



## National History Day Judging Opportunities at the Heinz History Center



### The Competition:

Hundreds of students throughout the region participate in the annual Pittsburgh National History Day competition, sponsored by Covestro. The History Center is proud to be the home for this regional competition, which serves students from Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, and Somerset counties.

- National History Day draws upon a unique historical theme each year and encourages middle school and high school students to research history in an exciting and creative way.
- Either individually or in groups, students create exhibits, produce documentaries, write papers, design websites, or stage performances. Each activity is judged, and top winners move on to the state competition. State winners then move on to the national competition.



### Judging:

Students spend most of the school year working on their projects either as afterschool projects or as part of social studies classes. On competition day, students bring their work to the History Center, where they have short interviews with a team of judges to talk about their work. **Our volunteer judges are responsible for:**

- Taking part in our registration process and an online training program that will take no more than two hours to complete. Registration and online training must be completed before the competition dates.
- Conducting a 5-10 minute interview with students, giving students a chance to express their enthusiasm for their topic,
- Acting as a friendly and helpful source of constructive feedback and helping students to develop their research and presentation skills and their love of history and learning,
- Providing ample written feedback using an established rubric that both highlights what students did well and offers suggestions for improvement.

**Please note that you do not have to be an expert in history to judge!** Anyone willing to help us to provide students with a positive learning experience is welcome to judge at National History Day.

#### Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Junior Division competition (Grades 6-8)

Judges arrive at 7:00am and have continental breakfast and a short briefing. Judging finishes around 1pm, and judges are provided with lunch.

#### Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Senior Division competition (Grades 9-12)

Judges arrive at 8:00am and have a hot breakfast and a short briefing. Judging finishes around 12:00pm

If you are interested in volunteering as a Pittsburgh National History Day judge, please contact our team at [NHD@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:NHD@heinzhistorycenter.org).