



Chicago History Fair | Chicago History Museum
1601 N Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614
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May 2018

Dear Education Supporter:

The student bearing this letter has been selected to represent Illinois as a participant in the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition at the University of Maryland in College Park, June 10-14, 2018. This is an important honor for the student, their school, their community, and their state. This student is seeking support for participation in the national event. I hope that you will be able to recognize the student's achievement by assisting them with their travel and housing expenses.

National History Day is a nationally acclaimed academic enrichment program that promotes civic engagement and the study of history in grades 6-12. NHD encourages students to take a creative approach to studying history and recognizes student work in public events (similar to science fairs). In the process, students learn research, writing, and communication skills and learn how an understanding of the past helps them understand today and shape the future. Participating students develop research papers, exhibits, documentaries, websites, and performances based on topics related to an annual theme. The 2018 theme is "Conflict and Compromise in History."

National qualifiers are selected by panels of educators, historians, and community members at the annual Illinois History Day held at the Bank of Springfield Center. The Illinois History Day, coordinated by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, in cooperation with the Chicago Metro History Fair at the Chicago History Museum, features the work of more than 2,000 young historians. These students have already advanced from highly competitive school and regional fairs held around the state. The students selected to attend National History Day have earned a special honor. They serve as ambassadors for Illinois throughout the competition, interacting with students from other states and meeting with legislators. All students who attend the national event incur costs for travel, housing, and meals, approximately \$1,000 each. Many of these students require community assistance in order to participate at the national level. I hope that you will be able to share in the enthusiasm and scholarship demonstrated by these students and teachers by assisting them with these expenses. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Director, Chicago Metro History Fair