RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

2025–2026
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
HISTORY DAY

County Competition Handbook

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For additional information regarding History Day, please visit
Riverside County History Day Website
National History Day - California Website
National History Day Website

Revision date:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Friday, September 26, 2025
Intent to Participate Form Deadline

October 1, 2024 - January 24, 2025
zFairs Open for Registration

- District Coordinators must register first.
- Teachers must register before providing links to students.
  If Teachers are not registered before students register, the student will not link to the teacher/district.
- Students should only register after receiving the registration link from the district coordinator following the district competition.

Due 5 days after District Competition
District to County Summary Sheet

- Email with document link will be sent to each District Coordinator.
- District Coordinators will list all projects and students advancing from District to County Competition.
- RCOE Event Staff will update notes as students register for zFairs and upload their projects.
- District Coordinators can then follow up with students not registered or with missing project elements.

February 13, 2026
Registration Deadline

- All Students must be registered in zFairs.
- District to County Summary Sheet (if not already submitted)
- Registration Fees Due - History Day Fee Form
- Volunteer Information

March 2, 2026
Projects Due in zFairs

March 14, 2026
Riverside County History Day Competition
Canyon Springs High School
(23100 Cougar Canyon Rd, Moreno Valley, CA)

- Judging and Interviews - 8:00 a.m.
- Awards Ceremony - 4:00 p.m.

May 1-3, 2026
National History Day - California
California State University, Sacramento

- Registration deadline for NHD-CA is March 24, 2026.

June 14-18, 2026
National History Day
University of Maryland, College Park

- Registration deadline - TBD

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Participants in the Riverside County History Day Competition will follow the rules outlined in the [National History Day](#) (NHD) Contest Rule Book and [National History Day - California Rule Book](#) (NHD-CA). In addition, Riverside County participants will follow the participation guidelines noted below.

Riverside County History Day is open to all students (public, private, non-secular, home-school, and charter) at grade levels 4-12 who are being educated within Riverside County boundaries. Home-schooled students may participate through the public school they would attend if they were not home schooled. The Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. Riverside County Office of Education programs, activities, and practices shall be free from unlawful discrimination, including discrimination based on race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, immigration

status, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information, the perception of one or more of such characteristics, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Please advise the county coordinator of IEP/504 accommodations at least one month before the competition date. Staff and coordinators will make every effort to accommodate students with disabilities.

To participate in Riverside County History Day, students must adhere to all specified deadlines and registration requirements for each level of competition. Such information can be obtained through your school or district coordinator. Riverside County competition dates can be found on our [website](#).

Maximum number of entries allowed (not required) per district, private school, or charter school *(charters authorized through a district compete within the district)* to enter Riverside County competition:

	Indiv. Documentary	Group Documentary	Indiv Exhibit	Group Exhibit	Indiv Performance	Group Performance	Indiv Podcast	Group Podcast	Indiv Poster	Group Poster	Indiv Website	Group Website
Elementary Division	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	3	3	3	X	X
Junior Division	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	3	3
Senior Division	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	X	X	3	3

The Riverside County History Day Competition will be held in a public location. Students are responsible for the security and safety of their own equipment and artifacts.

The Riverside County History Day event sponsors will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to exhibits, equipment, or personal belongings during the program activities.

It is the responsibility of all students participating in Riverside County History Day, NHD – California, and NHD competitions to be aware of registration requirements and applicable due dates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All students must register in zFairs by February 13, 2026 and submit their projects by March 2, 2026 in order to participate in the competition.

As per the guidelines for the [state](#) and [national](#) competition, only those members of a group registered for the Riverside County History Day competition will be eligible to advance to the NHD-CA State competition.

Any entry that is obscene, excessive, superfluous, or gratuitous will be removed at the discretion of contest officials.

Students will receive their entry number and judging time from their district coordinator prior to the county competition date. All interviews will be held in person. Junior and senior division students must be present the day of the competition to participate in the interview process. There are no interviews for students in the elementary division.

Advancing to National History Day - California: The top (up to 3) entries per category in the junior division and senior division will advance to the National History Day - California State Finals. The top (up to 4) individual entries and top (up to 4) group entries in the elementary division poster and podcast contest will advance to the National History Day - California State Finals.

Students with entries advancing to the state competition will need to attend the County-to-State Meeting to receive information regarding the NHD-California History Day competition. The meeting will be held immediately following the awards ceremony.

The Riverside County Office of Education will pay the registration fee for students advancing from the Riverside County History Day Competition to National History Day - California and National History Day.

Students advancing to a State or National competition must contact their district coordinator regarding travel and lodging arrangements.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Documentary

All documentary entries and written materials for the 2026 contest must be submitted in advance no later than 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2026**. Group or individual documentary entries should be submitted as a **MP4 video file**. Written materials should be submitted as a separate **PDF**. All entries will be submitted through zFairs.

Save the final version of your documentary in one of the following required formats: .MP4 or .MOV
Videos may be shown on a large screen using a projector. Please export your video to a MP4 or .MOV format (720p resolution preferred but not required). The maximum file size for uploaded videos is 2GB. Please playback/test your exported video before uploading. **Please be sure your documentary can play on a PC.**

Save the final version of your documentary in the following format:

Division: Junior (grades 6-8) or Senior (grades 9-12);

Category: (Grp Doc or Indiv Doc);

Title: (The title of your specific documentary);

Member(s) Last Name(s);

Examples:
Senior_Indiv Doc_The Key to Understanding;_Red
Junior_Grp Doc_Communication in History_Orange, Blue, Yellow

Save your title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography in the following format, separated by an underscore:

Division: Junior (grades 6-8) or Senior (grades 9-12);

Category: (Grp Doc or Indiv Doc);

Title; (specifically the title of your documentary);

Written Materials

Member(s) Last Name(s);

Examples:
Senior_Indiv Doc_The Key to Understanding_Red_Written Materials
Junior_Grp Doc_Communication in History_Orange, Blue, Yellow_Written Materials

Exhibit

Written materials must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2026.**

Save your title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography in the following format, separated by an underscore:

Division: Junior (grades 6-8) or Senior (grades 9-12);

Category: (Group Exhibit or Indiv Exhibit);

Title; (specifically the title of your exhibit);

Member(s) Last Name(s);

Written Materials

Examples:
Senior_IndivExhibit_The Key to Understanding_Red_Written Materials
Junior_GroupExhibit_Communication in History_Orange, Blue, Yellow_Written Materials

Performance

Written materials must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2026.**

Save your title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography in the following format, separated by an underscore:

Division: Junior (grades 6-8) or Senior (grades 9-12);

Category: (Group Performance or Indiv Performance);

Title; (specifically the title of your exhibit);

Member(s) Last Name(s);

Written Materials

Examples:

Senior_IndivProformance_The Key to Understanding_Red_Written Materials
Junior_GroupProformance_Communication in History_Orange, Blue, Yellow_Written Materials

Podcast

All podcast entries and written materials for the 2026 contest must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2026**. Group or individual podcast entries should be submitted as an **audio file**. Written materials should be submitted as a separate **PDF**. All entries will be submitted through zFairs.

Save the final version of your podcast as an .MP3 file:
The maximum file size for uploaded audio files is 2GB. Please playback/test your exported audio file before uploading. **Please be sure your audio can play and be heard clearly.**

Save the final version of your podcast in the following format:

Division: Junior (grades 6-8) or Senior (grades 9-12);

Category: (GroupPodcast or IndivPodcast);

Title: (The title of your specific documentary);

Member(s) Last Name(s);

Examples:

Senior_IndivPodcast_The Key to Understanding;_Red
Junior_GroupPodcast_Communication in History_Orange, Blue, Yellow

Save your title page, show notes, process paper, and annotated bibliography in the following format, separated by an underscore:

Division: Junior (grades 6-8) or Senior (grades 9-12);

Category: (GroupPodcast or IndivPodcast);

Title; (specifically the title of your Podcast);

Member(s) Last Name(s);

Written Materials

Examples:

Senior_IndivPodcast_The Key to Understanding_Red_Written Materials
Junior_GroupPodcast_Communication in History_Orange, Blue, Yellow_Written Materials

Poster

Written materials must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2026.**
Reminder that poster submissions are flat (different from submissions in the exhibit category).

Save your title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography in the following format, separated by an underscore:
Division: Elementary (grades 4-5);
Category: (Group Poster or Indiv Poster);
Title; (specifically the title of your exhibit);
Member(s) Last Name(s);
Written Materials
Examples:
Senior_IndivProformance_The Key to Understanding_Red_Written Materials
Junior_GroupProformance_Communication in History_Orange, Blue, Yellow_Written Materials

Website

Website entries for the 2026 contest will be locked at 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2026.** Websites must be created through NHDWebCentral (https://website.nhd.org/). The URL for the website you created is due when registration is submitted. Be sure to double check your URL for accuracy when submitting.

NHDWebCentral Help
NHD Website Checklist
NHDWebCentral Instructions

For NHDWebCentral Technical Support, students and teachers should contact NHD at info@nhd.org.

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