

# Hosting your Schoolwide Virtual History Fair



Once you and your students have done all the hard work of producing your History Fair projects you will want an opportunity to present these projects to the whole school and decide which projects will represent your school at the History Fair regional competitions. At the school fair, keep the spirit of accomplishment high and recognize the students' achievements. Invite the school and local community to enjoy, learn from, and celebrate the students' projects too. Planning for the school fair can begin months or weeks before the actual event.

## INITIAL PREPARATION

### Setting the date:

Start by finding the Project Registration Due date for your division and work backwards from there. You will want your school fair to be complete with results decided in time for you to register your school's advancing projects by the due date.

### Organizing the Projects:

This year all projects will be submitted and judged digitally. You will need to find a system that enables you to distribute projects to judges, then allows judges to view, evaluate and rank the projects.

We suggest using google drives folders and sharing them with the judges.

- Collect students' projects virtually
- Arrange them into groups of 4-5 into a google folder to be shared with judges
- Share the folder with the judges

## JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS

Decide early how you will select the projects that will advance to the regional competition and what role the School History Fair will play in that process.

- how long will it take to judge?
- Will your judges confer live, via email or what?"
- Consider how many projects you have and assume that you will need at least two judges working with each project.
- Do you have many projects? It may take several days to judge and tally the top projects, so be sure to leave plenty of room in your schedule before the History Fair due date.

### Start recruiting judges as soon as dates are decided.

- The judges' responsibility will be to evaluate the projects from your school so that you can choose which projects advance to the regional History Fair.
- The judging process follows NHD guidelines and criteria. Judges will use the NHD Rubric style evaluations forms and then agree on a ranking of projects they have judged. We recommend at least two judges for each project and assigning the judges about 5-6 projects to evaluate.
- It is important to try and mitigate biases, to create the fairest possible outcomes, we suggest covering the student's names and keeping this in mind when separating projects into groups.
- You will take the judges rankings and choose the top projects to enter into the regional fair

## **RECOGNITION & AWARDS:**

Produce recognition certificates for all participating students. You may want to give ribbons or another type of prize to the top projects in each category; though a class treat might be nice as well. In addition to the projects that will advance to the Regionals, consider giving certificates or prizes for other type of strengths: best design, best use of primary sources, most scholarly summary statement form, most dynamic title, etc.

## **INVITATIONS & PUBLICITY**

Be a show-off! While this will not be an in person fair, you can reach out to different groups to judge and or look at projects. Invite the principal and other administrators from your school, the PTA or Local School Council members and students' parents. Go into the larger community and invite the district or area officers—particularly those responsible for social studies. Ask the school newspaper or writer's club to write your press releases. Be sure to get a story in your own school's newspaper. Ask the principal or administration to announce the History Fair on the school's public marquee—and to congratulate the students who are advancing to the Regionals. Bring the community into your school too! Send invitations or press releases a few weeks ahead of the date of the school fair. Contact local newspapers, radio and TV stations as well as district newsletters/updates. Some of this publicity may assist you later with raising funds, sponsorship and/or getting judges

Do remember these are just suggestions, you are in charge and as the teacher you have the final say in how your projects are selected!