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2026 In-Person Regional Events

Metro Junior West <i>Eden Prairie</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat, March 7 8 am - 1 pm Central Middle School 	Metro Junior Central <i>Minneapolis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon, March 9 4 - 9 pm University of Minnesota, West Bank 	Metro Senior Minneapolis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tues, March 10 4 - 9 pm University of Minnesota, West Bank 	Northeast Duluth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat, March 14 8 am - 1 pm University of Minnesota, Duluth 	Minneapolis Public Schools Minneapolis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat, March 14 8 am - 2 pm New location! North Community High School
Southeast (tentative event) Winona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tue, March 17 4 - 9 pm Winona State University 	Central St. Cloud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat, March 21 8 am - 1 pm St. Cloud State University 	South Central Mankato <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tue, March 24 4 - 9 pm Minnesota State University Mankato 	Metro Junior East White Bear Lake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat, March 28 8 am - 1 pm Mariner Middle School 	St. Paul Public Schools St. Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat, March 28 8 am - 2 pm Harding High School

2026 Virtual Judging Opportunities

We will confirm category judging assignments based on the total number of projects submitted. First priority for selecting virtual judges goes to those judges who are not judging at other Minnesota History Day events.

Limited virtual judging spots will be available. Sign up early!

Research Paper, Podcasts, and Virtual Regional	State Topical Prizes
<p>March 5-18</p> <p>Receive Entries: You will receive an email with links to 8-10 projects in one category, judging instructions, top entry reporting form, judge comment forms and contact information for your judge partner. All materials will be distributed to judges electronically.</p> <p>Review and Discuss Projects: Make contact with your judge partner. Read/view and evaluate the projects. Working with your partner, come to a consensus on the top entries. Each judge will complete their own comment forms on all entries.</p> <p>Submit Results: Report the ranked order of your team's top entries via web form no later than March 18.</p> <p>Return Comment Forms: Completed comment sheets for ALL entries must be submitted by March 20.</p>	<p>April 6-12</p> <p>Receive Entries: You will receive an email with links to 8-10 projects, judging instructions, reporting form, and contact information for your judge partner. All materials will be distributed to judges electronically.</p> <p>Review and Discuss Projects: Make contact with your judge partner. Read/view and evaluate the projects. Working with your partner, come to a consensus on the top entries.</p> <p>Submit Results: Report the ranked order of your team's top entries via web form no later than April 12.</p>

State History Day

Sunday, April 19, 2026 - Minneapolis Convention Center

- First-Round Judging: 8 am - 1 pm
- Final-Round: 1 - 5 pm

“Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History”

“Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History” allows students to explore topics in a wide variety of content areas. Students will explore topics that brought about *change*. They will research topics that may focus on successful change, a failure to change something, or a topic with a mixture of both. Students will need to determine the scope of their project, and are not required to relate to all three theme words, but should make the connection if one exists. They will need to identify multiple perspectives, or differing points of view, to create a strong argument that is based on the research that they complete. They will use the theme to prove why their topic is significant in history.

In-Person Judging: Documentaries, Exhibits, Performances, and Websites

Judging in the Documentary, Exhibit, Performance, and Website categories is done on-site at Regional events and at State History Day. Judges work in teams to view projects and interview students in-person. Judge teams select top entries and provide feedback to all students. Judges in these categories are required to attend the event for which they are registered and will attend a virtual training prior to the event.

Virtual Judging

There are some virtual judging opportunities this year.

- The traditional off-site Research Paper Contest
- One Virtual Regional Contest
- **New:** Podcasts for individual students. This pilot category is only for Minnesota students and they will not be eligible to advance to the National Contest. *Very limited judging spots available.*

In these contests, students will submit digital versions of their projects that History Day will then send to judges.

These judges will review projects over several days and then work with a judge partner to come to a consensus on project rankings by the deadline. Each judge will provide written feedback via zFairs.

Research Papers and Podcasts will have a Semi-Final Round to determine the Finalists that will advance to the State Contest. All other categories may have a Final-Round to determine which entries are eligible to advance to State.

There is no in-person judging requirement for Research Papers & Podcasts and the Virtual Regional Contest.

Are there any special qualifications to be a judge?

There are no required qualifications to judge a History Day event. However, judges should be older than high school age, possess an interest in history, and be comfortable making decisions. Both new and experienced judge are welcome at the Regional level of competition.

- *Due to the high stakes of competition at State, all State-level judges should have previous judging experience (at any level, in any affiliate) at a History Day competition.*

Important Notes for 2026

We continue to provide the best judging experience possible at our events.

- 1. Judge Training:** We will be offering virtual training in advance of contests that all judges will be expected to complete. There will be sessions for new and experienced judge with streamlined information. The day-of an in-person contest, training will be consolidated to focus on logistics. Dates of these trainings will be announced in February.
- 2. Online Evaluations:** Judges will have access to online evaluation forms and student's written materials through zFairs, the History Day contest management system. Judges who wish to submit online written feedback, must provide their own device (laptop or tablet) at the contest. Printed comment sheets will be available for those judges who do not have a device.
- 3. Written Materials in Advance:** Students will be asked to submit their Process Paper and Annotated Bibliography during registration. Judges will receive access to these via zFairs approximately one week prior to the contest if they wish to review them in advance.

What if I judged last year and have a zFairs account already?

zFairs deletes accounts every year, so all judges will need a new one. Due to the number of events that we have and how the system works, History Day staff will create a login for you. Your account information will be shared with you prior to the event, you can change your password at that time if you choose.

How do you handle conflicts of interest?

Judges should notify us of any conflicts of interest when registering, including any schools or students with which they have deep relationships. When assigning judges, we place these judges in categories and divisions in which these schools/students are not participating.

How do I sign up to judge?

Visit mnhs.org/historyday and click on Contests & Judging or go straight to [this online form](#).

Questions?

Contact Kyle Imdieke
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