



## What is National History Day?

National History Day (NHD) is an exciting academic program for middle and high school students that encourages independent research.

Each year more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers, participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics and conduct extensive primary and secondary research related to the annual theme. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These are evaluated by professional historians and educators in a statewide competition, and state prizewinners can go on to the national contest in the Washington DC.

### 2015-2016 Maine NHD Contest Dates:

- register for the contest online at: [www.me.nhd.org](http://www.me.nhd.org) (state deadline March 19, 2016)
- statewide contest on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the University of Maine, Orono
- national contest June 12-16, 2016 at the University of Maryland, College Park

The broad contest theme for 2015-2016 is “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.” Individual students, or teams of 2-5 students, can choose to enter the NHD competition in one of five categories (listed below) and are judged in Junior (grade 6-8) and Senior (grade 9-12) divisions.

- documentary video
- performance
- exhibit
- website
- paper (individual only)

In addition to discovering the exciting world of the past, NHD also helps students to develop qualities that are fundamental for future success:

- critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- research and reading skills
- oral and written communication and presentation skills
- self esteem and confidence
- a sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process

More than 5 million students have gone on to careers in business, law, medicine and countless other fields where they are putting into practice what they learned through NHD.

For information about Maine NHD, visit <http://umaine.edu/history/national-history-day/>  
[www.facebook.com/MaineNationalHistoryDay](https://www.facebook.com/MaineNationalHistoryDay)

Contact State Coordinator John Taylor at the Margaret Chase Smith Library  
[john.m.taylor@maine.edu](mailto:john.m.taylor@maine.edu) or 207-474-7133

The University of Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies please contact:  
Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall, 207.581.1226.