

2025 Minnesota History Day Topical Prizes and Teacher Awards

RESULTS

The Minnesota State History Day Contest took place on Sunday, April 27, 2025. The Pre-Awards Ceremony announced the results of Teacher Awards and Topical Prizes, which were judged virtually in the weeks preceding State History Day. At the Pre-Awards Ceremony, award winners received additional information on how to redeem their award. Please note that Topical Prize sponsors reserve the right to not award their prize if no entries fit the criteria.

Teacher Award Winners

Award	Name	School
Teacher of the Year: Junior Division	Alicia Juárez	Andersen United Middle School, Minneapolis
Teacher of the Year: Senior Division	Jennifer Androsky	Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul
NHD Teacher Award Nominee: Jr. Division	Jennifer Monroe	Sanford Middle School, Minneapolis
NHD Teacher Award Nominee: Sr. Division	Martin Marrin	DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis
Team Teachers of Merit	Bloomington Public Schools	Bloomington Public Schools, Bloomington
Media Specialist of Merit	Betsy Dadabo	Harding High School, St. Paul
National Contest Travel Teacher	April Bischoff	Big Lake Middle School, Big Lake

Africa Studies Prize

Sponsor: African Studies Initiative, University of Minnesota. **Award:** Two \$150 awards

This prize recognizes outstanding State History Day entries that examine how this year's annual History Day Theme relates to the history of an area in Africa.

Prize 1	Adelle	Sanford Middle School	Taking Responsibility for the Violation of Human Rights: South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission	Individual Website
Prize 2	Chakiso	Eagle Ridge Middle School	Nelson Mandela: South Africa's Wallow To Freedom	Individual Website

Agricultural History of the Upper Midwest

Sponsor: Artisan Grain Collaborative. **Award:** One \$100 prize

Agricultural History of the Upper Midwest

This prize recognizes outstanding State History Day entries that focus on the history of agriculture in the Upper Midwest, with a preference for projects featuring the farming, shipping, marketing, or use of grains.

Prize	Felix	Murray Middle School	"Hinckley Burns!!"	Individual Exhibit
--------------	-------	----------------------	--------------------	--------------------

American Indian History

Sponsor: Minnesota Historical Society. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

The American Indian History prize will be awarded to outstanding State History Day entries that demonstrate the importance of American Indian individuals, organizations, or nations in history, within this year's theme.

Junior Division	Leona	Nativity of Our Lord	Unethical Research Conducted in Native American Boarding Schools	Individual Exhibit
Senior Division	Madeline, Sophia	Mankato West High School	Ascension to New Plains: The Impact of Bryan v. Itasca County and the Native American Gaming Industry	Group Documentary

Arrowhead, William E. Culkin History of the

Sponsor: St. Louis County Historical Society. **Award:** Two \$50 prizes

This prize is to recognize exceptional entries with a focus on the history of the Great Lakes region. Special preference will be given to topics concerning Northeastern Minnesota.

Junior Division	Camryn, Scarlett	Stella Maris Academy	War and Welding: Women Shipbuilders on the Twin Ports Homefront	Group Exhibit
Senior Division	Margaret	Duluth East High School	The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978: Protecting Americans' Right to Pristine Wilderness	Individual Website

Baseball, History of

Sponsor: Society for American Baseball Research, Halsey Hall Charter. **Award:** One \$150 prize

This prize will be awarded to an outstanding entry on baseball history.

Prize	Easton, Reece	Salk Middle School	Toni Stone: Gaining A Fair Chance	Group Exhibit
--------------	---------------	--------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------

Civil War History

Sponsor: First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Inc. and the Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable. **Award:** One \$100 prize

This prize recognizes entries related to Civil War history. Entries that highlight Minnesota's role in the war and Civil War military history relating to the current year's theme will receive special consideration.

Prize	Asher, Cole, Nic	Orono Middle School	54th Massachusetts Regiment	Group Website
--------------	------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------	---------------

Educational History, Susie Elewell Memorial Prize for

Sponsor: Ralph and Virginia Kurtzman. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

Entries must be an outstanding study and discussion of the history of education. The historical subjects may relate to formal or informal education, changes in a curriculum, legal decisions, economic pressures, political decisions, community pressures, dress codes, benefits or losses resulting from outstanding teachers, various testing methods, establishment of new institutions, new subjects, required reading, required courses, required tests, banned books, or banned subjects, among others.

Junior Division	Holly	Edgewood Middle School	Camp Jened: Fostering a Collective Responsibility to Fight for Disability Rights	Individual Documentary
Senior Division	Anya, Claire	Open World Learning	May 68: How France Took Responsibility for Their Rights	Group Documentary

Environmental History, Tallmadge and Geo. H. Elwell Memorial Prize for

Sponsor: Ralph and Virginia Kurtzman. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

Entries must be an outstanding study and discussion of the history of destruction or conservation of the natural environment. The historic events may be biological, geological, archeological or others that may be shown to be important. Events may be long-term or catastrophic.

Junior Division	Livia	Nativity of Our Lord	Tennessee Valley Authority: Changing Lives For The Better	Individual Exhibit
Senior Division	Norah	Mahtomedi High School	The Clean Water Act	Individual Documentary

Europe Before 1914, History of

Sponsor: Steven Potach and Judith Horn. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

Entries must relate to a historical event or development taking place in Europe between the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the outbreak of World War I, during the period from 476 CE to 1914 CE.

Junior Division	Allie	Avail Academy, Edina	Florence Nightingale: Advancing the Rights of Quality Medical Care and of Women in Medicine	Individual Performance
Senior Division	Isaac	Sartell High School	A King's Actions: How King John and the Magna Irrevocably Changed the Course of English History	Individual Research Paper

Global Studies

Sponsor: Institute for Global Studies, University of Minnesota. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

Student entries should examine how the year's theme relates to the history of an area outside the United States.

Junior Division	Katia	DaVinci Academy	The Accident That Changed Lives: The Chernobyl Disaster	Individual Documentary
Senior Division	Eliza, Salina	Duluth East High School	Blood Chocolate: The Rights and Responsibilities Behind Child Labor in the Chocolate Industry	Group Exhibit

History Day Scholarship

Sponsor: University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts. **Award:** One \$1,500 prize

In recognition of the academic achievement of an outstanding student participant in the National History Day program, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) at the University of Minnesota presents one \$1,500 freshman-year prize at Minnesota State History Day.

Prize	Shaunya	Shakopee High School	1936-1939: The Spanish Civil War & the Failure of Global Responsibilities	Individual Documentary
--------------	---------	----------------------	---	------------------------

Holocaust History

Sponsor: Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas. **Award:** Two \$100 prizes

Entries must relate to a significant event or development taking place in Europe between 1933-1949 that led to or contributed to the events of the Holocaust.

Junior Division	Avery, Brinley, Quinlan	Delano Intermediate School	The White Rose Resistance	Group Exhibit
Senior Division	Han	Cotter School	Pink Triangle: A Symbol of the History of the Journey to Reclaim Rights for LGBTQ Community Worldwide	Individual Website

Humanitarian History, Raoul Wallenberg Prize in

Sponsor: American Swedish Institute. **Award:** Two \$100 prizes

This prize is to recognize two outstanding Minnesota History Day entries, one Junior Division and one Senior Division, on a topic of humanitarian action in history. Entries will be considered that study a person or group of people who made a significant historical contribution with their work to improve the welfare of others. The prizes, sponsored by the American Swedish Institute, will grant \$100 to each winning entry. The prize is dedicated to the life and example of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who heroically led the rescue of approximately 100,000 Hungarian Jews from July 1944 to January 1945.

Junior Division	Anna	Stella Maris Academy	Love Canal: Fighting for the Right to Live in a Healthy Community	Individual Research Paper
Senior Division	Celia, NJ	Roosevelt High School	Shelly v. Kraemer: A History of Redlining	Group Documentary

Ideals from America's Founding Through Time

Sponsor: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota. **Award:** Three \$250 prizes

Prize recognizes outstanding entries that investigate how the ideals of justice and equality have been extended since America's founding through time to different populations, specifically from the principles referenced in the US Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights.

Junior Division	Alexa	Delano High School	The Right to Revolt: Common Sense's Impact on Government	Individual Website
Senior Division	Amy	DeLaSalle High School	The Double V Movement	Individual Research Paper
Either Division	Akshaya, Sonakshi	Central Middle School, Eden Prairie	Patients' Bill of Rights: Protecting Voices and Choices in Healthcare	Group Website

Labor History

Sponsor: Duluth Labor World, Minneapolis Labor Review, St. Paul Union Advocate, University of Minnesota Labor Education Service. **Award:** Eight \$100 prizes

Prizes recognize projects that focus on the history of organized labor, including advocacy for change in working conditions or the rights of workers. The sponsors of this prize encourage students to examine labor history through a local lens and to research and explore topics in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Minnesota labor history.

Prize 1	Meredith, Myla, Tenley	Delano High School	The Coogan Law: An Act that Changed Financial Rights for Child Performers	Group Documentary
Prize 2	Evie	Avail Academy, Edina	Responsibility for the Rights of a Child: The Photography of Lewis Hine	Individual Exhibit
Prize 3	Hazel, Maja, Mary Grace	Murray Middle School	The (Not So) Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Group Performance
Prize 4	Rohan	Murray Middle School	The Hormel P-9 Strike	Individual Website
Prize 5	Gloria	Edina High School	More Than Baking: Betty Crocker's Impact on Women's History	Individual Documentary
Prize 6	Anna	Duluth East High School	"Look for the Union Label": Using Advertising to Promote Worker Rights	Individual Exhibit
Prize 7	Adam	Grand Rapids High School	Theodore Roosevelt Responsibly Fights for Union Workers' Rights!	Individual Performance
Prize 8	Keagan	Cretin-Derham Hall	Hot Off the Press: Eva Gay Writing for Rights, Responsibilities, & Reform	Individual Website

LGBTQ History

Sponsor: Minnesota Historical Society. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

Prizes will be awarded to entries studying issues that connect LGBTQ people, politics, and events to this year's theme.

Junior Division	Jack	Sanford Middle School	Action vs. Identity: How Frank Kameny's Campaign for Gay Rights Ensured the Responsibility to Federally Serve	Individual Performance
Senior Division	Nissa	Denfeld High School	The Laws and Implications Behind the S Word: Sodomy	Individual Documentary

Minneapolis History

Sponsor: Linden Hills Study Group and the Hennepin History Museum. **Award:** Two \$100 prizes

Prizes will be awarded to entries that address the year's theme by examining events and issues that demonstrate the rich history of Minneapolis and its people. Students are encouraged to consider topics involving persons, businesses, organizations, institutions, events, buildings, land use or environmental issues in Minneapolis.

Junior Division	Katie	Nativity of Our Lord	The Minneapolis Women's Club: Taking Responsibility Within Their Community and Fighting For Women's Rights	Individual Documentary
Senior Division	Mason, Vivian	DeLaSalle High School	The Great Mill Disaster: An Explosive Rights Reform	Group Website

Minnesota Experience Documentary Prize

Sponsor: Twin Cities Public Television's *Minnesota Experience*. **Award:** Two \$200 prizes

Prize recognizes excellence in documentary filmmaking related to Minnesota history. Documentaries that illustrate Minnesota's rich history through a variety of source materials, interviews, and film footage will receive special consideration. Documentaries submitted for this prize may be considered for inclusion on TPT multimedia platforms.

Junior Division	Abha	Edgewood Middle School	Revolutionizing Heartbeats: How One Device Saved Millions	Individual Documentary
Senior Division	Divya	Edina High School	Redlining: How Housing Racism Shaped America	Individual Documentary

Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Best Use of

Sponsor: Gale Family Library at the Minnesota Historical Society. **Award:** Two \$200 prizes

There are no limitations on topic, and collections materials may be viewed in-person or online. Projects should use materials from the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) Collections to provide information, detail, or perspective, not just for illustrative purposes.

Junior Division	Cullen, Theo	Sanford Middle School	From Behind Barbed Wire: Taking Responsibilities when Rights are Revoked	Group Website
Senior Division	Margaret	Duluth East High School	The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978: Protecting Americans' Right to Pristine Wilderness	Individual Website

Minnesota History

Sponsor: Northern Lights Curriculum, Minnesota Historical Society. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

Prizes will be awarded to entries that address the year's theme by examining events and issues that demonstrate the rich history of Minnesota and its people.

Junior Division	Lila	Sanford Middle School	"The Strike for Better Schools": Fighting for Teachers' Rights, Taking Responsibility for Public Education	Individual Research Paper
Senior Division	Adeline	Cretin-Derham Hall	The US-Dakota War of 1862: Broken Treaties, Loss of Rights, & Unfulfilled Responsibilities	Individual Exhibit

Minnesota History Paper Award

Sponsor: Minnesota History Journal. **Award:** One \$50 prize

The paper must be directly and primarily concerned with a Minnesota history topic.

Prize	Ella	Barten Homeschool	The War for Minnesota: The Impact of the Dakota War of 1862 and Other United States Government Policies on the Lives and Rights of the Dakota People	Individual Research Paper
--------------	------	-------------------	--	---------------------------

Minnesota's Laws and Courts

Sponsor: Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society. **Award:** Two \$500 prizes

To be eligible for these awards, students' entries must demonstrate and/or celebrate the contribution that the judiciary has made to the state of Minnesota. The entries may consider any way in which the Minnesota courts have impacted local, state or national history. Entries that focus on Minnesota cases are preferred. Entries that concern specific laws or parts of the constitution without discussing a case(s) or the judiciary are ineligible.

Junior Division	Daphne	Nativity of Our Lord	The State of Minnesota: An Industry's Violation of Human Rights and Their Responsibility to Children	Individual Website
Senior Division	Zeina	Edina High School	Jenson v. Eveleth Taconite Company: Establishing Employer Responsibility to Protect Women's Rights to Workplace Safety	Individual Website

Quantitative History

Sponsor: Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota. **Award:** One \$100 prize

Prizes will be awarded to projects that demonstrate outstanding use or creation of quantitative methods in developing historical arguments. Use of quantitative methods may include statistics, graphs and charts, among others. Good sources of quantitative information are government documents, newspapers, polls (e.g. Gallup Polls), surveys and census data.

Prize	Anela	Nativity of Our Lord	The Annexation of Hawaii	Individual Website
--------------	-------	----------------------	--------------------------	--------------------

Travel and Cultural Exchange Before 1825 CE, History of

Sponsor: Associates of the James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota. **Award:** One \$100 prize

Prize will be awarded to the Minnesota State History Day entrants whose outstanding work best links the year's theme to travel and cultural exchange and its impact prior to ca 1825 CE.

Prize	Clay	Nativity of Our Lord	The Battle of Austerlitz	Individual Performance
--------------	------	----------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

United States Military History

Sponsor: Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

This prize recognizes exceptional entries that analyze any aspect of United States military history and connects to the History Day annual theme. Preference will be given to topics outside of the scope of other State History Day Topical Prizes.

Junior Division	Gaochiacha	American Indian Magnet School	The Secret War in Laos	Individual Exhibit
Senior Division	Bennett, Carson	Holy Family Catholic School	The Tuskegee Airmen	Group Exhibit

Women of Color in History

Sponsor: Anonymous. **Award:** Two \$150 prizes

This prize will be awarded to an outstanding entry on a woman of color in history. Topics may range from advocacy to political action for women's rights and representation, health care, education, athletics, the arts, voting reform and more. The sponsor encourages students to examine the role of women as changemakers and how their actions have positively impacted members of their community and/or at large. The sponsor is especially interested in lifting up absent narratives - women's stories and experiences that have previously been (or are) marginalized and excluded from mainstream history.

Junior Division	Marji	Capitol Hill Magnet School	Anna Arnold Hedgeman: Taking Responsibility for Women's Representation at the March on Washington and Fighting Sexism in the Civil Rights Movement	Individual Performance
Senior Division	Claire	DeLaSalle High School	Doomed to Die: How Anna May Wong Defied the Odds to Become a Star	Individual Documentary

Frequently Asked Questions about Topical Prize Results

Who sponsors Topical Prizes?

A variety of organizations and individuals sponsor Topical Prizes based on their interests and the annual History Day theme.

How are Topical Prizes judged?

Topical Prize results are separate from the category results and judging that took place at State History Day. Students nominated their own entry for up to three prizes and a separate panel of judges review materials submitted in advance to select winners. Prizes are evaluated on the fit within the prize criteria and the historical quality of the entry.

Who are the Topical Prize judges?

Sponsoring organizations generally provide the judges for Topical Prizes. If a sponsoring organization is unable to provide judges, Minnesota History Day recruits judges from the general judge pool who are interested in judging Topical Prizes. All Topical Prize judges receive training on their role.

Will I get comments from the Topical Prize judges?

No. Topical Prize judges do not provide written feedback on the entries that they view.

How do I redeem my prize?

Cash prizes will require that the students provide a Social Security number by completing a W9 form and returning it to the State History Day office. This information is kept confidential at the Minnesota Historical Society. Students will not receive awards until their forms are returned. You will be contacted in the week following the contest via the email address you used to register for State History Day.

How are prizes split among group entries?

Only one group member needs to return a W9 and the check will be issued to that individual. It is their responsibility to split the award among any group members.

When will I get my prize?

From the date we receive your W9 form, it takes 30 days to process the check and be mailed out to you.

Who do I contact with questions?

For the 2025 State Contest, contact Samantha.Papas@mnhs.org with any questions.