



2025 NHD in PA State Contest FAQ

We are excited to welcome you to the State Contest. This document will help you plan and prepare for the best possible contest experience.

Please be kind to our volunteers! Most of the staff at the contest are volunteers. Please treat them with courtesy and respect.

You are guests at the University of Scranton. The University is generously donating the use of their campus facilities for the event. Please take care of the facility and furnishings, throw your trash in the appropriate receptacles (including seeking out another container if one is overflowing), and leaving the rooms in the condition you found them.

WHERE DO I GO WHEN I ARRIVE?

Check in is in the Long Center. The GPS address for the Long Center is **1200 Ridge Row, Scranton, PA.**

WHERE DO I PARK?

Please refer to the campus map which have received along with this document

Drop-off Zone: Students arriving by car can drop off their project materials in Lot G off Ridge Row. Students arriving by bus can unload along Ridge Row or in Lot F.

Long-term Parking: Parking is available in Lot C on the far side of Ridge Row, or in any legal parking space on campus. Please do not park along Ridge Row, the City of Scranton will tow your vehicle.



The GPS address for Lot G is 1200 Ridge Row, Scranton, PA.

WHEN IS CHECK IN?

Check in begins on April 12 at 9 AM and continues until 2 PM. You may pick up your packet any time during that period. Late arriving students can pick up their packets at the Exhibit Hall.

When you check-in, you will receive a folder with:

- **Campus map**
- **Your judging time**
- **Your certificate of participation (with a food voucher for Saturday if you purchased lunch)**
- **Spectator and Judging policy**
- **Contest Program**
- **An NHD in PA Contest Button**

WHEN CAN WE SET UP OUR EXHIBIT?

The exhibit hall will be open for exhibit setup from 9 AM to 12 PM on April 12.

WHEN DOES JUDGING BEGIN AND END?

Judging begins at 1 PM on Saturday, April 12 and continues until all entries are evaluated. Up to six entries in each category will advance to the run-off round scheduled for the morning of Sunday, April 13.



WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME?

Students in the **Documentary, Exhibit, and Performance** categories should bring at least four copies of their process papers and bibliographies to give to the judges.

Additionally, students should bring the following, depending on what category they are competing in:

Documentary: The judging rooms have audio-visual systems you can use, but you should bring whatever you need to show your project. You may use your own equipment or the equipment in the rooms. University of Scranton staff will be on hand to help if there is a problem with the technology in the room.

You may use any format that works for you. Thumb drives, online platforms, your own laptop or tablet, any of these are acceptable. We highly recommend bringing multiple formats and having a backup plan.

If something goes wrong, we will find a way for the judges to view your documentary. The judges will be looking at the quality of your project, and they understand that equipment problems sometimes happen.

Exhibit: Bring your exhibit and accoutrements. If you need electricity for your project, bring whatever extension cords and power strips you need.

Paper: Bring extra copies of your paper just in case you need them or you want to share them with people you meet. The judges will read your paper before the contest, you will not be presenting it to them during the interview.

Performance: Bring all your props and costume items.



Website: Make sure you have your URL written down so you can bring it up for the judges. The judges will preview your website in the weeks before the contest, you will not be presenting it to them during the interview.

You can access Wireless Internet through Royal Guest

WHEN WILL YOU ANNOUNCE RUN-OFFS?

As soon as possible Saturday evening. Exactly when depends on when the judges finish meeting with students and how long it takes them to select which projects are advancing to the run-offs.

Only students in the documentary and performance categories will know if they made it to run-offs and will need to be present during the run-off round of judging.

We will post the names and entry numbers of the entries in the documentary and performance categories who make it to run-offs on the NHD in PA website (<http://pa1.nhd.org>), and on the NHD in PA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NHDinPA/>).

Students in paper, website, and exhibit categories do not need to be present for the run-off round of judging. During the run-off round, judges will review all entries but will not interview students. During the run-off round, your entry must stand on its own merit.

WHEN DOES RUN-OFF JUDGING BEGIN?

Run-off judging begins at 9 AM on Sunday, April 13 and continues until 11 am.



WHAT DO WE DO BEFORE/AFTER JUDGING?

After your entry has been judged, or while you are waiting your turn, you are free to explore the campus and surrounding community. Here is a link to some historic sites which are close by:

[nhd-in-pa-historic-sites-guide-1.pdf](#)

There will be a board games room located in Loyola Science Center 238 with many class board games for you to enjoy. From 5:30 to 7 PM there will be a screening of the documentary *Fedelta: Soldiers, Prisoners*, about the experiences of Italian Prisoners of War at the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania during the Second World War, in Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228. Afterwards, Students are invited to a Swing Dance at 7 PM in the Murray Royals Room in the Byron Center, right next door to the Long Center. The Dance will include instruction in Swing Dancing, no experience or partner necessary.

WHAT ABOUT THE OPENING CEREMONY?

The Opening Ceremony will take place at 11:45 AM on April 12 in the Long Center. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Carolyn Barry and Dr. Sean Brennan, Professor of History and State Coordinator of NHD in PA will offer opening remarks. Students are strongly encouraged to attend.

WHAT ABOUT MEALS?

If you ordered a brown bag lunch for Saturday April 12, your voucher for your lunch will be included in your folder, attached to your certificate of participation. The color of the ticket will correspond with the kind of sandwich you ordered. Purple for Turkey, Red for Roast Beef, and Green for Vegetarian. ***PLEASE LET US KNOW IF SOMEONE ELSE IS PICKING UP THE***



MEAL TICKETS.

Lunches will be distributed on Saturday near the elevators on the 2nd floor of the DeNaples Center.

The Cafeteria at the Third Floor of the DeNaples Center will be open from 10:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Starbucks will be open from Noon to 7:00 PM on Saturday and Noon to 9:00 PM on Sunday. There are also numerous restaurants in downtown Scranton within easy walking distance from campus.

WHEN IS THE AWARD CEREMONY?

The contest concludes with the award ceremony starting at 2:30 PM on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

The Award Ceremony will also be broadcast live via Zoom. Use the link below to attend.

<https://scranton.zoom.us/j/8226669179?pwd=O4p2zYVM9PIQOzHywrHTmA c3gWOkIS.1&omn=92139441970>

HOW MANY ENTRIES ADVANCE TO THE NATIONAL CONTEST?

The first and second place entries in each category advance to the National Contest. **Third place winners are on standby to serve as alternates.** Students who finish in 1st or 2nd place must remain after the award ceremony to receive information about the National Contest at the University of Maryland on June 8-12.



WHEN DO WE GET OUR EVALUATION FORMS FROM THE JUDGES?

Evaluation forms will be in electronic form this year. They will be made available through the Zfairs system or via emailed PDF as soon as possible after the competition.

WHAT DO WE DO IF WE HAVE A COMPLAINT OR SUGGESTION?

We welcome your feedback. After the contest, you will receive an email with a link to an online survey about your experience. We need to hear your comments, both positive and negative, in order to improve the NHD in PA program.

If you have additional comments or issues, please submit them in writing to the State Coordinator's office. For complaints about judging, please refer to the judging policy in your check-in packet.

WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email me at sean.brennan@scranton.edu or call 570-540-5161 or 570-941-4549 and ask for NHD in PA State Coordinator Sean Brennan.