

NEWS RELEASE

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OC students from 23 schools prepare for National History Day-Orange County competition

Projects include websites, historical papers, documentaries, performances, exhibits and podcasts

COSTA MESA, Calif. – Nearly 250 young historians representing 23 schools and seven school districts will showcase their original exhibits, historical papers, websites, documentaries, performances, posters and even podcasts at the upcoming National History Day-Orange County (NHD-OC) competition.

Hosted by the Orange County Department of Education, this year’s event will be held in-person with limited capacity on March 11 and March 12.

Each year, more than 500,000 students in grades four through 12 take part in National History Day contests at the local, county, state and national levels. Participants, working as individuals or in teams, conduct extensive research on a historical topic over the course of several months before submitting projects connected to a specific theme. This year’s theme is “Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.”

The NHD-OC entries will be evaluated by panels comprising more than 60 volunteer judges from Orange County’s educational and business communities. And for the first time, the county and state National History Day events will include podcast entries for students in the Elementary, Junior and Senior divisions. Podcasts were submitted for NHD-OC by Feb. 22 to be prejudged along with documentaries, historical papers and websites.

The NHD-OC contest will officially begin on Friday, March 11, when historical papers, performances and documentaries in the Senior Division will be featured and judged. On Saturday, March 12, Senior Division podcasts, websites and exhibit entries will compete, as will podcasts, websites, historical papers, documentaries, performances and exhibits in the Junior Division. Podcasts and posters in the Elementary Division will also be evaluated on Saturday, March 12.

All participants and coaches are encouraged to attend a virtual award ceremony at 6 p.m. on March 16.

The top submissions from the National History Day-Orange County competition will advance to the state finals in May, and California’s highest-scoring projects will compete at the National History Day Contest in June. For more information, contact NHD-OC Coordinators Julie Hull and Marika Manos at NHDinfo@ocde.us, or visit the NHD-OC website at link.ocde.us/NHD-OC.

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