Texas History Day Students Shined at National Contest

Last June seventy-seven Texas students represented the Lone Star State at the annual National History Day competition, a five-day event for students in grades six through twelve held in College Park, Maryland. Each of those students qualified to represent the Lone Star State last April at the Texas History Day competition in Austin. Drawn from across Texas, these students spent countless hours conducting research, writing, and developing their projects. This year’s theme, “Conflict and Compromise in History” inspired students to produce superb individual and group projects in the forms of papers, performances, documentaries, exhibits, and websites to showcase their historical research.

Five students from Texas earned a national third place for their Senior Group Exhibit on “The Chamizal Dispute: A Century of Conflict.” Raymundo Barrera, Roland Reyes, Abigail Tack, Isaiah Thomas, and Hector Torres of Nimitz High School triumphed over tremendous competition. National History Day involves more than 3,000 students from 50 states, 3 territories, the District of Columbia, and several affiliates in other countries who compete for top honors in history research and presentation skills. Having graduated only a few days before the NHD contest, the Nimitz students stated they were ecstatic to have “finally reached the promised land” of a win at NHD.

“We are so proud of the students who represented Texas. All had very strong showings at National History Day. The fact that 17 percent of Texas entries ranked 10th in the nation or better and 60 percent of our entries placed 5th or better in first-round judging is an outstanding achievement and a marked improvement in the state’s overall results,” stated Mary Katherine Marshall, TSHA Director of Education Services.

The Texas History Day program, the largest affiliate of National History Day with nearly 65,000 participants statewide in 2018, promotes student research, writing, interpretation, and project development. Students compete at local and regional levels to advance to the annual state-level competition held in Austin in April.

In partnership with the Bullock Texas State History Museum and The University of Texas at Austin, TSHA produced Texas History Day on April 28 at venues at the Museum and the University. Students from across Texas presented outstanding papers, websites, documentaries, performances, and exhibits and vied for the honor of representing the state at National History Day. For information about state and national winners, visit TSHAonline.org/education.

TSHA has produced Texas History Day since its inception in 1980 and was instrumental in both the development and growth of the National History Day program. TSHA is deeply grateful to H-E-B Public Affairs, which provided generous assistance in support of the success of Texas History Day. The company states that H-E-B has contributed to worthy causes throughout Texas and Mexico for more than 110 years and continues to support the community as strongly as ever. To help them maintain that tradition, they ask TSHA to encourage our members to visit their nearest H-E-B store.
Texas students presented an award-winning entry at each of three special recognition events on June 13th in Washington, D.C., during the National History Day competition. The seven Texas students who earned this trifecta of honors were specially chosen to present their National History Day entries at events in the nation’s capital.

Mussarrat Rehman of Renaissance Academy in Austin was one of only 36 students to represent National History Day at the National Endowment for the Humanities on the Hill event. She met with Members of Congress in the U.S. Capitol and told elected officials from Texas and other states about her website entry, “The End of the Game of Thrones.” NHD officiants chose Rehman for the honor because of quality of her project, her character, and her presentation skills. The National Endowment for the Humanities, funded by the U.S. Congress, coordinates the event.

Gloria Conaster of Waco High School in Waco ISD showed her documentary, “Three-fifths to Thirteenth: The American Compromise for Black Livelihood,” at the National History Day Showcase at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. A committee of NHD and NMAAHC representatives selected this documentary about an important African American history topic on the basis of its quality and context.

The Smithsonian Museum of American History displayed “The Chamizal Dispute: A Century of Conflict” prepared by Raymundo Barrera, Roland Reyes, Abigail Tack, Isaiah Thomas, and Hector Torres of Nimitz High School in Aldine ISD. As museum visitors examined the exceptional NHD exhibit, its creators shared their insights into this important part of Texas history with visitors to the museum. As previously reported, the Senior Group Exhibit later won third place at NHD.

“We are proud of these students and we share in their excitement that Texans participated in all three special recognition events while representing our state at the national contest,” stated Mary Katherine Marshall, TSHA Director of Education Services, “The Texas students who have earned these honors have developed outstanding entries and superior presentation skills. The Members of Congress and the public were impressed with the students’ knowledge and depth of perception in showcasing historical events and people.”

MyTSHA—A user dashboard tailored for you

Rolling out in August, MyTSHA will enable members and non-members to flexibly manage their TSHA experience. With MyTSHA members can:
• Access all TSHA eBooks
• Save an unlimited number of Handbook of Texas entries for future access
• Manage their membership experience
• And much more

These features are just the beginning. More content, such as a member forum, TSHA event integration, and Legacy of Texas shop integration, will be added in the future. Look for an email in the coming weeks with the announcement and user instructions.
**Will he set a world record?**

TSHA Board Member Andrew Torget may become a part of history if he secures a Guinness World Record title. Torget, history professor at the University of North Texas, will begin his attempt to give the world’s longest history lesson at 9 a.m. on August 24.

“It sounds a bit crazy, but the plan is to cover the entire breadth of Texas history, from cavemen up to the present, in a single nonstop lesson,” Torget explained. “Our driving goal is to raise awareness and support for all the tremendous work that the UNT Libraries do in preserving historical records from the Texan past and making them freely available online.”

The public is invited to witness the lesson, which will be presented in the University Union Lyceum at UNT. About 45 “students” are expected to be in attendance at the start, and the class will conclude at 3 p.m. the next day. As long as 10 people are actively engaged throughout the lesson, the record will be valid. Independent witnesses will also be present to ensure Guinness’s criteria are met.

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**Texas Legends**

This fall, TSHA will actively promote a planned giving campaign. Texas Legends represents and honors those who make a planned gift to support the programs that are key to fulfilling TSHA’s mission to further the appreciation and understanding of the rich and unique history of Texas. Those who are Texas Legends will accomplish that in perpetuity. We hope you will join them.

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**Popular Online Game Returns in September**

We hope you used the summer to study Texas history to be ready for the Texas History Challenge online game, which is FREE to play. Compete with friends, family, classmates, and others to see who knows Texas history best. Each month beginning September 4th, new quizzes will be unlocked on different Texas history topics. Students and adults can win prizes monthly. Teachers can log in to keep track of their students’ progress.

[TSHAonline.org/texas-history-challenge](http://TSHAonline.org/texas-history-challenge)

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**Annual Meeting 2019**

Join us in Corpus Christi for TSHA’s 123rd Annual Meeting

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, Feb. 28 – March 2, 2019.

- Meeting registration and hotel reservation information will be available December 3.
- Mark your calendar for three full days of Texas history and exciting new events!
- Meeting information at TSHAonline.org/annual-meeting.

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**Call for Proposals**

The 2020 Program Committee asks for proposals for sessions and papers for the 2020 Annual Meeting to be held February 27 – 29, 2020, in Austin. Proposals must be received by Feb. 1, 2019.

For full details and a program worksheet, visit: TSHAonline.org/annual-meeting
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Emilia de Zavala, and Bessie Coleman serve as a few examples. Like them, the founders of TSHA faced challenges as they began

We are proud to thank the following individuals and organizations:

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Your gifts—large and small—are helping TSHA persevere as it has done for more than 121 years.

We appreciate those who have come to our aid in response to urgent requests from TSHA President Sarita Hixon and others. Because of their help TSHA can persist in fostering the appreciation and understanding of the rich and unique history of Texas. We are proud to thank the following individuals and organizations:

Dr. Joseph C. Abel
Ms. Linda Adair
Mrs. Norma Alexander
Ms. Kathryn Anderson
Mr. Kevin Anderson
Ms. and Mrs. Claudia Anderson Hooper
Mrs. Charla Anderson Hooper
Ms. Janet Ansley
Mr. James C. Arcidiacono
Mr. Lorenz Armstrong
Mrs. Erika Arredondo-Haskins
Mr. Kay Arzenhofer
Mr. Cliff Avery
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Dr. Nancy E. Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Barna-Lloyd
Dr. Juliana Barr
Dr. Aleya Barr
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Mr. George Iliffe

Texas history abounds with heroes who worked through obstacles. Coronado, Quanah Parker, “Dad” Joiner, Dorie Miller, Adina Emilia de Zavala, and Bessie Coleman serve as a few examples. Like them, the founders of TSHA faced challenges as they began this 121-year-old organization. After examining the failures of other state history societies, they pushed through to reach a consensus on a then-novel idea of the membership base. They were certain the Association would thrive with a mix of academic and nonacademic historians with a shared passion for Texas history. As the founders worked into the night at the Capitol on March 2, 1897, the building lights shut off. Again they persisted, continuing the meeting with the light of two lanterns to its conclusion and the formation of TSHA. The founders’ success carries on to this day.

Your gifts—large and small—are helping TSHA persevere as it has done for more than 121 years.
Join these Texas stars in supporting TSHA. Your help will make a difference in the perseverance of promoting Texas history.

Visit TSHAonline.org/donate or call (512) 471-2600.

We offer single and recurring gift options.
Hometown Teams scores big wins

Through a partnership with the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street, TSHA has present-ed Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape Ameri-ca to rave reviews and winning crowds at four towns across Texas. Students can connect local history to the exhibit and highlight sports stories from their own communities. Local sports figures often attend the exhibit openings that frequently include a tailgate party. Currently in Edinburgh, Hometown Teams will make stops in Abilene, Odessa, and Canadian in the fall.

Visit TSHAonline.org/hometownteams for a complete schedule.
The Handbook of Texas Women Project, announced at the 2017 Annual Meeting, is on track to publish its third eBook. The stand-alone volume will contain biographies and topics to highlight the role of Texas women in the suffrage movement and the long road to voter equality. TSHA will release the special edition eBook in June 2019 to commemorate the centennial of the Texas ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Once the amendment was ultimately ratified at the federal level in August 1920, it provided women with the long-awaited right to vote nationwide, but the struggle to gain full voting rights continued. The coming eBook will give greater insight into the Texas people and events in the suffrage movement and the subsequent quest for voter equality.

The multi-year project will culminate with the online publication of the Handbook of Texas Women in August 2020, as our nation celebrates the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in the United States. Jessica Brannon-Wranosky, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Digital Humanities and History at Texas A&M University-Commerce, is the Project Director.

Brannon-Wranosky and her team have developed a comprehensive plan for the expansion of subjects, people, events, and places to more completely tell the extraordinary contributions of women to the history of Texas.

The remarkable progress on the project is most visible with the release of the FREE Women Across Texas History Content Bundle. The new bundle includes volumes 1 and 2 in the Women Across Texas History eBook series, several articles from the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, and also information from the Texas Almanac website. Every topic covered in the eBooks represents one of the large number of new or updated entries that will be part of the Handbook of Texas Women spin-off.

The Handbook of Texas Women Project microsite offers eBooks, downloads, and more, including an interactive world map that shows the reach and influence of Texas women. Clicking within the map provides information about the women and links to Handbook entries.

The project needs your help.
As the team nears the project’s milestones, additional funds will aid with research and staffing costs. Your donation will advance the success of the Handbook of Texas Women.

Download the Handbook of Texas Women Bundle and Donate at: TSHAonline.org/tx-women-bundle
The term “riding line” refers to the practice of cowhands who rode along ranch boundary lines and checked fence integrity. As riders encountered others from neighboring properties, they exchanged news. For those in isolated areas, this was the handiest source of current events.

The Riding Line is published quarterly by the Texas State Historical Association as an update for its members. The adoption announcement appears on the county or town page on the Texas Almanac’s website at TexasAlmanac.com. Use an adoption to highlight a special person or group, a school or class, a business, or yourself. Claims can be made for up to five years, and custom messages can specify if the adoption is “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone special.

The Great Texas Land Rush’s website lets adopters easily search for available counties and towns. With just a few clicks, users can Adopt-A-County on the Texas Almanac website for $200, or Adopt-A-Town on the website for $25. The Official Texas Almanac Certificate of Adoption can be printed immediately or emailed to recipients for easy and instant gifts.

Stake your claim today at GreatTexasLandRush.com.