



June 16, 2016

AWARDS ANNOUNCED FOR THE KENNETH E. BEHRING NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CONTEST- ARIZONA STUDENTS HONORED

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On June 16th, awards were presented for the 42nd 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 58 affiliate members** were invited to the national contest held June 12th through 16th. **Nearly 3,000 middle and high school students** presented their work related to the **2016 theme, *Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History***. Contestants represented all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and international schools in Central America, 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 500 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.

3rd Place in Junior Group Website

This year National History Day in Arizona is happy to announce a **3rd Place** winner –**Aman Agarwal and Daksh Gopalani from Basis Peoria in Peoria** won 3rd Place out of 97 entries in the Junior Group Websites division/category. Aman and Daksh's project was titled "**Unit 731: Perpetrators of the Asian Holocaust**," and their teacher was **Andrew Estes**. See their 3rd Place website here: <http://44479808.nhd.weebly.com/>.

Outstanding State Entry Awards

Two Arizona students received Outstanding State Entry Awards. **Sharon Vaz** from Basis Tucson in Tucson received the **Senior Division Outstanding State Entry Award** for her **Senior Historical Paper** titled "The Unanticipated Impact of Father Kino's Mission on the O'odham People". Her teacher was **John Rosinbum**. This year's **Junior Division Outstanding State Entry Award** went to **Ayla Young** for her **Junior Individual Website** project titled "The Wire that Connected the World". Ayla is from New Vistas Center For Education in Chandler and her teacher was **Stacey Trepanier**. Her website can be viewed here: <http://72625099.nhd.weebly.com>.

National Museum of American History: Kenneth E. Behring Center Exhibitor

Emmett Layden, Ammon Van Vliet, and Ernesto Saenz-Hernandez were selected to exhibit their **Senior Group Exhibit**, “The Wonderful World of Disney”, at the **National Museum of American History: Kenneth E. Behring Center** on Wednesday, June 15th. During regular museums hours and the extended museum hours for people attending the National History Day Contest, Emmett, Ammon, and Ernesto were visited by museum guests, National History Day students and families, and Kenneth Behring. Emmet, Ammon, and Ernesto are from Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center in Phoenix and their teacher was **Anthony Fusco**.

Teacher of the Year

Mike Furman of Kyrene Aprende Middle School in Chandler was recognized as Arizona’s Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year. Mr. Furman showed outstanding creativity, commitment, and inspiration in developing student interest in history and support of the National History Day in Arizona program. The winner of the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year receives a cash award of \$500 in honor of their contributions to history education through the National History Day program.

“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.”

For more information on how you can get involved with National History Day in Arizona visit our website at www.nhdaz.org or contact the Arizona State Coordinator, Nancy York Greenwood, at nyork@azhs.gov.

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 Kenneth E. Behring, Patricia Behring, HISTORY®, 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.