

# The “NOW” Packet

*After the Regional Contest – What You Need to Do*



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

NHD  
NATIONAL  
HISTORY DAY

# 2017 NHD STATE FINALISTS – CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations! You have qualified to compete in the  
National History Day in Wisconsin State Event  
at the University of Wisconsin – Madison!

## IF YOU CAN'T COME TO THE STATE EVENT ON APRIL 22, 2017

Contact the Wisconsin NHD Staff at [nhdinwi@gmail.com](mailto:nhdinwi@gmail.com) or [historyday@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:historyday@wisconsinhistory.org) so that we can offer your spot to another student. **Please tell us as soon as possible** so that the student who replaces you has time to work on their project. If you are not registered by April 6<sup>th</sup>, we will automatically contact the alternate and give the opportunity to them.

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR STATE – DUE APRIL 22, 2017

**STEP 1:** Go to the link below and fill out the registration form.

[www.wisconsinhistory.org/NHDFORM/State/Project](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/NHDFORM/State/Project)

**STEP 2:** Collect your \$15 *per student* entry fee. Checks should be addressed to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

**If you are registering by yourself**, then you should mail your entry fee to this address:

Wisconsin Historical Society  
ATTN: National History Day  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

**If you are registering as part of a school group**, then you should turn in your signed confirmation form + entry fee to your teacher. Teachers will mail the confirmation forms + entry fees for all of their students.

**Late fees will accrue** if you mail your confirmation form + entry fee after April 5th, 2017.

**We will post a list of registered students online** at <http://wihist.org/2kOYd3A> We will update the list regularly, but not instantaneously. Don't expect to see your name appear immediately after you register. Give us 2-3 business days before checking in with us.

**STEP 3: Students in the Paper and Website categories must submit their projects by April 5th, 2017.**

**Papers:** Email your papers to [nhdinwi@gmail.com](mailto:nhdinwi@gmail.com). **Include the following 4 items in the body of your email:** the words "State Event," your name, your paper's title, and your division (i.e. Junior or Senior). Attach your paper as a Word document (.doc) or a PDF file (.pdf). **We will NOT accept papers submitted via Google Docs. Your email needs to include your process paper and bibliography as well.**

**Websites:** Publish your websites through the NHD in Wisconsin Website Editor and include your URL in your online registration form. You will be locked out of editing your website after April 5th, 2017 until the State Event is over.

## APPLY FOR SPECIAL AWARDS – DUE APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

**STEP 1:** Review the list of Special Awards enclosed in this envelope.

**STEP 2:** Email a copy of your title page, process paper, thesis, and bibliography to [nhdinwi@gmail.com](mailto:nhdinwi@gmail.com) by April 5th, 2017. ***Include the following 5 items in the body of your email:*** your name, your project's title, your category and division (e.g. "Junior Group Exhibit"), and the name(s) of the Special Award(s) for which you would like to be considered. If you don't include all 5 items in your email, then your project will not be considered. ***Do not include the names of your teacher, school, or hometown.***

# 2017 NHD STATE FINALISTS – NEXT STEPS

We will be hosting virtual workshops for State Finalists that will be posted at a later date. Feel free to email [historyday@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:historyday@wisconsinhistory.org) or [nhdinwi@gmail.com](mailto:nhdinwi@gmail.com) specific questions and NHD staff will respond quickly. We will be posting videos and webinars on our youtube (National History Day in Wisconsin) channel as well! So check us out!

It can be hard to face the prospect of revising a project which already feels “finished.” For most school assignments, you do the work once, and it’s over in a week. NHD is a rare opportunity for middle and high school students to learn what it feels like to redo the same piece of work over and over again throughout the course of an entire year. Don’t lose heart! This ongoing revision process is a good model for what it feels to tackle big projects in the real world outside of school. Wisconsin NHD alumni have compared it to novel-writing, neuroscience, and lots of things in between.

That said, your time is limited. You won’t be able to make all of the changes that you’d like to, as you prepare for the State Event. You should try to prioritize big changes to the content of your project over little changes to the presentation.

## 6 Pieces of Advice of State Finalists

### (1) Re-evaluate your thesis statement.

To get a high score for analysis and interpretation at the State Event, your thesis statement should make a stronger claim than “My topic is an example of the theme.” Instead, it should claim, “My topic’s example of the theme *mattered in history for these reasons.*” Once you’ve settled on a good, strong thesis statement, then you should reevaluate the rest of your project. Look at each piece of it in turn and ask yourself, “Does this piece help to prove my thesis statement?” If the answer is yes, then keep it. If the answer is no, then take it out. Everything in your project should function in support of your thesis statement.

We suggest reviewing these thesis videos and resources found at on our youtube channel, search National History Day in Wisconsin and at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Content.aspx?dsNav=N:1120>

### (2) Choose specific examples of your topic’s connection to the theme.

Don’t throw lots of vague ideas about theme connection at the judges and hope they stick. Commit to one or two specific ways that your topic connects to the theme and use all of your allotted words/space/time to make those connections as clear as possible. **You should use the theme words explicitly in your project.**

### (3) Keep hunting for primary sources.

Your NHD in Wisconsin project began with a “research phase.” To prepare for the regional competition, you’ve since moved into a “presentation phase.” But you shouldn’t let your research phase fizzle out entirely! Use the bibliographies of your secondary sources to keep tracking down new primary sources. Additional research is one of the best ways to improve the quality of your project before the State Event.

Resources can be found at links below:

<https://goo.gl/HvWs8L> and <http://badgerlink.dpi.wi.gov/>

**(4) Remember to place your topic in historical context.**

Before you dive into a detailed explanation of your topic, you should tell your audience about the setting in which the events took place. Where and when does your story start? What trends, policies, or customs were in force there **before** your topic shook things up? Primary sources are very important at NHD in Wisconsin contests, but your bibliography should also include strong secondary source (books, academic journals !) to show that you read widely about the time period in question in order to put your topic into historical perspective.

**(5) Finish with a concluding statement.**

Don't just stop writing when you reach the end of your word/space/time limit. Tie your thoughts back to your main idea. Your concluding statement should be very similar to your thesis statement. Don't end with new claims.

**(6) Rules!**

Remember the rules. Please don't be tripped up and disqualified by a rule infraction. Be sure to double check everything you've done and need to have with you. Use the contest rulebook. The most up-to-date rules are available on the NHD website.

<http://www.nhd.org/GettingStarted.htm>

Make sure you have checked your word counts twice. For examples of what words count and do not count see our rules page. <https://goo.gl/biUR60>