

Continuing Impact on Students

"Many of the successes I have had in my adult life I credit to skills I achieved through this [History Day] program. ...Research skills, writing skills, presentation skills, and poise in front of an audience are abilities that I utilized in college, while interviewing for jobs, and within my current employment."

*– Laura Brewer-Vogelbacher
Uniontown High School,
Class of 1994*

"History Day has taught me so many skills that will give me an advantage in college. Plus, I really enjoy the fact that I now know so much about different historical topics due to my years of participation in the program."



*- Jackson Sittenauer
Hayden High School, Topeka*

Kansas History Day Foundation

The Kansas History Day Program is administered by a volunteer group of educators, parents, and history advocates whose goal is to keep History Day going in Kansas.



Contact Information

Tracie Lamb
State Co-coordinator
kansashistoryday@gmail.com
785.845.3987

Letha Johnson
KHDF Executive Director/
State Co-coordinator
letha_johnson@att.net

www.kansashistoryday.org

Kansas History Day Program



What is History Day?



A National History Day Program

History Day is ...

... a yearlong, interactive learning opportunity for students in grades six through twelve. This national history education program offers teachers practical models for integrating Common Core standards in the classroom that improves test scores on reading, math, and science assessments and prepares students for college level work.



In preparing for local or district history contest, students are able to explore topics that interests them. They conduct research, using primary and secondary resources, and then analyze the

information, in light of an over-arching historical theme or question. Guided by a teacher/coach/parent, students can express what they have learned in a variety of creative ways, as individuals or in groups. Through original dramatic performances, documentaries, research papers, websites, or three-dimensional exhibits, students develop key life skills and an appreciation for their place in history.

Can All Students Participate?

All students in grades 6 through 12, including home-school students, may prepare History Day projects for classroom credit or entry in district competition

throughout the state. Students in grades 6-8 compete in the Junior Division, while students in grades 9-12 compete in the Senior Division. To enter the state competition, students must place in the top 3 at their district contest.

Why Should Students Participate?

History Day equips young people with valuable, college ready skills they will use the rest of their lives:

- Critical thinking
- Mastering research skills
- Meeting a variety of professionals in interdisciplinary settings, from historians, educators and library archivists to historical participants with a unique story to tell
- Preparing for interviews and other public speaking experiences
- Gaining expert knowledge in historical subjects
- Discovering, analyzing, and interpreting a variety of sources
- Develop confidence as they express what they learn in an original way

In the Classroom

In preparation for district contests, students select a topic that relates to the yearly broad theme. The Kansas History Day Program website offers

ideas for topics relating to the theme, but teachers are encouraged to brainstorm ideas with their classes, in relation to Common Core Standards. Students then research their topic thoroughly, using primary and secondary



sources. As students research, they interpret the material and develop a History Day project: Individual or Group Performance, Individual or Group Documentary, Individual or Group Exhibit, Individual or Group Website, or a Historic Paper. Once the projects are completed, students are ready to share their findings with a larger audience. Some schools showcase this work at a school or local History Fair, while others prepare their students to enter a district History Day competition.

How Does The History Day Competition Work?



As part of the National History Day program, formal competition in Kansas begins at the district level. The state is divided into 6 districts, each hosting its own com-

petition for students living in the counties within the district. Student entries are evaluated by judges who are professional historians, educators, or experienced in other ways with the History Day program. Following district competition, the first-, second-, and third-place entrants in each category are eligible to compete at the state competition at Washburn University in Topeka. Students who place first and second at the Kansas History Day State competition proceed to the National History Day contest in College Park, Maryland, held every June.