Seven California Entries Earn Medals at National History Day

-- MARYLAND – June 21, 2022 --

On Saturday, June 18, National History Day® (NHD) presented the awards for the 2022 NHD National Contest in a live-streamed ceremony. Seven California entries and sixteen students earned top honors at the 2022 Virtual National History Day Contest June 12-16. In addition, eight California entries were named finalists and two entries were named Outstanding In State. More than 600,000 middle and high school students entered the competition during the 2021/2022 academic school year, creating projects related to the theme Debate & Diplomacy; Successes, Failures, Consequences. After advancing through school, local, and state competitions, just over 2,700 students advanced to the National Contest presenting documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites.

Each fall students nationwide begin the year-long National History Day program. Students begin by creating projects in the classroom and then move on to compete in a series of history contests progressing from district to county, and then on to the state contest. Participating students choose their own topics of study and research from original sources based on this year’s theme. National History Day students research historic documents and artifacts, conduct oral histories, search the archives and libraries for information on their topic, and travel to historic sites. They present their work in a variety of ways including: exhibits, documentaries, websites, original performances, or traditional research papers. In California more than 40,000 students participate in National History Day each year. Sixty-four of the 1,238 students who competed at the NHD-CA contest in early May qualified to advance to the National History Day competition.

Historians and other education professionals evaluate the students work at the national competition. $150,000 in scholarships are awarded at the awards ceremony, and approximately 100 students took home cash prizes between $250 and $5,000 for superior work in a particular category of judging.

Winners and finalists are listed on following pages.

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National History Day - California is run by the Sacramento County Office of Education in partnership with county coordinators from throughout the state.
2022 NHD Winners & Finalists

National Winners

First Place

Senior Individual Exhibit
“A World Without War”: Women Empowered Debate and Diplomacy at the Hague

Students: Riya Gupta
Teacher: Deanna Myers
Northwood High School
Orange County

Second Place

Senior Group Website
We’re Not Experiments: Shaping Medical Ethics Through The Nuremberg Code

Students: Nataly Lopez, Sofia Sevilla
Teacher: Devin Beliveau
Samueli Academy
Orange County

Junior Group Performance
The Diplomacy that Launched a Nation: The Exodus 1947

Student: Alexander Fan
Teacher: Bryan Deger
Centennial High School
Kern County

Junior Group Performance
The Failure of Diplomacy: How International Indecisiveness Damaged the Climate

Student: Alissa Phillips, Ananya Rege
Teacher: Jay Lee
Bert Lynn Middle
Los Angeles County

Third Place

Senior Individual Website
Pass the Salt: Water Diplomacy in the U.S.-Mexico Salinity Crisis

Student: Alexander Miller
Teacher: Jon Pang
Lakeside Middle School
Orange County

Senior Group Performance
On the Brink of Armageddon

Student: Max Timmons, Noah Marquez, Saahil Chaddha, Zachary Zinman, Siddharth Kamannavar
Teacher: Faith Daly
Saratoga High School
Santa Clara County
National Finalists

Senior Individual Exhibit (5th)
"This Insidious Practice": Debate and Diplomacy in the Fight for Fair Housing Rights in California

Student: Felix Chen
Teacher: Fiona Griffiths
The Harker School
Santa Clara County

Senior Individual Website (7th)
Dr. Ludwig Guttmann: How a Medical Pioneer Fostered Diplomacy Through His Successful Creation of the Paralympic Games

Student: Anjana Chandrasekhar
Teacher: Christopher Hertzog
Stockdale High School
Kern County

Senior Group Exhibit (5th)
Abstract Expressionist Art in the American National Exhibition: Modernist Culture as a Diplomatic Weapon

Students: Allison Yue, Deul Choi, Sol Choi
Teacher: Jane Koch
University High School
Orange County

Senior Group Website (7th)
Separate but Equal: Brown v. Board of Education and the Desegregation Debate

Students: Adviti Aleti, Stuthi Kandula
Teacher: Andrew Wengel
Dougherty Valley High School
Contra Costa County

Junior Individual Performance (4th)
Unsung Ambassador: Jackie Kennedy's Soft Diplomacy Ends a War and Stirs a Debate Over the Role of the First Lady

Student: Supriti Bhopale
Teacher: Monique Burtschell
Sandpiper School
San Mateo County

Junior Individual Performance (6th)
Yu Gwan Sun: A Martyr of the Korean Independence Movement

Student: Susan Kim
Teacher: Jonathan Millers
Sierra Vista Middle School
Orange County

Junior Group Website (9th)
Judy Blume & The Battle Against Book Censorship

Students: Isabelle Yang, Yongjing Li, Zixuan Cui
Teacher: Christopher Hertzog
Stockdale High School
Kern County

Senior Group Performance (7th)
The American Occupation of Haiti: The Dark Side of Diplomacy

Students: Dzifa Ackuayi, Eve Youkana, Baani Pannu, Saloni Bansal
Teacher: David Tanaka
Modesto High School
Stanislaus County
Outstanding In State

Junior Division

Junior Individual Exhibit
Comfort Women: Sparking Debate and Igniting Diplomacy for Human Rights, Justice, and Honor

Student: Emily Shin
Teacher: Brandon Smith
Corona Fundamental Intermediate School
Riverside County

Senior Division

Senior Historical Paper
The Tinsley Voluntary Transfer Program: How a Decade of Courtroom Debate Resulted in a Compromise to Desegregate Mid-Peninsula Schools

Student: Sheryl Chen
Teacher: Jackson Shaad
Menlo-Atherton High School
San Mateo County