

# **SAMPLE: 2014 JUDGE RECRUITMENT LETTER**

Dear Friend of History and Education,

You are invited to be a judge at one of the Minnesota Historical Society's 2014 metro area National History Day events. These events are exciting opportunities to be a part of your local students' scholarship and creativity.

The National History Day (NHD) program was started in 1974 as a "science fair" for history, giving students a chance to become real historians. This year, students participating in NHD nationwide are researching topics based on the theme, "Leadership and Legacy in History." At the contests, students present their research in one of five categories: exhibits, performances, documentaries, websites, or papers.

Judges evaluate entries based on historical quality and effectiveness of presentation. Students selected to represent their schools compete at regional events and the top entries chosen by judges advance to the State History Day event at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, May 2, 2015.

History Day judging can be a one-time commitment or you may choose to volunteer on more than one day. Regional events are typically a four-to-five hour commitment. This timeframe includes an orientation to the judging process, the evaluation of students' research and presentation, and time to draft comments.

Judges have a profound impact by providing an opportunity for students to discuss their work and receive feedback from an outside resource. Volunteers also have a tremendous amount of fun in the process.

*"Every time I judge History Day, I come away with the same conclusion—the future is in good hands."*

- Don Hayes, Counselor, Rosemount Middle School

*"My reasons for judging are selfish, really. Every time I judge, I learn a little more about historical events, people, and places. Every time I judge, the kids just 'wow' me with their passion for their topics. And every time I judge, it makes me a little more proud of the generations coming up who realize how history impacts us today. Plus, it's fun, you get a free T-shirt, and lunch!"*

- Becky Tarbox, Executive Assistant, Famous Dave's

To volunteer, complete and return a registration form by February 20. Or, "sign up to judge" by visiting our website at <http://www.mnhs.org/school/historyday/judges>. Your friends can volunteer with you — just pass along a copy of our form. About two weeks prior to your selected event(s) we will provide information about the judging process and the event(s) you have specified. Please contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Samantha Papas  
Program Co-Coordinator  
National History Day in Minnesota