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AWARDS ANNOUNCED FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CONTEST- ARIZONA STUDENTS HONORED

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On June 15th, awards were presented for the 43rd annual National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. National History Day is a yearlong academic competition for middle and high school students focused on the teaching and learning of history. **More than 600,000 students** from around the world competed in five categories: documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites. **The top entries from 57 affiliate members** were invited to the national contest held June 12th through 15th. **Over 3,000 middle and high school students** presented their work related to the **2017 theme, *Taking a Stand in History***. Contestants represented all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia.

Arizona's affiliate member, National History Day in Arizona (NHDAZ), is coordinated by the **Arizona Historical Society** and is supported in part by a grant from the Historical League Inc. This year **nearly 400 students from around Arizona** including the Greater Phoenix Area, the Greater Tucson Area, Flagstaff, Sierra Vista, Kingman and Yuma participated in NHDAZ. **Fifty of these Arizona students** earned the chance to compete in the National History Day Contest in College Park, Maryland; many returned home with an award or special recognition.

1st Place in Junior Individual Website

This year National History Day in Arizona is excited to announce - Saba Shakir, from New Vistas Center for Education in Chandler, took 1st Place out of 100 entries in the Junior Individual Websites division/category. Saba's project was titled "**The Silent Stand: Tinker vs. Des Moines,**" and her teacher was **Stacey Trepanier**. [See her website here: http://22570218.weebly.com/](http://22570218.weebly.com/).

Two Arizona students received Outstanding State Entry Awards. **Aidan Scott** from Heritage Academy Gateway in Mesa received the **Junior Division Outstanding State Entry Award** for his **Junior Historical Paper** titled “William Tyndale: A Stand for the Common Man”. His teacher was **Christie Higgins**. This year’s **Senior Division Outstanding State Entry Award** went to **Frankie O’Neill** for her **Senior Individual Documentary** project titled “Show Boat: Navigating the River of Racism.” Her project took **7th place nationally** in the Senior Individual Documentary category. Frankie is from Westwood High School in Mesa and her teacher was **Brian Buck**. Her documentary can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avHnFWZzWwM> .

National Museum of American History

Neera Patel, a sixth grader from **Chandler**, was selected to exhibit her **Junior Individual Exhibit**, “Taking a Stand Amidst Terror”, at the **National Museum of American History** on Wednesday, June 14th. During regular museum hours Neera was visited by museum guests, National History Day students and families and discussed her exhibit regarding the role of Sophie Scholl in the White Rose resistance group in Nazi Germany.

“Once again, I am amazed by the research and effort put into these projects,” said NHD Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. “The students spend an entire year preparing these projects and deciding between such astounding works is incredibly difficult. I know the judges always find it challenging to choose a winner. I congratulate all of the winners, and all of the contestants who made it to nationals. That itself is quite an accomplishment.”

About National History Day

NHD is a non-profit education organization in College Park, MD. Established in 1974, NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. These research-based projects are entered into contests at the local and affiliate levels, where the top student projects have the opportunity to advance to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD also seeks to improve the quality of history education by providing professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators. NHD is sponsored in part by Jostens, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, the Joe Weider Foundation, and the WEM 2000 Foundation of the Dorsey & Whitney Foundation. For more information, visit nhd.org."