



# Judge Information Sheet

## *National History Day-Orange County*

**Thank you for considering service to our Orange County students by sharing your time and talent as a judge for the NHD-OC contest!**

As a judge, you have the opportunity to positively impact students' education by evaluating work, conducting interviews, and providing written feedback to participants in the National History Day program in one of six categories: Posters, Exhibits, Performances, Documentaries, Websites, or Historical Papers. Judges work with highly motivated students in grade span divisions representing grades 4-12.

### **WE NEED PEOPLE WHO:**

- Are friendly, outgoing, service orientated, and interested in historical topics
- Enjoy working with young people
- Have the ability to collaborate with partners and make decisions jointly
- Have the ability to initiate conversation with young learners
- Employ strong verbal and written communication skills
- Are comfortable in an environment that might require flexibility and adaptability
- Require minimal direct supervision

### **HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE TO COMMIT?**

A judging session typically requires 5 hours. This includes an orientation followed by examination of student work, interviews with students, and determination of top entries. Judges who review Historical Paper, Documentaries, and Website entries have a slightly different schedule with a similar time commitment.

### **HOW DO I GET READY?**

Prior to the contest, we ask that you review pre-event materials and attend the one-hour judges' orientation on your first day of NHD-OC judging. We will also offer a NHD-OC Judge Training Webinar.



## **WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A JUDGE IN THE POSTER, EXHIBIT, AND PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES?**

If you are assigned to judge the Poster, Exhibit or Performance categories, your judging responsibilities will take place on the day of the contest. Attending the Judge's Orientation on Friday, March 13 or Saturday, March 14, 2020, will provide you with the background information you will need in order to judge each of these categories. As a judge in these three categories, you will attend the contest, conduct a short interview with students and then deliberate with your co-judges to determine project rankings. When you arrive at NHD-OC, you will receive a packet that includes rubrics, a Judge Handbook, and other judging materials. The following information has some specifics for your categories.

1. Watch the Performance or review the Poster or Exhibits as assigned.
2. Collaboratively conduct a five-minute oral interview with student participants. Sample questions will be available.
3. With your partners, assess the students' project, research and overall historical quality.
4. As a team, select the strongest projects to advance to the next level of competition.
5. Individually, provide written feedback on the rubrics to every student project that you evaluate.
6. Adhere to timelines and complete all work as assigned.
7. Dress in a neat manner; business casual attire, with comfortable shoes, is appropriate.

## **HOW IS JUDGING DIFFERENT IN THE HISTORICAL PAPER, DOCUMENTARY, AND WEBSITE CATEGORIES?**

As with other categories, you will determine a group consensus regarding project rankings. While judging in the other categories all takes place at the contest, Websites, Documentaries and Historical Papers are reviewed in advance. This speeds up the process at the contest. Judges in these categories enjoy the chance to consider student work without the pressure and high emotion everyone experiences at the contest. These judges attend the contest and conduct short interviews with students prior to deliberating with co-judges about project rankings. The NHD-OC office sends judges in these categories all judging materials, including student work, in advance. The specifics that follow help distinguish expectations for Historical Paper, Documentary, and Website judges from those evaluating other types of entries.



1. Read the training materials provided in the packet containing student projects before beginning your assessment. Papers and Documentaries will be e- mailed to you 7-10 days prior to the contest. Website URLs will be emailed to you 7-10 days prior to the contest.
2. Prior to the contest, review the student projects as assigned and complete rubrics with written feedback.
3. Arrive at the contest with a preliminary sense (ranking) of which entries you feel are the strongest.
4. Return the results and rubrics when you arrive on the contest day for student interviews.
5. Communicate any questions or concerns to the NHD-OC office, [nhdinfo@ocde.us](mailto:nhdinfo@ocde.us) or (714) 966-4328

***In return for your time and effort, we offer free parking, breakfast, lunch, endless gratitude, and a positive perspective on our nation's youth!***

#### **QUESTIONS?**

Please contact us at [nhdinfo@ocde.us](mailto:nhdinfo@ocde.us) or (714) 966-4328