**Congratulations,** you have qualified for the 2026 National History Day in Pennsylvania State Contest. The State Contest will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, at the University of Scranton.

**PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY!** This document contains information essential to registering smoothly and efficiently.

**REGISTRATION FEE: $75 per student**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 11 PM, Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

**PROJECT UPLOAD DEADLINE:**

For Papers, Websites, and Documentaries. Exhibit and Performance students do not need to submit digital projects. **: 11 PM, April 14, 2026**

**PAYMENT DEADLINE BEFORE LATE FEE: 11:59 PM, April 17, 2026**

**WEBSITE LOCKOUT: 11 PM, April 14, 2026**

**LATE REGISTRATION FEE: $50 - NOTE:** *LATE FEES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.*

**IF YOU REGISTERED FOR YOUR REGIONAL CONTEST THROUGH ZFAIRS**, you will receive an email once your project has been advanced to the State Contest. Please wait for that email, and then log in using the same username and password you created for your Regional Contest.

**If you did not use ZFairs** to register you will need a direct registration link. Please contact the NHD in PA State Coordinator using the contact information below.

**TEACHERS SHOULD REGISTER BEFORE STUDENTS TO MAKE SURE THEIR INFO AND SCHOOL INFO IS CORRECT.**

**CONTACT THE STATE COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY IF YOU THINK YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE MEETING ANY OF THE DEADLINES.**

**Questions or problems? Please contact NHD in PA State Coordinator Sean Brennan at the University of Scranton at 570-540-5161 or sean.brennan@scranton.edu**

**NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN PENNSYLVANIA**
**STATE CONTEST STUDENT REGISTRATION CHECKLIST**
This checklist will help you ensure that you or your students are properly registered for the NHD in PA State Contest.
The Zfairs State Contest Registration Site URL is http://pa1.nhd.org.

**Complete the following before April 10:**
First log-in (if they used Zfairs for the Regional Contest and were promoted) or account creation (if they did not use Zfairs for the Regional Contest)
Waivers and agreements
If waivers and permissions do not appear, log out, then log back in. If they do not appear when you log back in, contact the State Coordinator.
Invoice generation (can also be done by teacher) Make sure you generate one regardless of whether you are paying your registration fee online or with a check mailed to the University
Additional Questions (see tab under student profile)
Meal orders (can be placed and paid for alongside online registration at the University of Scranton payment portal, pre-ordered meals are ONLY available on Saturday, April 25)

**Complete the following by April 14:**
Payment completed, *OR*
Contact the NHD in PA State Coordinator if payment cannot be made before April 17.

Project link updated/verified (for documentary and website)
Project file updated/verified (process paper, bibliography)
Payment submitted

NHD in PA will send out a draft schedule as soon as possible after registration closes. Students and teachers should review the schedule to ensure the following items are correct:
Category and entry title are correct

Student names are correct

Students are scheduled in the correct category.

**WHAT TO BRING TO THE STATE CONTEST**
All students except *PAPER* and *WEBSITE* students should bring copies of their process papers and bibliographies to give to the judges. Paper and Website students should include these items in their entry.
Students in the *EXHIBIT* category *MUST* bring extension cords and power strips, if needed.
Students in the *DOCUMENTARY* category can enter a URL to their project during registration. They should also bring their project saved in as many formats as possible, including laptops, tablets, thumb drives, and cloud storage. Students may show their documentary using the provided equipment or bring their own. Since errors sometimes occur in the rendering process, students are reminded to check and make sure their documentary is working properly before the Contest.
Students in the *PAPER* category must upload the most recent copy of their paper by 11 pm on April 14.
Students in the *PERFORMANCE* category should bring all props and materials necessary for their performance.
Students in the *WEBSITE* category should enter their URL into the online registration system. which will automatically add the weebly.com portion. No other paperwork is needed. **Websites will lock for judging at 11:00 PM on April 14, 2026, after which time you will not be able to edit your entry until after judging concludes.**
**CHAPERONES**
All students must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or a chaperone. NHD in PA and the University of Scranton staff and volunteers are prohibited from providing supervision or accepting supervisory responsibility for students.

## HOUSING

NHD in PA has arranged group rates at area hotels, details are posted on the State Contest website.

## MEALS

Students, teachers, and parents can pre-order meals when they pay for this registration online for the first day of the contest on Saturday April 25. Lunches will cost $15 and include the option of either a roast beef, turkey, or vegetarian sandwich along with several other items. Additionally, there are several cash options on the ground floor of the DeNaples Center, as well as numerous restaurants in downtown Scranton a short distance from campus. The Royals Historical Society will also run a table selling refreshments

## PAYMENTS

**Before making any payments,** please generate an invoice to keep for your records, and to mail in if you are paying by a check in the mail.. Teachers can generate a single invoice for all of their students, or teachers or students can generate individual invoices.

**TEACHERS:** To generate a group invoice, log in, click on the Store tab, select the Students tab.

**STUDENTS: IF YOUR SCHOOL IS PAYING YOUR FEES PLEASE DO NOT GENERATE AN INVOICE WITHOUT CHECKING WITH YOUR TEACHER FIRST.** To generate an individual invoice log in, click on the Store tab, add your fees to the cart, then check out. If you need to come back to view or print your invoice, click on the Order History tab, then click the order ID number. Notice you will not need to make a payment to generate an invoice

**To reprint an invoice**, go to the store, select Order History, and click on the order number to view

**To pay by check, please make all checks payable to the University of Scranton and mail with your invoices, or if multiple students their invoices, to:**

Dr. Sean Brennan
Department of History
The University of Scranton
800 Linden Street
Scranton, PA 18510
TO PAY ONLINE [CLICK ON THIS LINK](#)

**Or type this one into your browser:**

https://scranton.advancementform.com/event/national-history-day-payment-portal-states-2026/register

You do not need to enter the invoice number if you choose to make your payment online, but you do need to provide each student's full name, school, and project name when registering so their payment can be recorded on our end

**PLEASE DO NOT MAKE PARTIAL PAYMENTS!** You may pay for multiple students with a single payment either by check or online, but the payment must match the total. ***If you need help generating proper invoices, please contact us!***

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE STATE CONTEST

The state contest is a two-day event.

### Day 1, Check-In and First Round Judging:

Check-in and exhibit set-up are scheduled for the morning of Day 1. We will post maps of the contest venue online and send out information by email prior to the contest. Depending on your arrival time, you may encounter long lines at check-in, so plan accordingly.

When you check-in, you will receive a packet with **your judging time, campus map, contest schedule, NHD button, a certificate of participation,** and other essential materials. Be sure to read all included materials in the packet. If you ordered meals, you can pick up your meal tickets at registration at the information table. The tickets will be under the name of the person who placed the order.

Judging begins at in the early afternoon on Day 1, and continues until all entries are evaluated. Six entries in each category will advance to the run-off round scheduled for the morning of Day 2.

During your judging time, the judges will meet with you to ask questions about your entry. Documentary and Performance students will present their projects. Judges in the Paper, Website, and Exhibit category will preview those entries so the students will not need to do a presentation.

After your judging time you are free to explore the University of Scranton campus and surrounding areas. Information about any planned events or presentations will be placed in the student packets. There will be, among other things, a board games room with numerous classic board games, history trivia contests, dancing lessons, and a screening of a documentary on Pennsylvania history on Saturday evening.  NHD in PA T-Shirts will be for sale, you can make payments in cash or check.

**Day 2:**

The run-off round of judging will commence in the morning of Day 2. Only students in the performance and documentary category need to be present during the run-off round of judging, and the schedule for those categories will be posted.

Students in the paper, website, and exhibit categories do not need to be present for the run-off round of judging, and the schedule for those categories will not be posted.

During the run-off round, judges will review all entries but will not interview students. Your entry must stand on its own merit.

**AWARD CEREMONY**

The contest concludes with the award ceremony in the afternoon of Day 2. It should begin no later than 2:30 PM. Students who finish in 1st or 2nd place qualify for the National Contest and should remain after the award ceremony to meet with the State Coordinator. Students who finish in 3rd will serve as alternate qualifiers, and should preserve their projects in case they have the opportunity to advance to nationals. In rare circumstances, a 4th place entry may be advanced when there is an available slot.

Students will be able to view their evaluation forms online with a few days of the contest.

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. Thank you!

**REFUND POLICY**

•       Registration fees for the state competition are non-refundable.

•       Meals can be refunded if the cancellation is received prior to close of business on April 14, 2026.

•       After April 14, 2026, NHD in PA will be unable to grant requests for meal refunds