

2026 National History Day in Colorado

State Qualifier Information

State Contest: April 25, 2026, at the University of Colorado Denver on the Auraria Campus
Registration Opens: March 16th @ 8 am via ZFairs, an email from ZFairs will be sent to qualifiers
Registration and Fee Deadline: April 3 @ 5:00 pm via ZFairs

***All members of a group must complete registration individually

***Every project can delete paperwork from their regional contests and upload new paperwork for the State Contest, due April 10th at 5 pm.

***No late registrations will be accepted.

Fees: \$30/per student via ZFairs upon registration. All fees are due by April 3 at 5 pm.

Paper, Documentary & Website Deadline: April 10th at 5 pm via ZFairs

Note: This includes all paperwork: Title Page, Process Paper, and Annotated Bibliographies as one PDF document! Documentary links are submitted via ZFairs and are publicly accessible via YouTube.

Exhibit and Performance Paperwork Deadline: April 10th at 5 pm via ZFairs.

Note: This includes all paperwork: Title Page, Process Paper, and Annotated Bibliographies as one PDF document! Performance links are publicly accessible via YouTube.

Contest Schedule Available Online: April 20th, 2026 @ 5:00 pm

Special Award registration form: Opens April 6th at 8 am, Due April 14th at 5 pm.

Form Link available on the State Contest ZFairs platform, **Participant Main** tab

Important Links!

Everything is located on the State NHDC website home page: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/nhdc/>

ZFairs registration and contest payment: <https://co.nhd.org>

Follow our social media pages for daily updates during the contest season:

NHDC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/COhistoryday>

NHDC Instagram Page: <https://www.instagram.com/nhdcolorado>

Please check your email (and spam folder) regularly for updates and important information!
Emails will populate from the ZFairs email system.





NHD State Contest Information: April 25, 2026



Congratulations! You have qualified to compete at the **National History Day in Colorado** state contest hosted by CU Denver. We look forward to seeing you on April 25, 2026! Best of luck!

Please read through all of the information thoroughly!

If you do not intend to participate in the State Contest, notify your regional coordinator immediately so that an alternate entry can take your place. You have 72 hours to do so after your regional contest.

Attendance is mandatory. No exceptions! Groups must send at least one representative to the interview. Performance groups may not replace a team member once they have entered the contest phase (See Rule 3 in the official Contest Rule Book).

*****Students should expect to be at the State NHD contest from 8am-6pm on Saturday, April 25th, 2026 depending on their category registration times and potential advancement.*****

Online Registration & What to Expect on the Form:

- Go to <https://co.nhd.org> from March 16 to April 3, 2026.
- **IMPORTANT:** Each participant, whether an individual or a group participant, must fill out their own online registration **AND** pay an entry fee. Be sure to fill out your information **completely**.
- We will be communicating entirely via email. Please be sure to include valid student, teacher(s), and parent emails.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY REGISTRATIONS AFTER 5 pm on APRIL 3rd, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Special Awards:

- Many of our partner organizations offer category and/or topic-specific prizes. The judging for the special awards is independent of the normal contest judging process. It is possible that a student who is not a finalist in the standard contest may be able to win a special award! For a complete list of awards, please visit our website.
- The only way for your project to be nominated for a special award is for you to self-nominate on the separate Google form. A complete list can be found on the Google Form located on the participant tab of the State Contest ZFairs and on the website at <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/nhdc/cultural-partners-special-awards>. **You MUST write 2-3 sentences describing why your project is eligible for the award you are nominating yourself to receive. If you do not include these sentences, you will not be eligible for that special award. Please Note: not all awards are offered every contest season.**
- The State Office has the right to withdraw certain projects for consideration for specific special awards if the project does not meet the minimum award criteria. Any project that does not include the 2-3 sentence description of why the project is eligible for a particular award will not be considered. This will not affect the student's project in the overall judging process.

Registration Fees:

There is a registration fee of \$30.00 per participant (not per entry) payable via ZFairs. Please note that we are unable to issue refunds, even in the case of overpayment or cancellation, so be sure to check with your school and/or district to see if they plan to pay your fee. NHDC no longer accepts cash or check payments.

Note to teachers: If your school or district is paying for your students, the school will pay via credit card. This feature exists under the Invoice tab of the Teacher page.

**Please be aware that the State Office is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal property.

At a Glance—What to Expect the day of the State NHD Contest

Location: CU Denver, Auraria Campus, Denver, CO 80204

Parking:

- Please park in the surface lots or the garage by the Tivoli Student Union on 9th St. and Auraria Parkway. See the map included in this packet for the suggested lots.
- Parking fees vary by location, but plan on at least \$8.00-\$30.00.
- **Bus Parking:** Teachers, please notify kelly.cvanciger@ucdenver.edu by April 1st, 2026 if you will be bringing students via bus so that we can arrange for bus parking. Only small buses are permitted in the fee lots.

Check-in:

- Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m. Every student must be checked in by 10am regardless of a late judging time.
- Exhibit registration is from 8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m. only, as the doors to the exhibit hall will close promptly for judging at 9:00 a.m. Check-in is located in the Student Commons Building in the corridor between Rooms #1500 and #1600.
- **Students must check themselves in to receive pertinent contest info, their t-shirt and button.**
- **Students cannot check in other group members.**
- **Parents, teachers, etc. are not permitted to check in students!**
- Students in all categories must check in at the Student Commons Building in the corridor between Rooms #1500 and #1600 at least 45 minutes before their scheduled interview. Interview times will be available on our website after April 21.
- Teacher check-in begins at 8:00am. Teachers will receive student certificates, the state schedule, and a gift from the State office.

Mandatory Interview:

- All participants, or at least one group member, must be present for scheduled morning interviews.
- The following categories do **NOT** have a viewable audience: paper, website, exhibit. Only judges and students are permitted in the room.
- The following categories have a viewable audience: documentary and performance. An audience may be present, but under no circumstances may members of the audience speak to the judges or contestants at any time! Parents, teachers, or family members who engage NHD judges in non-sanctioned questioning or harassment will face removal from the contest.
- Students will have a specific interview time with judges.
- Groups must have at least one representative present at the interview.

Preliminary Judging:

- All projects will be judged in a morning session that begins at 9:00 am.
- Depending on the number of entries, morning judging may be final in some categories and divisions. Please refer to the program to see if this applies to your project.

Mid-Day Activities:

- There is a lot of downtime when students are waiting to perform, be interviewed, or for the preliminary round results. Students and their chaperones are permitted to leave during this downtime to eat or explore Denver.
- We have **NHD FOOD TRUCKS** on site outside the Student Commons Building.
- This year, we have a **GAME ROOM** at the State NHDC contest! The GAME ROOM is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **The exhibit hall will be open for public viewing from 12:00-1:00 pm.**

Final Rounds Qualifiers Announcement:

- Participants are free from the time after their preliminary round interview until finals are posted around 1:15 pm.
- For final rounds, only **Performance** participants are required to be present. Websites, papers, documentaries, and exhibits do not require students to be present for final rounds.
- Final round qualifiers in **ALL categories** will be displayed **ON PAPER** at the registration area of the Student

Commons between rooms 1500 and 1600 between 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

- There will not be interviews in the final rounds.

Awards Ceremony:

- All winners, including special awards, regional awards, and scholarships, will be announced at 5:00 p.m. in the Lola and Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center Gym. Please be prompt.
- Attendance is required.
- Medals will be presented that day for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Post-Ceremony for National Qualifiers: Mandatory Meeting!

- The 1st and 2nd place state winners in each category qualify to compete at the National History Day competition June 4-14-18 , 2026 in College Park, MD. Third place contestants will serve as alternates. National qualifiers will receive more detailed information in their winner's packets following the Awards Ceremony. 1st and 2nd place winners must notify the state office within 72 hours if they are not able to attend.
- Students who receive 1st and 2nd place, as well as their teachers and parents, **must meet with the State Director** for details immediately following the Awards Ceremony in the **Student Commons Building Room 1500. This meeting is mandatory! Forms will be signed by parents and students at this qualifier meeting.**

Judging Forms:

- All student judging forms are available 3 days after the contest via ZFairs unless otherwise specified by the NHDC office staff. The State Office will send any unclaimed participation certificates to the appropriate teacher and/or school the month following the State Contest.

Legal Disclaimer:

*Any contest issues/feedback/complaints must be received in **WRITING** (not via email) via USPS mail within 3 business days of the State Contest. The letter must be sent via certified mail, spelling out the issue after the Rule Book has been read. The State office will respond within 10 business days of the issue/feedback/complaint. No issues/feedback/complaints will be addressed via email or phone calls, per the national policy. By following the rules and knowing where students should be, we should not have any issues. Knowledge of the Rulebook and the NHDC State policies is required before an issue can be addressed.*

Contest Schedule

When	What	Where
8:00-8:45	<p>Check in for Exhibits. Exhibits must FIRST be placed in the Wellness Center then students come to register!</p> <p>All Exhibits are ready to be judged by 8:45. Doors will be shut and locked.</p> <p>Note: students are responsible for checking themselves in after placing their exhibit.</p>	Student Commons Building in the Corridor between Rooms #1500 and #1600
8:00-10:00	<p>Check-in for Papers, Websites, Documentaries, and Performances (Verify your interview time in the program and be sure to check in <u>at least 30 minutes</u> before).</p> <p>Note: students are responsible for checking themselves in, parents may NOT check in students. All students must be checked in by 10am!</p>	Student Commons in the Corridor between Rooms #1500 and #1600
9:00-12:00	<p>Preliminary round judging</p> <p>Students must be present for their scheduled interview (available in the provided program).</p> <p>Note: Performances and Documentaries are open to the public for viewing. Exhibits, Websites, and Papers are closed to the public during judging.</p> <p>Teachers check in at registration and pick up certificates and paperwork from state office</p>	<p>Exhibits: Lola and Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center</p> <p>Performances: North Classroom</p> <p>Documentaries: North Classroom</p> <p>Websites: North Classroom</p> <p>Papers: Student Commons Building-all floors</p> <p>*All locations subject to change.</p>
10:00-4:00	Game Room open!	<p>Student Commons Room #1600</p> <p>Game Room</p> <p>10-4 pm</p>
12:00-1:00	Exhibits open for public viewing	Exhibits: Wellness Center
12:30-1:30pm	ALL final-round qualifiers posted	Student Commons Building walls between Rooms 1500 and 1600, 1 st Floor
1:00-1:30	<p>Exhibits that do not qualify for the final round must be removed.</p> <p>Special award entries must remain in the hall for consideration.</p> <p>Legal Disclaimer: Any exhibits left standing following the award ceremony at 6 p.m. will be disposed of, and the student and school will be billed a disposal fee after the contest.</p>	Lola and Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center Gym
12:30-2:00	<p>Final rounds judging</p> <p>*Students in Performance categories must be present</p> <p>*Remaining categories are closed to the public and do not require student presence</p>	<p>Performances only!</p> <p>Student Commons Building Room # 2400</p>
4:00-4:30	Remove all Exhibits that qualified for Final Rounds & Special Awards	Lola and Rob Salazar Wellness Center
5:00	Awards Ceremony	Lola and Rob Salazar Wellness Center
6:00-8:00 pm	REQUIRED: National Qualifier meeting for qualifying students, parents, and teachers (immediately following Awards Ceremony)	Student Commons Building Room 1500

(Subject to change—check <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/nhdc/> for updates)

Important Deadlines

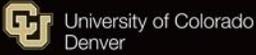
Who	What	When
Teachers	Contact State Office about bus parking	Thursday, April 1st
Students and Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Online registration form filled out ■ Registration fees paid online 	April 3 at 5 pm <u>NO EXCEPTIONS!</u>
Paper Contestants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Paper entry submitted via ZFairs as a PDF document: Title Page, Process Paper, Paper, Annotated Bibliography 	April 10 th by 5 pm
Website Contestants	Websites must be finalized and published by 5pm. Websites will be locked from further edits via WebCentral.	Due April 10 at 5 pm
Documentary, Exhibit, and Performance Participants	Documentary and Performance links must be submitted via ZFairs. Public access on YouTube. Exhibits must upload one photo of the exhibit All paperwork for ALL CATEGORIES submitted via Zfairs as 1 PDF document: Title Page, Process Paper, Annotated Bibliography (see Rulebook pages 18-22, TNR, 12 point font)	April 10 th at 5 pm NO EXCEPTIONS!
Students, Parents, and Teachers	The competition schedule is available online	April 20 at 5 pm
Documentary Participants	Documentaries must bring their personal computer with a dongle if using Apple devices, to connect to the HDMI	April 25, 2026
Students, Parents, and Teachers	State Contest	April 25, 2026
National Qualifier Students, Teachers, and Parents	MANDATORY National Qualifier Meeting Student Commons Building Room #1500	April 25, 2026 6-8pm
Colorado State Delegates with NHDC State Coordinator	National Contest University of Maryland, College Park, MD	June 13-18, 2026



Office of Admissions
 Confluence Building
 303-352-3166
 www.ccd.edu



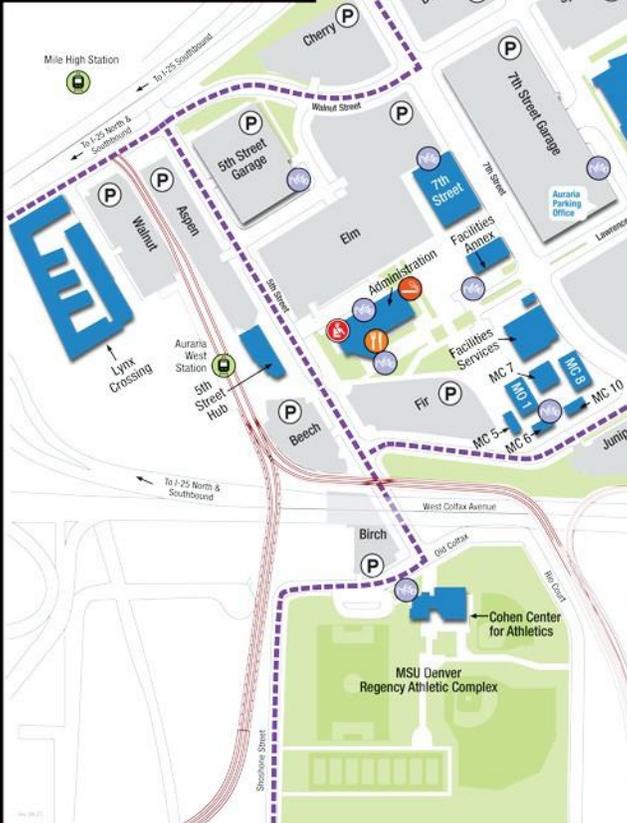
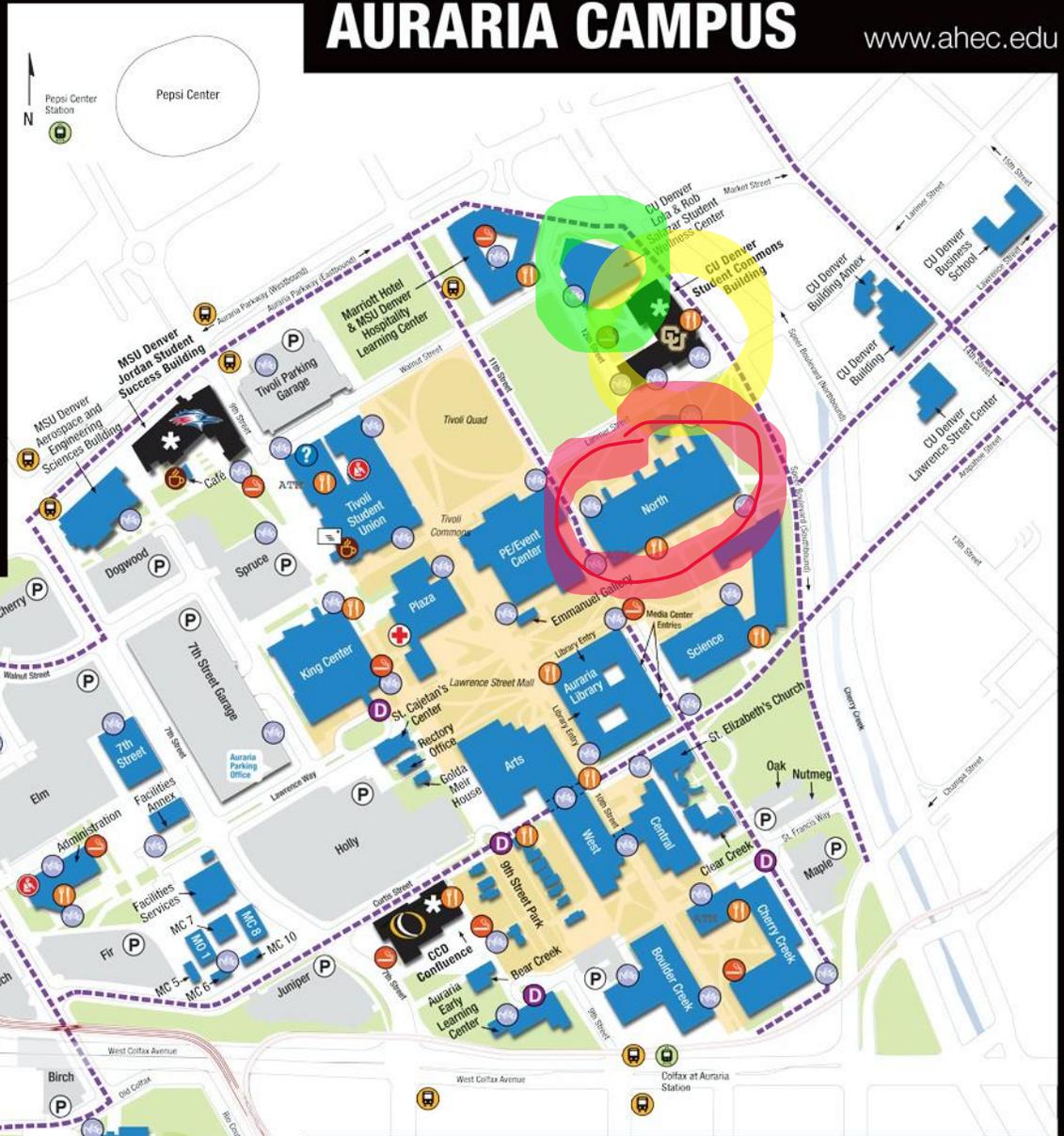
Office of Admissions
 Student Success Building
 303-556-3058
 www.msudenver.edu



Office of Admissions
 Student Commons Building
 303-315-2601
 www.ucdenver.edu

AURARIA CAMPUS

www.ahec.edu



- Admissions Offices
- Information
- Food
- Coffee Location
- Bus Stop
- Light Rail Station
- Bike Route
- Bike Dismount
- Bike Rack
- Parking Garages & Lots
- Drop-off Location
- Mailbox
- Automatic Teller Machine
- Health Center at Auraria
- Smoking Zones
- Auraria Campus Police Department