



## 2025 State Contest Special Awards Criteria and Prize Information

Students must pay close attention to each special award criteria. **You may apply for no more than two (2) special awards. Please read the criteria for each award carefully.**

See page 4 below or the State Qualifier packet for application instructions.

### African American History Award

**Award amount:** \$150 (Junior & Senior)

**Award Sponsor:** The Ohio State University Department of History

**Award Criteria:** The Department of History at The Ohio State University offers this award to any outstanding project in the Junior or Senior Divisions that investigates a topic related to the historical contributions of African-Americans in the United States.

### The American Founding Award

**Award amount:** \$250

**Award Sponsor:** Ashbrook Center

**Award Criteria:** An excellent essay related to the study of the Declaration of Independence and/or the U.S. Constitution.

### Environmental History Award

**Award amount:** \$150 (Junior & Senior)

**Award Sponsor:** The Environmental History Initiative at The Ohio State University

**Award Criteria:** The [Environmental History Initiative](#) at The Ohio State University awards this prize to any outstanding project in the Junior or Senior Divisions that explores the impact humans have had on the environment and/or how environmental factors have influenced the course of human history. Projects focused on historic human interactions with the environment, health and disease, technology, or science are eligible to apply. The project may be a paper, exhibit, performance, documentary, or website.



### **First Ladies of the United States Award**

**Award amount:** \$50 for individual or \$100 for group

**Award Sponsor:** National First Ladies Library and Museum

**Award Criteria:** Dive into the fascinating world of our nation's First Ladies. The project may be an awe-inspiring documentary, an essay that sparks curiosity, a cutting-edge website, or a performance that captivates! This award will be given to a project that excels in exploring and presenting the captivating narratives of our First Ladies. Open to both Junior and Senior divisions.

### **George Washington Leadership Prize**

**Award amount:** \$500 (Junior & Senior)

**Award Sponsor:** Washington Library at George Washington's Mount Vernon

**Award Criteria:** Sponsored by the Washington Library at George Washington's Mount Vernon, this award recognizes outstanding projects in both the Junior and Senior categories that demonstrate a clear understanding of the events, ideas, and values defined by Washington's life and leadership. In addition, this award gives consideration to projects that seek innovative and compelling ways of highlighting the relevance of George Washington's actions, leadership, and character to the times in which we live today.

### **The History of Education**

**Award amount:** \$529 savings bond

**Award Sponsor:** CollegeAdvantage

**Award Criteria:** This award is sponsored by Ohio's 529, CollegeAdvantage and is given to one project in any category that focuses on the history of education including in the United States. Priority will be given to projects that focus on Ohio's history of education including but not limited to higher education.

### **National Maritime Historical Award**

**Award amount:** \$150 (Junior & Senior)

**Award Sponsor:** The National Maritime Historical Society

**Award Criteria:** National Maritime Historical Award is given to one outstanding project in each the Junior and Senior categories that explores a topic related to Maritime History. The winners in each division will be awarded a \$150 cash prize (for the individual or to be split among the group), a one-year membership in the National Maritime Historical Society and their name and project will be featured in Sea History magazine and on [www.seahistory.org](http://www.seahistory.org).



### Ohio Academy of History Award

**Award amount:** \$100

**Award Sponsor:** Ohio Academy of History

**Award Criteria:** The award will be given for an outstanding documentary, website or paper on a topic from any area of the world outside of North America.

### The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board History Day Award

**Award amount:** \$100 (Junior & Senior)

**Award Sponsor:** Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board

**Award Criteria:** Eligible projects are individual or group, junior or senior division entries in the categories of papers and websites. Projects must demonstrate exceptional use of Ohio primary sources, either originals or copies (such as digital) and either created in Ohio or held by an Ohio repository. Primary sources represent a first-hand account contemporaneous with the events or people researched.

### Ohio Local History Alliance Award

**Award amount:** \$100 (Junior & Senior)

**Award Sponsor:** Ohio Local History Alliance

**Award Criteria:** This award is presented to one Junior and one Senior project that most successfully meet the following criteria: 1. The project is focused on an Ohio local history topic or a topic of national or world history that draws a significant connection to Ohio or a community within Ohio. 2. The project uses archival or object collections found within an Ohio historical society, museum, or library.

### Ohio Pride History Award

**Award amount:** \$250

**Award Sponsor:** Equitas Health

**Award Criteria:** The Pride History Award, sponsored by the Equitas Health Institute, will be awarded to an outstanding project in the junior or senior division, in any category, focused on the history of the LGBTQ+ community on a national or state/local level. Student projects must clearly reflect the theme of History Day and demonstrate balanced research and a clear understanding of the topic and its place in history.



### Ohio Women in Government Award

**Award amount:** \$100 (Junior First Place), \$50 (Junior Second Place), \$100 (Senior First Place), \$50 (Senior Second Place)

**Award Sponsor:** League of Women Voters of Ohio

**Award Criteria:** The Ohio Women in Government Award is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Ohio for outstanding Ohio History Day projects, in any category, that focus on the women's suffrage movement in Ohio and/or an Ohio woman leader in government. Project must be well-researched and include accurate citations in the bibliography. Project may be a paper, exhibit, performance, documentary, or website.

### Society of Ohio Archivists Award

**Award amount:** \$100 (Junior & Senior)

**Award Sponsor:** Society of Ohio Archivists

**Award Criteria:** The award is given to a project that demonstrates exceptional research and use of primary sources to include at least two of the following: letters, speeches, diaries, newspaper articles from the time, oral history interviews, documents, photographs, artifacts, or anything else that provides a first-hand account about a person or event. History Day Project winners must have used primary resources on site at a research institution housing those materials. All primary sources must be cited accurately in the bibliography of the paper.

## Special Awards Application Instructions

*Must be emailed by April 8, 2025*

To be considered for an award, please complete the following:

1. Select the special award(s) you'd like to be considered for when you register on the contest portal: <https://oh.nhd.org/>.
2. Email the following to [historyday@ohiohistory.org](mailto:historyday@ohiohistory.org):
  1. **Special Award Cover Sheet**
    - a. The PDF cover sheet can be found at <https://oh.nhd.org/> on the Student's Main Page or at <https://www.ohiohistory.org/education/ohio-history-day/contest-information/> under the Special Awards tab.
  2. **A PDF copy of your Written Materials** (process paper & annotated bibliography)
  3. **The version of your project you would like to be considered for the special award.** This may include a link to a website, copy of a paper, a performance script or recording, a documentary link or recording, or a photo or the text of an exhibit.