

What Teachers are Saying About Participation in National History Day

For more than 25 years, National History Day has been a catalyst for teachers interested in:

Engaging All Students

"National History Day has become one of my most valued tools as a teacher...it excites in students who are less willing and/or able to excel in traditional learning modes an interest and love for learning. Year after year I have observed these students and noticed a boost in their self esteem and test scores."

Barbara Allen, Denver, CO

"National History Day has given me the opportunity to challenge my advanced students."

Danny Corbett, Copperas Cove, TX

"My class is made up of students from very diverse backgrounds, both economically and culturally, and every student raved about their NHD experience. My school not only uses the program as a teaching device in the classrooms, but it is a real school/community program."

Cynthia Mostoller, Washington, D.C.

Meeting Standards and Enriching the Classroom

"After participating in NHD I will never look at another history textbook in the way I did before. Now I see the textbook as a jumping off point. I know we can study the textbook summaries of history, put our finger down on any spot and say, "Let's look into this some more." Even with my seventh graders our class discussions have become much more analytical. I still want them to know the date of the Declaration of Independence, but just as importantly I want them to be able to articulate the impact of that declaration."

Ardie Nelson, Sandstone, MN

"National History Day has improved thinking skills, kept kids' interest levels high and allowed for individuality."

Kathy Paul, Clive, IA

"National History Day has raised the level of student performance and permitted students to achieve beyond their expectations."

Peter Schutzler, Allentown, PA



Developing Lifelong Skills in Students

"NHD is the only program where students use a great deal of research to synthesize information and produce a product. It is the only program where students have to truly know their subject, write well, be interviewed and know about research."

Rob Darrow, Clovis, CA

"The NHD program encourages students to use their creativity and explore their interests. My students have become interested in all kinds of computer technology, videography, and dramatics because of NHD. The program has really helped me to meet technology standards and provide structure for my students' Internet research."

Sharna Clark, Klamath Falls, OR

"National History Day allows students to study one topic in-depth and excel in an area where their interest and talents lie."

Jane Ray, Fort Collins, CO

Making History Real to Students

"Students understand that the lives of their parents, grandparents—and their own lives—have value that should be shared."

Melinda Casteel, Stillwater, OK

"I have been able to connect history to the real world for my students."

Christine Hill, Deridder, LA

"Students pick a topic that interests them and go through the process of tracking down a range of primary sources about that topic. They find out that history is about learning about people, something most of us are interested in."

Doug Taber, Madison, NE

"I design my class around the National History Day program; that's how important it is to me."

Leslie Prisbell, Vail, CO

Parents Say Why They Appreciate National History Day

For more than 25 years, National History Day has been connecting communities to the education process. Here is what parents say about NHD:

"Thank you so much for the National History Day program. Our son Alex had his teacher conferences last evening and we received the results from his Iowa Basic Skills test. His composite score jumped from an 8th grade level last year to a 12th grade level this year. His dad, Kevin, and I attribute the improvement to his participation in National History Day. The program has really challenged and engaged his learning skills, especially reading. Thank you so much for providing this program to our student. Yeah, NHD!"

Dee Cahill, Des Moines, IA

"NHD projects have allowed our daughter to better understand the process of translating research information and data into an organized presentation. Through this process she has learned that historical research and analysis requires personal discipline and hard work. Through NHD our daughter and family are being offered a significant learning experience through contact with students and families from other parts of the country. Exposure to this diversity is especially important for us as we strive to teach our children the multi-faceted nature of our country."

Michael Munekiyo, Wailuku, HI

"An event such as NHD pulls a family together."

Dawn and Greg Brannon, Phoenix, AZ

"Preparing for History Day is like putting together a huge jigsaw puzzle. Each piece of information uncovered brings a clearer understanding of the whole. The process of research brings history to life and makes the topic very real and personal to the students."

Leslie Odelber, Korbel, CA

"History Day has allowed my child to explore and experience history with a 'hands on approach' unequaled by other educational programs. My child has gained research skills that will benefit her throughout life. The entire family learns about history through each topic that is researched"

Shanette Hoyle, Carl Junction, MO

"Our children have learned many lessons that will help them with future projects. They have learned how to network, research well, and conduct successful interviews. This knowledge will surely benefit them not only throughout their academic years but also in whatever careers they choose."

Evi Lawrence, Bismark, ND



"As parents, we are very pleased that our children had the opportunity to participate in NHD and have such a quality experience as part of their education"

RoseMarie and Vincent Gimbalvo, New City, NY

"In preparing for the NHD contest my daughter got into research, reading, writing, science – you really cover the essential learning skills through the program."

Crystal Ferlisi, Manhattan, KS

"It was great for our daughter to discover how her dad's work world and her grandfather's intersected. My husband learned a lot about what his company does from our daughter's project. In fact he has used Hannah's research in some of his speech writing for work."

Susan Moos, Minneapolis, MN

"NHD has provided great opportunities for family vacations/adventures as we researched the various topics. It has increased my awareness of local businesses and historical institutions; and provided my children with essential social skills, as they have had to work with and interact with members of their group and community."

Tim Randolph, UT

"I was thinking that NHD was going to be a lot of work for my daughter and for me to take her to the library, etc. I've got three kids and all of them are very busy. I told her I don't think we can do this. Then she said, 'but, Mom I want to learn about my family.' NHD has been not only a learning experience for her, but for our entire family. My daughter is really beginning to appreciate her heritage because of NHD."

Anne Lewis, Bradenton, FL

Student Participants Say Why They Appreciate National History Day

For more than 25 years, National History Day has been enriching the lives of every kind of student. Here is what some of these diverse students say about their NHD experience:

Engaging All Students

"I learned a very important life lesson through the NHD program – that despite my struggle with dyslexia, hard work and creativity go a long way towards achieving academic success. NHD was the first school project that I really learned from– it wasn't easy but my verbal skills and writing have greatly improved."

Danny Thau, Washington, D.C.

"I was an average student – there were a lot of "A" students ahead of me. National History Day became a source of strong confidence for me. It merited me more respect among my peers, family, and community. People wanted to hear what I had to say; I was able to share the stories I discovered and the understandings my research revealed. To this day, this to me is the greatest grand prize that comes from studying history--being able to share it with others."

Larry Rivers, Tallahassee, FL

"For those who don't like the boredom of usual classes, NHD gives them an opportunity to learn with hands-on research and apply what they learn to everyday life. NHD give students the thinking skills and investigative approach they will need throughout life."

Daniel Schafer, Cheshire, CT

"It's so much better than reading [history] out of a book. You learn so much about a topic; you become an expert!"

Stacy Peeler, Bakersfield, CA

Gaining Skills for life

"The NHD program has been very important to me because it gave me a chance to find a topic that I enjoy, research it, and share what I learned with other people. I designed a web site based on my project because I wanted to share my research."

Courtney Baalman, Wichita, Kansas



"NHD is an exhilarating experience! The skills I learned have helped me tremendously at Harvard."

Amma Gharthey-Tagoe, Manhattan, KS

"NHD isn't about winning or losing – it is so much more. The skills I gained I know will help me get into college and I had a lot of fun at all of the contests. I made some friends that I think I will have my whole life."

Audra Margitan, Darien, IL

"My Iowa Basic Skills test scores increased dramatically because of the skills I learned through National History Day."

Alex Cahill, Des Moines, IA

"NHD served as a catalyst for me to focus on my interest in history and government – the two areas I draw on the most in my profession. NHD helped me learn how to research and present my ideas with clarity."

Rep. Richard A. Hodges, Ohio State Legislature

Making Learning Fun

"NHD has made history real to me. Instead of just reading about it, I researched my topic and went to the place where it actually happened. Interviewing people who were actually there helped put this part of history in better perspective."

Stevie Wood, Little Rock, AR

"Competing in National History Day was a wonderful experience. Before starting my project, the Holocaust was just...history, but after researching original documents and talking to people who actually participated in these events, I gained a new perspective on history, and it really came alive for me. This program made me want to learn. My exhibit was even publicly displayed and is now on permanent exhibit at Swarthmore College."

Leah Rusinko, Newark, DE