

NHD-CA Results for Orange County, 2025

After months of intensive research and success at district and county-level competitions, champions were recognized in Sacramento on Sunday, May 4th at California State University Sacramento, concluding the 2025 National History Day—California state competition. More than 1,500 students participated, coming from 248 schools across 25 counties. Sixty-seven students will represent California at the National History Day competition taking place in College Park, Maryland June 8-12, 2025.

CA Nominees for the "Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year" Award

Deanna Myers, Northwood High School, Orange County, Senior Division has been nominated for the "Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year" award, a national honor for teachers who engage History Day students through innovative teaching and active learning strategies. The winners will be announced during the National History Day awards ceremony.

Elementary Division Medalists

Individual Poster Elementary: Champions

- Leia Parekh, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner
The Indian Salt March: Gandhi's Responsibility to Gain Indian Rights
- Lana Lai, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner
Elizabeth Blackwell

Group Poster Elementary: Champions

- Lillian Bucher, Penny Jen, Paige Han, Jiya Patel, Luke Taw, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner
Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP): Undertaking Dangerous Responsibilities and Fighting for Equal Rights
- Mateo Sanchez Caero, Jaden Chi, Isaiah Na, Kaydence Felix, Jay Lee, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner
Vietnamization: Nixon's Right and Responsibility to End U.S. Involvement in an Unpopular War

Individual Podcast Elementary: Champions

- Nathan Diebolt, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner
Harriet Beecher Stowe: Responsibility to Write for Rights of Slaves
- Noah Lacy, Acaciawood Preparatory Academy, Karen Kayekjian, Carolin Menendez, Jessica Bernier
The Preservation of Human Rights in South Korea

Individual Podcast Elementary: Runner-Up

- Aria Pal, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner

Rosalind Franklin: The Responsibility to Obtain the Rights of Scientific Credit

Group Podcast Elementary: Champion

- Arie Goyal, Lucas Na, Brandon Lee, Ethan Kim, Nathan Lee, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner

Silent Spring

Group Podcast Elementary: Runner-Up

- Kaylee Chan, Kayla Seeto, Liya Haridas, Elijah Ng, Megan Almazan, Olinda Elementary, Coach Jill Berner

Little Rock Nine

- Daniel Chen, Sabeh Ermias, Benjamin Hale, Acaciawood Preparatory Academy, Karen Kayekjian, Carolin Menendez, Jessica Bernier

Bikini's Nuclear Nomads and America's Responsibility to Care for Them

Junior Division Medalists

Group Documentary: Champions

- Poiema Bernier, Rebekah Miller, Lucas Menendez, Enoch Wu, Acaciawood Preparatory Academy, Karen Kayekjian, Carolin Menendez, Jessica Bernier

The Right to Stay: Doss v Bernal Dismantling Housing Segregation

- **Special Award: California Experience Documentary Prize**
- **Special Award: Dr. Larry W. Sheffield Young Historian's Award**

- Avanika Prasad, Chinmayee Srinivasan, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck, Jonathan Millers

Ubuntu: Humanity

Individual Exhibit: Runner-up

- Yesha Gupta, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck, Jonathan Millers

The Right to Learn: Recognizing Responsibilities in Lau v. Nichols

Group Exhibit: Runner-up

- David Cha, Noah Im, Liam Kim, Ayaan Thind, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck, Jonathan Millers

From Violations to Verdicts: How the Nuremberg Trials Demanded Responsibility for Human Rights Violations

Historical Paper: Champion

- Abigail Han, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck

Upholding Human Rights: The Nuremberg Trials and the International Responsibility of Delivering Justice

Individual Performance: Champion

- Aria Yatavelli, Santiago Hills Elementary, Katie Gray

Phone Booths to Smartphones: Rights and Responsibilities from Katz to the Digital

Age Group Performance: Honorable Mention

- Sydney Berryman, Grace Markus, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck, Jonathan Millers *The Newsies Strike of 1899: Exposing the Need for Child Labor Rights and The Government's Responsibility*

Individual Podcast: Honorable Mention

- Lexie Holland, Santiago Hills Elementary, Katie Gray

Turning it Up to 435: How Politicians Have Abused Their Responsibilities and Taken Away Voters' Rights via Gerrymandering

Group Podcast: Champion

- Madilyn Butler, Sofia Reyes, YuQiao Shao, Rancho San Joaquin Middle, Aghassi Gharadaghian, Patricia Pierson

Mendez and Munemitsu: The Story Behind the Case

Individual Website: Runner-up

- Milani Doshi, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck, Jonathan Millers

One Flame Can Spark a Fire: The Match Girls' Strike of 1888

- **Special Award: European History**

Group Website: Champions

- Christine Jeon, Joseph Featherstone, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck, Jonathan Millers

The Thalidomide Tragedy: Rights of Consumers' Healthcare and Responsibilities of the Manufacturer

- **Special Award: Science and Technology in History**

- Shawn Castrapel, Max Castrapel, Sierra Vista Middle, Lianne Linck, Jonathan Millers

Rights and Responsibilities: The Hetch Hetchy Dam and Its Environmental Impact

- **Special Award: California Historic Places**

Group Website: Honorable Mention

- Sai Sahasra Kondamadugu, Danyatha Jeyapandi, Venado Middle, Hector Gamboa, Kevin Bui

Roe v. Wade: A Case That Revolutionized Reproductive Rights

Senior Division Medalists

Group Documentary: Champion

- Jongmin Chae, Luna Moon, Portola HS, Wind Ralston

Black and White and Red All Over: The Rights and Responsibilities of SAG-AFTRA

- **Special Award: Labor History Prize**

Individual Exhibit: Champions

- Samantha Bailey, Orange County School of the Arts, Lana Sawalha

Forbidden to Fundamental: Perez v. Sharp's Defense of Marriage Rights and Call for Constitutional Responsibility

- Emily Yi, Orange County School of the Arts, Lana Sawalha

Legacy of Betrayal and Medical Immorality: The Rights, Responsibilities, and Redemption of Tuskegee

Individual Performance: Honorable Mention

- Susan Kim, Northwood High School, Deanna Myers

Kim Gu: Balancing the Scales of Freedom and Duty

Individual Podcast: Champions

- Madeline Cheng, Northwood High School, Deanna Myers

Korematsu vs. US: A Case of Shattered Rights and Ignored Responsibility That Will Live in Infamy

- Asmi Aggarwal, Orange County School of the Arts, Lana Sawalha

Defying Power, Defending Rights: How New York Times Co. v. United States Redefined Press Freedoms and Government Responsibilities

Group Podcast: Champion

- Sailee Charlu, Julianne Wu, Orange County School of the Arts, Lana Sawalha *From Hallways to History: The 1968 East LA Walkouts and the Fight for Chicano Educational Rights*

Individual Website: Champion

- Anna Cao, Northwood High School, Deanna Myers

The Nuremberg Code: Shaping Human Rights and Responsibilities in Medical Research

Individual Website: Honorable Mention

- Jennifer Choi, Orange County School of the Arts, Lana Sawalha

The Responsibility to Protect: The Nuremberg Trials's Influence on Human Rights and International Law

Special Awards

Bushong Award for Social Justice Legacy &

Individual in History Award

How Cartoons Shaped the Narrative: Thomas Nast's Fight for Rights and Responsibilities
Seojun Baek, Anish Pashikanti, William Lin, Sierra Vista Middle

Elizabeth Avery Waring Award for Social Justice

The Silent Scream: Emmett Till's Death and the Awakening of Civil Rights Responsibilities
Helen Lu, Orange County School of the Arts

Environmental Justice in History

The Right to the Coast: The California Coastal Commission and the State's Environmental Responsibilities
Penelope Pan, Rancho San Joaquin Middle

Social Justice History Prize

The Price of Education: Americanization in Puerto Rico
Bethel Bernier, David Betancourt, Acaciawood Preparatory Academy