



2024 COMMUNITY REPORT

National History Day in Colorado



Department of History
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

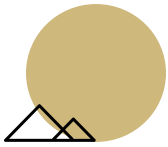
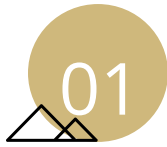


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OVERVIEW

National History Day in Colorado (NHDC) is an affiliate of National History Day, a nationally-acclaimed social studies and literacy program that reaches across interdisciplinary lines to challenge and engage one million students and 40,000 teachers nationwide each year. In Colorado, we reach over 10,000-15,000 students and between 500 and 600 teachers annually.

NHDC is a skills, content, and project-based learning program that teaches students important life-long skills, including:

- Critical reading
- Researching
- Written and oral communication
- Critical thinking
- Analysis
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Time management
- Idea development and defense
- Working within boundaries and guidelines

HOW IT WORKS

- Students choose a topic related to the NHD annual theme.
- Students conduct extensive primary and secondary research using libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews, and more.
- Students develop a thesis and support their argument creatively in one of the following presentation categories: exhibit, performance, documentary, website, or research paper.
- Students can then choose to participate in their regional competition.

IT IS MORE THAN A DAY AND MORE THAN A COMPETITION

National History Day in Colorado supports Colorado classrooms through:

- Professional development and training
- Curriculum development
- Research assistance for students
- Classroom support through interns and volunteers
- Research Rendezvous for teachers and students
- One-on-one contact with experts in students' chosen topic fields (science, literature, drama, civics, technology, engineering, filmmaking, music, politics).
- CU Succeed Course for high school students across the state
- CDE approved Literacy Capstone curriculum
- NHDC Academic Summer Camp

The program aligns with the Colorado Academic State Standards for social studies, literacy, and Colorado Essential Skills (formerly 21st century skills). NHDC is adaptable to any learning setting and any type of learner, from gifted and talented to special needs students. NHDC also promotes civic engagement by enhancing students' understanding of the relationship between past and present.

THE COMPETITIONS

1. REGIONALS

Held during spring semester, NHDC sponsors 12 regional competitions where projects are evaluated for historical quality, relation to theme, and clarity of presentation.

- Aurora/Denver Boulder
- Central Plains
- Charter Schools
- Colorado Springs
- Greater Denver Metro
- Boulder Valley
- Durango/4 Corners
- Northeast (Greeley)
- San Luis Valley
- Southeast (Pueblo)
- Western Slope (Grand Junction)
- Mountain (Steamboat Springs)

2. STATE

Held the last weekend in April, the top three regional winners in each division and category move on to the State Contest. Nearly 700 regional winners competed at the State Contest in 2024. Both middle school and high school students participate, and their work is judged by over 100 trained volunteer judges.

3. NATIONALS

The top two State Contest winners in each division and category (up to seventy students) are invited to go to the National History Day competition held in June at the University of Maryland near Washington D.C. Here they have the opportunity to compete against students from across the country and the world.



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Denver, CO

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Edward Crowther, PhD, Professor Emerita, Adams State University

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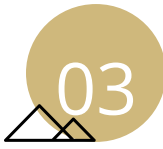
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Dr. Kelly Cvanciger
State Director



Harleigh Sanchez
State Intern



REGIONAL CORNER

During the 2024 Contest Cycle, our Regional Coordinators went above and beyond to transition all regions and competing students back to fully in-person contests. We saw a post-COVID uptick in participation--one that we expect to continue in the 2025 contest season.

National History Day in Colorado is a state-sanctioned literacy capstone project that satisfies state graduation requirements. We offer a CU Succeed dual enrollment course, History 1400 as a virtual course high school students from across the state can complete to receive 3 undergraduate credits.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

SAN LUIS VALLEY
Dr. Edward R. Crowther

BOULDER VALLEY
Gina Scioscia

DENVER/AURORA
Ed Glassman

COLORADO SPRINGS
Kathy Lindeman

GREATER DENVER METRO
Dr. Kelly Cvanciger

GREELEY
Dr. Jamie Fogg

WESTERN SLOPE
Dr. Sean Gallagher

PUEBLO
Dawn Carver

CHARTER SCHOOLS
Paula Worley

DURANGO/4 CORNERS
John Hise

CENTRAL PLAINS
Scott Thomas



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STATE CONTEST

Students competed in one of our regions for a chance to compete in the State Contest on April 27. Following the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2024 marked the third time that NHDC was able to host the State Contest fully in-person on the CU Denver Campus. There were 626 students with 364 projects representing 64 schools in the competition. 64 students qualified to compete at Nationals.

For some students, NHDC was a year-long academic experience. Other students spent a semester or a few months, either during class or as an extracurricular activity working on their History Day projects. Students completed projects based on the annual theme: *Turning Points in History*.

Seniors in high school earn an honor cord after completing their NHD project.



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NATIONAL CONTEST

Sixty-four students representing thirty-six projects from across the state formed "Team Colorado." Our activities included visits to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, a day-trip to Mt. Vernon, tour of the National Mall, and promoting Colorado at the Opening Ceremony.

In addition to our many state champions, special award winners, and national finalist, National History Day in Colorado also had a number of projects place in the top three in their particular heats at the National Contest. The National Contest is incredibly competitive; only one project moves onto the Final Round from each heat.

TEAM COLORADO National Placement

Final Rounds Qualifiers
5th Place—Senior Individual Documentary
Mark Thompson
"Prisoners Have Rights Too: How Fidel Ramos Created a Turning Point in Prison Healthcare"
Denver School of the Arts

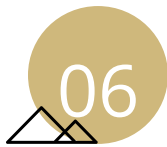
SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Chronicaling America Historian
Riva Linga
Colin Eisner
Michael Zhang
Josie Fugler
Orion MacDonald
Zoe Keith
Ellie Parsons

Outstanding Affiliate
Mark Thompson
Denver School of the Arts

Jessie Yan, Monica Berger, & Sophia Duan
Summit Middle Charter School





PAPER JOURNAL

This year, NHDC released the seventh annual *Paper Journal*. The *Journal* features five student papers from 2024 that competed in the paper category. This year's issue features two papers from the junior paper category.

This year, we partnered with the CU Denver History Department to edit the journal. Each student was paired with a professor who is a subject-matter expert to prepare their paper for publication.

JOURNAL AUTHORS

Zoe Keith

Fairview High School

"The American Sputnik: How Van Cliburn's Tchaikovsky Competition Victory Furthered Harmony in International Relations"

Max Sherman

Summit Middle Charter School

"The Bombing of the King David Hotel: A Turning Point in Palestinian Politics and British Colonialism"

Tim Ryan

Bear Creek High School

"The Canal that Changed the History of Maritime Trade"

Ellie Parsons

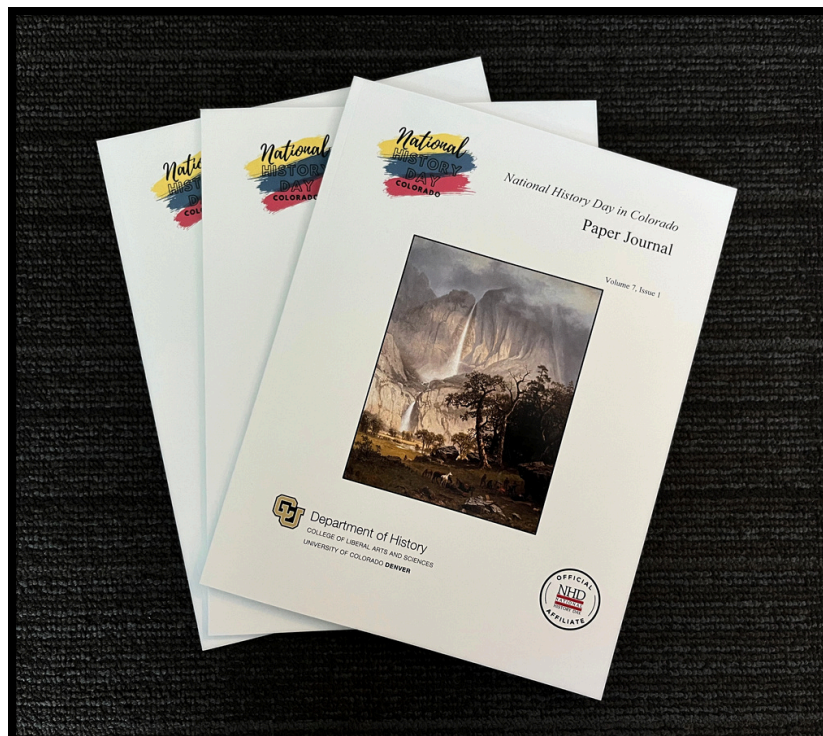
Denver School of the Arts

"A Look Through His Lens: Carleton Watkins' Yosemite Photographs as a Turning Point for Federal Land Preservation"

Iris Holmes

Barone Middle School

"The Discovery of the Carbon 14 Isotope: A Revolution in Science and History"

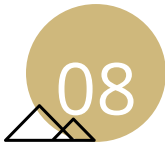


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Curricula Release

In 2024, NHDC published four curricula aligned to House Bill 1192, state legislation that governs content taught in social studies classrooms statewide. In partnership with Colorado Humanities, NHDC highlighted the history of marginalized groups who settled in Colorado. The curricula included the exploration of historic places as it related to the Southern Ute Tribe, the Black America West, Granada Concentration Camp, and the Chicano Movement.





SUMMER & FALL TEACHER INSTITUTES

In 2024, NHDC piloted a summer and fall teacher institute series, focused on keeping teachers in their classrooms, holding teacher seminars during the summer and fall breaks proved a success. Teaming up with our cultural partners, educators came to our beautiful campus at CU Denver and learned how to implement the NHD curriculum into their classrooms. Educators walked away from their experience with resources to be successful, and an action plan to share with their students.

**NHDC
TEACHER
SUMMER**
Institute

July 25-27th 2024

Join us for an all expenses paid weekend of history, learning to teach NHD to your students!

MSU Denver
MOLLY BROWN
History Colorado
CU Denver
Denver Public Library

Only 40 Spots are open, so apply now at nationalhistorydayincolorado.com!



NHD is a wonderful learning opportunity for students and teachers alike. Students get to choose a research topic that appeals to them and start to get real historical research skills. Through doing the project I have been introduced to so many new resources and this will enrich my teaching practice. The three day institute was incredibly useful, fun and informative. I feel confident that I will be able to smoothly guide my students to success both in the NHD Competition and in historical thinking.

-Carolyn Hudson

The 2024 Summer Teacher Institute was a well thought out meaningful experience. I now feel empowered to bring National History Day to my students.

-DC Prince

**2024 NHDC
Teacher Seminar**

September 27th - 28th

Join us at the CU Denver Student Commons Building for an opportunity to teach NHD to your students!

Register by September 1st to reserve a spot!

Questions? Email us at nationalhistorydayincolorado@gmail.com

Sign Up Here



INTERNSHIPS

Each year the NHDC Office pairs undergraduate and graduate students with teachers across the state. These interns work one-on-one with History Day students to develop quality and well-rounded projects. NHDC provides a stipend to all interns across the state. University of Colorado interns are also eligible to receive three hours of undergraduate or graduate credit for their work.

SUPPLY GRANTS

NHDC is proud to continue to be able to offer supply grants to teachers in schools with financial need. In 2024, NHDC invested in making sure all schools had exhibit boards for their students. The exhibit category is often cost prohibitive and providing boards to all schools solved an equity gap, persistent state-wide.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This year's Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to a committed paper judge, Gregory Jones-Albrecht at the 2024 State Contest. Gregory has spent years reading hundreds of students papers from across Colorado.



10 PARTNERS

CULTURAL PARTNERS

Cultural partnerships help support students and teachers by providing valuable resources and opportunities to assist with project research, development, and support. Cultural partners are our best pool for contest judges.

Cultural partners also facilitate:

- Mutual program/organization endorsement
- Cross promotion of workshops, events, and social networking
- Collaboration in teacher/student workshops
- Connections to students, families, and teachers
- Development of site/organization specific programs for NHDC

Black American West Museum
 Buffalo Bill Gravesite & Museum
 Colorado Humanities
 Colorado Women's Hall of Fame
 Denver Public Library
 Denver Westerners Posse
 CU Denver Department of History

History Colorado Center
 Honor Bell Foundation
 League of Women Voters Colorado
 Library of Congress
 Louisville Historical Museum
 University of Northern Colorado
 Molly Brown House Museum
 Optimist Club of Monaco South
 Teaching with Primary Sources at MSU Denver
 Telecommunications History Group, Inc.
 Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum
 Colorado Center for Women's History
 Fort Lewis College
 Adams State University
 Mesa State University

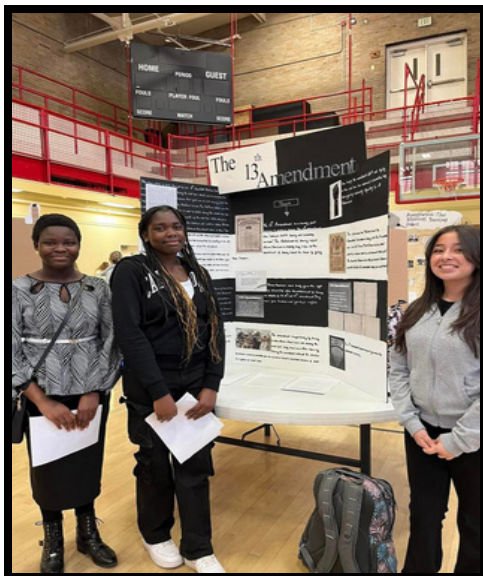


DANIELS FUND

National History Day in Colorado is honored to have been awarded a Daniels Fund grant for the 2023-2024 cycle. This was our fifth time receiving a gift from the prestigious fund--a tribute to the hard work of our students, teachers, coordinators, cultural partners, and many supporters. With this grant, we will be able to develop and continue the following programs and opportunities for NHDC. A strong focus on civic engagement and teaching American history is at the core of this relationship between the Daniels Fund and National History Day in Colorado.

PROGRAMS

- Expanded classroom internships for direct student engagement across the State
- Funding for two office interns to assist with day-to-day functions
- Increased teacher trainings across the state
- Expanded funding for supplies to Title I & Free and Reduced Lunch eligible classrooms
- Increased travel assistance to winning students in Title I & Free and Reduced Lunch eligible classrooms
- Expanded focus on American History and its founding
- Professional development opportunities for educators



12 DATA & OUTCOMES

12 The number of regions NHDC served across the State of Colorado in 2024.

20K The average number of students statewide who annually complete an NHDC project.

626 The number of students who competed at the 2024 NHDC State Contest.

64 The number of schools who sent Regional winners to the State Contest in 2024.

93 The number of teachers who had students qualify for the state contest.

64 The number of students who competed at the National Contest

90% rated History Day as one of their top three learning experiences.

When surveyed, students described NHDC as...

Enriching *Transformative*
Engaging *Inspiring & Thrilling*

91% said that History Day made them believe that they could be successful in college someday.

14 LOOKING FORWARD

We now offer:

- **Literacy Capstone.** *National History Day in Colorado is a state-sanctioned literacy project that satisfies graduation requirements. Visit our website to view our Capstone Guide*
- **CU Succeed Course.** *NHDC now offers a CU Succeed dual enrollment course. The course fosters NHDC skills, and students earn three hours of transferable college credit. The syllabus for this course is also available on our website.*
- **Partner and Resource Curricula.** *NHDC has partnered with various organizations, including the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Honor Bell Foundation, and Colorado Humanities to produce valuable resources for teachers and students to explore local history.*



VOLUNTEERS

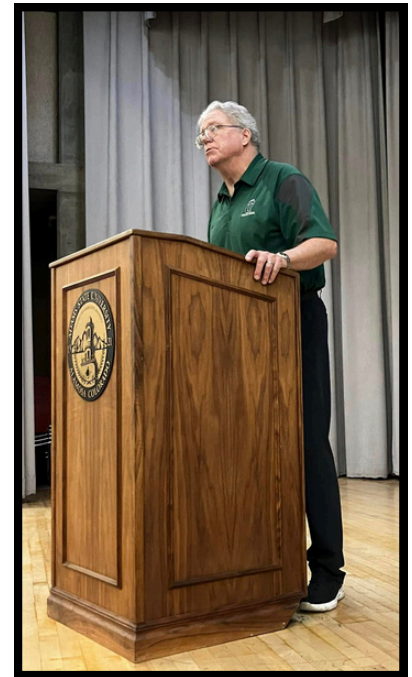
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 Denver Public Library

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