on “Create Account” in the top left corner, and select your role (student).
- Complete the personal contact information page. Be sure to use a personal or family email address (not your teacher’s email address). The system will ask you for your email and a parent’s email – these can be the same.
 - o **Individual projects:** Fill out the first page of personal information, continue to the next page, and select “Create a New Project.”
 - Papers: You will be asked to upload your paper here as a PDF. The document must include a title page and annotated bibliography. You do not need to email your paper separately.
 - Individual websites: You will be asked to paste your NHD Site Editor website ID.
 - o **Group projects (first student to register):** Fill out the first page of personal information, continue to the next page, and select “Create a New Project.” You will receive a “team key” number code for your group project. Please give this “team key” to the other members of your group as they will need it to register as a member of the group.
 - o **Group projects (students registering after the first person):** Fill out the first page of personal information, continue to the next page, and select “Link/Join Existing Team Project.”
- Enter your school, teacher, and grade info.
- Continue to the NHD permissions page.
- Continue to end page and note your login/password for future use.
- You will receive a confirmation email from zfacts.com once your registration is complete. (Be sure to check your SPAM folder if you don’t see it in your inbox.)

If you aren’t sure whether your registration is complete, are unable to register, or have any questions about the process, please contact Kari Lovett at klovett@akhf.org.

Project Submission

All entries that are **not** papers or websites must be submitted to klovett@akhf.org.

Exhibits: Please submit digital photographs (in JPEG format) of the following to klovett@akhf.org.

- Overall exhibit
- Left panel
- Center panel
- Right panel
- Details of each graphic and caption
- Details of all text boxes used

Remember that this is the only way the judges can get to know your entry! Please make sure you’ve captured all aspects of the exhibit and that the photos are clear and in focus.

The process paper and bibliography should be submitted as Word (.doc) or PDF files. Please indicate at least one student name, school, and division in the file names.

Documentaries: Documentaries must be submitted in a file format that can be read by Apple QuickTime or Windows Media Player. The process paper and bibliography should be submitted to jmylet@akhf.org. Please indicate at least one student name, school, and division in the file names.

Performances: Performances must be recorded. The quality of the recording will not be judged, but it should have clear audio and video for the judges to evaluate the performance. Recordings must be submitted in a file format that can be read by Windows Media Player or Apple QuickTime. The process paper and bibliography should be submitted to jmylet@akhf.org. Please indicate at least one student name, school, and division in the file names.

If your file is too big to send via email: Try sharing via Dropbox, Google Drive, or WeTransfer. If you have difficulties, contact the coordinator directly. It is the student's responsibility to get the files to the coordinator by the end of the registration period (5 PM on Thursday, March 19). Late entries will not be accepted.

Contest Dates and Results

The state contest will take place March 23–27, 2020. Winners will be announced on Friday, April 3 unless otherwise notified. Teachers will be notified via email when results have been posted. Results will also be posted on the AHD website and Facebook page.

Judging Procedures and Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated by at least three qualified individuals. Judges are adult professionals with an interest or background in history and/or education. Judges volunteer their time to help make this contest possible. Each judge receives a contest orientation and training and will follow the general criteria below. Judges' decisions are final.

Historical Quality (60%)

The most important aspect of an entry is its historical quality. Students should ask themselves the following questions:

- Is my entry historically accurate?
- Does my entry provide analysis and interpretation of the historical data rather than just a description?
- Does my entry demonstrate an understanding of historical context?
- Does my annotated bibliography demonstrate wide research?
- Does my entry demonstrate a balanced presentation of materials?
- Does my entry demonstrate use of available primary sources?

Relation to Theme (20%)

Students must clearly explain how their topic relates to this year's theme of "Breaking Barriers in History." Students should ask themselves the following questions:

- How does my topic relate to the theme?
- Why is my topic important?
- How is my topic significant in history and in relation to the theme?
- How did my topic influence history?
- How did the events and atmosphere (social, economic, political, cultural aspects of the topic's time period) influence my topic in history?

Clarity of Presentation (20%)

Entries should be presented in an effective and visually appealing manner. Students should ask themselves the following questions (as applicable to their own topic):

- Is my entry original, creative, and imaginative in presentation?
- Is my written material clear, grammatically correct, and accurately spelled? Have I had someone proofread my text?
- Is my entry well-organized and easy to follow visually?
- Do I display stage presence in my performance?

Please refer to [NHD's contest rulebook](#) for any further questions about evaluation criteria.

Certificates of Achievement and Evaluations

These will be mailed to teachers following the announcement of state contest winners.

NHD National Contest

Students who place first or second in their category (and are deemed fit to compete at the national level by the judges and state coordinator) are eligible to advance to the NHD national contest, which takes place at the University of Maryland, College Park June 14-18, 2020. In order to attend the national contest, students must have an adult chaperone. This can be a parent, teacher, guardian or family friend. In the case that a first- or second-place winner is unable to attend, the third-place winner may be invited in their place.