

## **Judging for the 41<sup>st</sup> Texas History Day Contest Season** **“Communication in History: The Key to Understanding”**

We are gearing up for the 2021 Contest Season, which will be entirely virtual this year, and would like to invite you to judge at our Regional Contests and/or our State competition. Below are some frequently asked questions and more information on the Texas History Day program.

### **What is Texas History Day?**

Texas History Day is sponsored by the [Texas State Historical Association](#). During the 2021 contest year, we will celebrate the academic efforts and achievements of hundreds of Texas students who are participating in the [National History Day program](#). These students have spent months researching historical topics related to the theme that NHD chooses for that contest year. Students have created projects following the guidelines of the National History Day program. There is a Junior and Senior division with each having five categories (Paper, Exhibit, Performance, Documentary, and Website). Paper is the only category that does not have a group project option.

### **What is the theme for 2021?**

"Communication in History: The Key to Understanding". You can view the theme book at this link: [National History Day Theme Book](#)

### **Who can judge?**

For **Texas History Day**, we can use judges from all walks of life – educators, librarians, archivists, museum professionals, park rangers, undergraduate and graduate students, History Day alumni, and even armchair historians. **ANYONE** who loves history, research, or even just the pursuit of knowledge is more than welcome to judge. You do not have to be a history major to participate.

### **Judging Responsibilities:**

Those interested in judging need to register using the link that is next the particular regional or the state contest on Page 3 of the Judging Instructions. Judges can sign up to judge multiple contests, just follow the instructions to Judge Multiple Contests (compare the judging dates on Page 3 to make sure that they don't overlap). Judges will be sent a Judging Orientation Video link that will fill them in on any rule changes they need to know about and how the new evaluations work. Once judging starts, they will sign into their judging account and can view their assigned category entries through the registration system. Judges will be given about a week to look at the entries (which they can do on their own), fill out evaluations (also, on their own), and confer with fellow judges at a time they agreed upon to discuss rankings. Judge #1 (Head Judge) fills out the rankings and submits them.

### **Student Interviews During Judging:**

Unfortunately, there will not be any student interviews due to the virtual nature of the competition since coordinating interview times between three judges and students in an online setting is logistically difficult.

### **What do students say about Texas History Day?**

Texas students love to participate in Texas History Day and National History Day. In this video, you will hear testimonials from students, teachers, and parents who have participated in the past. [Click here!](#)

**Judging for the 41<sup>st</sup> Texas History Day Contest Season**  
**“Communication in History: The Key to Understanding”**

**Why should I judge Texas History Day?**

Texas History Day students work all Fall on researching, analyzing, and developing their projects. Students are able to improve upon their projects before advancing to each contest level of the NHD program and they do this through the judges' evaluations and comments. Through the NHD program, students learn much more than historical facts, they learn how to find and interpret primary sources. They learn how to present their historical argument by using sources from multiple perspectives. The COVID-19 Pandemic forced a lot of academic programs and athletic events to be canceled, but Texas History Day, in partnership with National History Day and their other affiliates, worked hard to make sure students could still compete, even if it was in a virtual/online contest. As a judge, you will see the creativity and ingenuity that Texas History Day students incorporate into their projects in order to showcase their unique topic. This is especially impressive due to the fact that their teachers cannot provide as much guidance in a virtual school type of environment as they usually can during a normal school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Lisa Berg ([lisa.berg@tshaonline.org](mailto:lisa.berg@tshaonline.org)) or Danny Corbett ([thd@tshaonline.org](mailto:thd@tshaonline.org)).