

Minneapolis Convention Center
1301 Second Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55403

We are in a brand new event space for 2024 and look forward to welcoming you and your students to the Minneapolis Convention Center. We're confident that this space will allow us to create a welcoming, fair, and convenient venue to recognize the hard work of our students and teachers. More information is available in the State Student Guide, but please reference this handout for the basic event information and changes.

General Event Spaces

We have consolidated the footprint of State History Day as much as possible within the Convention Center.

- **First Floor:** Student registration, Exhibit hall, Awards Ceremony
- **Second Floor:** Judging Rooms
- **Mezzanine Level (Morning only):** Judging Rooms

We will be using the Convention Center's digital signage for wayfinding, as well as staff and mentors to help navigate these new spaces.

Parking

The Convention Center is conveniently located near I-35W and I-94. See the State Student Guide for full directions. The Plaza Parking Ramp and 11th & Marquette Parking Ramps provide close event access and are accessible via skyway. The 3rd Avenue Parking Ramp will provide the closest access to the student registration area. There are several other ramps, additional surface lots, and metered parking in the surrounding area. Pricing for parking will vary, but range between \$5-25 for the day.

Hotels

For students and families looking to stay overnight, there are several hotels connected to the Convention Center via skyway. We do not have blocks of rooms reserved at any venue and recommend contacting the hotel directly if interested in this. The closest hotels include:

- Hilton Garden Inn Minneapolis Downtown
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites Minneapolis
- Hotel Ivy, Minneapolis
- Millennium Minneapolis
- Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Food

The Convention Center will open several internal concession areas with food and drinks for purchase during the day. There are also several restaurants within walking distance.

Available Technology

- All Documentary rooms will be connected to projectors and screens via Chromebook. Students should have a link to their Documentary so they can pull up via a web browser at their judging time.
 - If a student wants to use a DVD or their own device, they are responsible for bringing their own device and necessary adapters.
- Website students are responsible for bringing their own devices to use as reference during their interview.
- Free wifi is available in all meeting rooms and public areas throughout the Convention Center.

Accessibility

The Convention Center is a fully ADA-accessible building. There are automated doors, stairs, escalators, and elevators as well as electrical mobility scooters and wheelchairs available for rent from Guest Services. There are two lactation rooms on the second floor and gender neutral restrooms on the first and second floor.

Other Events and Security

There will be two other events happening at the Convention Center at the same time as State. While our event will be consolidated within the Convention Center as much as possible, participants should not leave personal belongings or items unattended. There is 24/7 building security for the Convention Center but neither the Convention Center or Minnesota History Day are responsible for lost or stolen items.

General State History Day Reminders for Teachers

Online Registration System

Not so new anymore, but State Qualifiers will receive an email from zFairs, when their entry is “promoted” to the State Contest. They can expect this information within a few business days of their Regional/District contest. **Each student must still login and complete their registration for State!** Promoting their entry within the registration system does **not** mean they are completely registered.

Teacher Registration

Since students have already connected their entry with their school/teacher, there is no need for teachers to log-in before their students. If teachers are planning on attending State, or want to monitor the progress of their students as they register, teachers should log back in and register for State as well. There is no separate school registration form for State.

Judging Schedules

A tentative judging schedule will be shared with teachers the week of April 8. Please be sure to share these tentative times with your students and alert us to any conflicts. A final judging schedule will be shared on April 15. No changes can be accommodated after that time.

Written Paperwork Procedure

Students in all categories must submit their Process Paper and Annotated Bibliographies in zFairs by 10:59 pm on Thursday, April 11. They may still make edits before coming to State. Students should bring **four printed copies**. This allows judges to review these documents in advance, and spend more time directly engaging with the students during interviews.

- There is no copy center at the event venue and limited printing from MN History Day at State is for emergencies only.

Changing Group Members

In accordance with the *NHD Contest Rule Book*, Minnesota History Day must abide by a strict interpretation and enforcement of Rules for All Categories—Rule 3. “Once a group project enters a competition (regional or affiliate), additional students may not be added or replaced at that or subsequent competitions within a contest year.”

This most directly impact Group Performances. The Performance group members are locked in once a project enters a Regional/District contest. If the project advances to State and a group member drops out or is not able to participate, entries are **not** permitted to add a group member or replace that group member in the project. Students can rewrite the performance for the remaining group member(s) and still compete. This may result in a Group Performance with only one group member. This entry would still need to compete in the Group Performance category.

Topical Prize/Special Award Nominations

In order to accommodate different use of spaces and time at State History Day, Topical Prize judging will again take place virtually. Students that apply for these prizes must nominate their entry and submit **full copies of their projects** via Google Form by the registration deadline. Please remind students of this deadline and monetary prize opportunity. Prize winners will still be announced at the Awards Ceremony.

Event Attendance

If students are unable to attend State in person either due to religious conflicts, illness, or another conflict they are still eligible to compete without an interview, except in the Performance category. This should be arranged in advance directly with the Minnesota History Day office.

Awards and Pre-Awards Ceremony

The Pre-Awards Ceremony will include Topical Prizes, Teacher Awards, and other recognitions. No category results will be announced until at least 5:30 pm, provided the event stays on schedule. We know it’s a long day, but Final-Rounds run until 4:15 pm. There is no possible way to hold awards any earlier. The awards presentations will last one full hour. We will stream Pre-Awards and Awards on Facebook (@MNHHistoryDay).

- Due to space restrictions, we ask that you do NOT bring Exhibits or Performance props to the Auditorium.

Limited Access to Exhibit Halls for Judging

We are limiting access to Exhibit areas to help keep distractions to a minimum.

- **8:00—9:00 am:** Open access for Exhibit set-up and public viewing
- **9:00 am—12 pm:** Limited access during First-Round judging. Only judges, students currently being interviewed or setting up projects, and people supporting students currently being interviewed or setting up should be in the room
- **12:00—1:30 pm:** Open access for public viewing
- **1:30—4:15 pm:** Closed access during Final-Round judging. Only judges allowed in Exhibit areas
- **4:15 pm (est.):** Open access for take-down
- **7:30 pm:** All Exhibits must be removed from the Exhibit Hall. Any remaining Exhibits will be disposed of by Convention Center staff.

Arrive late? Students and their support crew can enter the Exhibit hall to set-up projects even after judging has started. They should stay as quiet as possible and leave as soon as they are done setting up.