

For Immediate Release

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Wisconsin Historical Society Announces 2019 National History Day Theme

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Historical Society which hosts the National History Day in Wisconsin program announced that the 2019 theme is "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

"Each year National History Day selects a theme that is intentionally broad enough so that students participating can select a topic from anywhere in the world and any time period," said Jenny Kalvaitis, coordinator of secondary education at the Wisconsin Historical Society. "This year's theme is complex and students will need to look at multiple perspectives within the theme as they begin their topic research. We are very excited to help students explore this theme with a number of brand new resources on our recently re-designed website."

Beginning in the fall, students choose a topic related to the annual theme. Once students choose their topic, they investigate historical context, historical significance, and the topic's relationship to the theme by conducting research in libraries, archives, and museums; through oral history interviews; and by visiting historic sites.

After analyzing and interpreting sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, exhibits, performances, websites, or documentaries. These projects are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels, where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates at the national competition held each June at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Wisconsin will host 8 regional events throughout the state beginning in February with the Madison area Regional, followed by Green Bay.

National History in Wisconsin is part of a national program that engages history teachers and students from across the country.

For more information on the National History Day program, visit www.wisconsinhistory.org/NHD

About National History Day

National History Day (NHD) is a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for teachers and students to engage in historical research. NHD is not a predetermined, by-the-book program but rather an innovative curriculum framework in which students learn history by selecting topics of interest and launching into year-long research projects. The mission of NHD is to improve the teaching and learning of history in middle and high school. The most visible vehicle is the NHD Contest

About Wisconsin Historical Society

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories. The Wisconsin Historical Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs and services. For more information, visit www.wisconsinhistory.org.

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