

MICHIGAN SOCIAL STUDIES OLYMPIAD XXXIX HANDBOOK



2025 Olympiad Theme:

*Exploring Michigan's Rich History: From
Great Lakes to Great Leaders*



All Events to be Completed and Judged OFF-SITE

For info visit www.mcssmi.org or email olympiad@mcssmi.org

Dear Educator

Welcome to the 39th annual Michigan Social Studies Olympiad! The Olympiad offers students the unique opportunity to creatively apply what they have been learning in their social studies classes. Michigan is the only state to offer this type of state-wide event. We appreciate your willingness to guide and support your students in their Olympiad projects.

Good luck exploring this year's theme, "Exploring Michigan's Rich History: From Great Lakes to Great Leaders" and in your preparations for the 2025 Olympiad.

Annie Whitlock

President, Michigan Council for the Social Studies

Sponsor

Michigan Council for the Social Studies (MCSS)

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Deborah Robertson

Marsha A. Lewis

Mary Burleson

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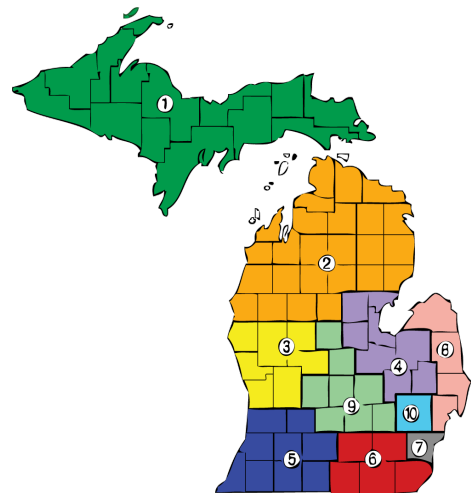


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Olympiad Timeline

March 7, 2025 Registration Deadline

March 31, 2025 Event Selection Deadline

April 18, 2025 Deadline for mailing event materials

After May 12, 2025 Results communicated and published

Recent Changes

- Event Selection Forms are completed online.
- Event entry information will be submitted through a Google Form. Select events also require the submission of a physical entry to the judge. These events will require the completion of a paper event entry form to be submitted with the entry to the judge. These events have an event form provided in the handbook.
- Information sessions will be offered to all teachers/coaches to review the changes.
- There will be no awards ceremony in 2025. Medals and ribbons will be mailed to schools/districts. We encourage you to recognize your winners.
- Entry forms no longer ask for student personal information.
- Senior levels added to the Current Event Map and Monologue events
- New judges for various events
- New rules and requirements for some events
- Mail-in registration is no longer available. Registration is online only through the MCSS website.

Registration:

- Online registration is required
- Registration is due by March 7, 2025
- Registration Fee = \$100

Theme – Exploring Michigan’s Rich History: From Great Lakes to Great Leaders



The 2025 Michigan Social Studies Olympiad invites students on an immersive journey through Michigan's rich heritage with the theme, *"Exploring Michigan's Rich History: From Great Lakes to Great Leaders."* This year's competition encourages participants to dive deep into the fascinating stories that have shaped the state, from the powerful natural beauty of the Great Lakes that defined its early industries to the influential leaders who brought Michigan to prominence. Students will uncover Michigan's diverse past, examining the cultural and economic impacts of various communities, the rise of industry, Michigan's agricultural impact, and the inspiring lives of leaders, innovators, and change makers. With this theme, students will not only learn about Michigan's contributions to the nation but will also gain a greater appreciation for the state's role in shaping America's identity.

Good luck to all Olympiad participants!

For more information, email olympiad@mcssmi.org or check our website www.mcssmi.org

Olympiad Events

All 2025 events are OFF-SITE. Students may participate in as many OFF-SITE events as they wish.

Theme Related Events

- Current Events Editorial Essay
- Digital Photography
- Drama
- Hand Puppets
- Historical TV Newscast
- Mapping Michigan's Past
- Monologue – Historical
- Online Presentation
- Photojournalism
- Podcast
- Poetry
- Posters
- Primary Document Journal
- Quiltathon
- Social Studies Song
- Speakathon
- Take a Stand Essay
- Theme Graphic Design

Elementary Events (Grades 3-5)

- Drama
- Hand Puppets
- Historical TV Newscast
- Mapping Michigan's Past
- Marathon
- Monologue – Historical
- Online Presentation
- Podcast
- Poetry
- Poster
- Primary Documents Journal
- Quiltathon
- Social Studies Song
- Stampathon
- Take a Stand Essay

Intermediate Events (Grades 6-8)

- Current Events Editorial Essay
- Current Events Map
- Digital Photography
- Drama
- Hand Puppets
- Historical TV Newscast
- Investments
- Mapping Michigan's Past
- Marathon
- Monologue – Historical
- Online Presentation
- Photojournalism
- Podcast
- Poetry
- Political Cartoons Journal
- Poster
- Primary Documents Journal
- Quiltathon
- Social Studies Song
- Speakathon
- Stampathon
- Take a Stand Essay
- Theme Graphic Design

Senior Events (Grades 9-12)

- Current Events Editorial Essay
- Current Event Map
- Digital Photography
- Historical TV Newscast
- Investments
- Marathon
- Monologue – Historical
- Online Presentation
- Photojournalism
- Podcast
- Poetry
- Political Cartoons Journal
- Poster
- Primary Documents Journal
- Social Studies Song
- Speakathon
- Stampathon
- Take a Stand Essay
- Theme Graphic Design

Olympiad Event Selection & Event Entry Forms

A significant change to the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad for 2025 is the online event selection form and event entry form. All event selections should be made [using this link](#). Each event also has an electronic event submission form and links to each form are in the event details. Within these forms is an opportunity to submit projects electronically. However, some events require the submission of a physical project; therefore, an event entry form will be completed online which asks for a photo of the project along with the completion of a paper copy form to be sent along with the tangible project to the judge. The event entry form to complete and send with the project for judging is included in the handbook. The Event selection deadline is **March 31, 2025**. Project submissions are due by no later than **April 18, 2025**. If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Tim Constant at (248) 214-8620 or at olympiad@mcssmi.org. You can also contact the judge for the event you are entering. Please note that all entries become the property of MSSO and are not returned.

2025 Olympiad Judges

Event	Judge	Direct Questions to
Current Events Editorial Essay	Nese Nasif	nnasif@uwlax.edu
Current Event Map & Presentation	Nese Nasif	nnasif@uwlax.edu
Digital Photography	Karlie Sherwood	karlie.sherwood@clarencevilleschools.org
Drama Original Script (Elementary)	Sara Loveridge	sara.Loveridge@fraserk12.org
Drama Original Script (Intermediate)	Scott Roberts	sroberts16@hotmail.com
Hand Puppets	Marsha Lewis	mlewis@mcssmi.org
Historical TV Newscast	John Farris	farrisj@resa.net
Investments	Derek D'Angelo	derek@michiganecon.org
Mapping Michigan's Past	Mark Morrow	mark.morrow@wayne.edu
Marathon	Dan St. Laurent	dstlaurent@lsps.org
Monologue	Stephanie Ferguson	fergusons@slcs.us
Online Presentation	Sara Loveridge	sara.loveridge@fraserk12.org
Photojournalism	Karlie Sherwood	karlie.sherwood@clarencevilleschools.org
Podcast	Adam Hellebuyck & Dave Johnson	ahellebuyck@uls.org / djohnson@mcssmi.org
Poetry	Amy Bielat	mrsbielat@gmail.com
Political Cartoons	Steve Domke	demrebel0817@gmail.com
Poster - Artistic	Christina Peltier	christinapeltier@gmail.com
Poster - Collage	Molly McNeece	mollymcneece@gmail.com
Poster - Storyboard	Molly McNeece	mollymcneece@gmail.com
Primary Documents Journal	Mark Morrow	mark.morrow@wayne.edu
Quiltathon	Nancy Domke	nancy.domke@gmail.com
Social Studies Song	Justin Kelley	jtk1399@gmail.com
Speakathon (Intermediate)	Lloyd Conway	lloydaconway@protonmail.ch
Speakathon (Senior)	Justin Kelley	jtk1399@gmail.com
Stampathon	Justin Kelley	jtk1399@gmail.com
Take a Stand Essay	John Farris	farrisj@resa.net
Theme Graphic Design	Molly McNeece	mollymcneece@gmail.com

CURRENT EVENT EDITORIAL ESSAY

Divisions: Intermediate (6-8) and Senior (9-12)

Objective:

Traditionally, the most influential print editorial pages in the United States have been found in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and *Washington Post*. More recently, due to people increasingly obtaining current events information from social media platforms, outlets like *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, *NPR*, *BBC*, and *Politico* have also become mainstream sources of editorial information. Editorial pages are used for purposes of expressing a media brand's political leanings, spurring discussion, inciting debate, and allowing readers and prominent figures to express their opinions. Many newspapers have traditionally attempted to keep their editorial pages "balanced," in that they publish competing perspectives in comparable amounts, but some of the most prominent editorial pages have developed reputations for presenting more conservative or more liberal stances. Editorial articles are some of the most controversial and most highly circulated news pieces that appear in written media. They have sparked dialogue and helped to formulate public opinion on major public issues. However, too many students are unaware or unconcerned with this section of the newspaper until they reach post-secondary education or jobs after graduation. The objective of this event is to provide students with exposure to editorials and the process of creating an editorial essay.

Overview:

This event is an opportunity for students to write an opinion editorial, in a news media format, based on a current event related to the MSSO theme. The editorial must take the form of a short essay, based on an event or events that have been relatively prominent in news media within the past year. Students will use a mix of analytical, critical, and persuasive arguments to promote a specific point of view.

Format:

Students are to produce a written news editorial that expresses a specific point of view on a current event from the past year related to the MSSO theme. Unlike a traditional news piece or informative essay, the purpose of an editorial is to take a biased stand on an issue. The student author must use sources to support any facts presented to justify the perspective taken in the essay. Prior to writing their first draft, students are advised to explore several editorials from the editorial pages of the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*, or other national and/or local text news sources.

- Only three (3) written essays per school per division may be submitted.
- One (1) copy of the original essay is to be submitted electronically through the Google Form link below.
- Only Coaches may contact the judge for information.

Scoring Standards (all divisions):

- Central theme of editorial must be a reasonably prominent current event from the past year.
- The editorial must connect to the MSSO theme.
- Editorial must take a clear and developed stance on an opinion pertaining to the current event.
- At least three (3) written news pieces must be used as sources for facts presented in the essay. The student may use any amount of other types of credible sources.
- There must be a title at the top of the first page of the body of the editorial.
- The essay must be typed in 11 or larger font, using Times New Roman, Ariel, or Calibri font. However, there are no length requirements for the body of the editorial.
- A separate bibliography page, listing the source of all factual information, must be attached to the end of the editorial. References on the bibliography page must be formatted to contain all pertinent information and appear professional.
- Attach a pdf copy of each written news piece used as a source of information (see standard 3, above).

Submit Entry To: [Current Event Editorial Essay - Entry Link](#)

CURRENT EVENT MAP & PRESENTATION

Division: Intermediate (Grades 6-8) and Senior (9-12)

The Current Event Map and Presentation event is intended to help develop students' knowledge of current events, their understanding about how geography influences current events, and their map making and presentation skills. Using a **video**, students must use a map to tell the story of any national or international events which have been in the news the past one to two years. The submission should be in the form of a video link (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.). The competing students must do all set-up. Adults cannot help in setup of any props or give any assistance to the student during the performance. Presentation must be memorized, no notes allowed.

The video presentation

- should include an introduction of the student(s) and school.
- should include a 2-3-minute explanation showing what happened, where it happened, what some of the causes of the event were, and what some of its consequences were.
- should be made without notes. Students should be aware of the importance of speaking clearly and looking at the audience (i.e., camera). The audience must hear every word that is said in the presentation.
- should include the student(s) demonstrating how the map explains the topic
- must include map(s) drawn by student and be at least 18" X 24" and not larger than 24" X 36". Commercially produced blank outline maps may NOT be used, however, more than one map may be included.
- must include title, scale, legend, direction, longitude, and latitude on all maps. The student(s) MUST write captions and any text, before or during the video. Sources of information must be visible at the beginning or end of the presentation.
- may include pictures.
- may not exceed 5 minutes in length.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Map Content

- 5 - Excellent
- 4 - Superior
- 3 - Very Good
- 2 - Good
- 1 - Average

Map Technique

- 5 - Excellent
- 4 - Superior
- 3 - Very Good
- 2 - Good
- 1 - Average

Presentation

- 5 - Excellent
- 4 - Superior
- 3 - Very Good
- 2 - Good
- 1 - Average

Submit Entry To: [Current Event Map & Presentation - Entry Link](#)

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Division: Intermediate (6-8) and Senior (9-12)

Guidelines

- Each student will submit an original digital photograph that represents the MSSO theme.
- Along with the photograph, students must submit a typed one page double spaced explanation of how the photograph connects to the MSSO theme.
- Students will title the photograph and provide a date of when the photo was taken.
- The entry submission will have the photo and title on page one with the explanation of how the photo connects to the theme on page two.

Requirements:

- Entries must be a photograph taken by the student after Labor Day of this Olympiad school year.
- Photographs must be submitted in digital format.
- Entries will be judged on the appropriate connection to the MSSO theme, quality and impact of the photograph and the quality of the written explanation connecting the photo to the theme.

Scoring Guidelines:

Score	Description	Connects to the MSSO Theme	Quality and Impact of Photograph
4	Meets all requirements	Effectively and completely connects to the MSSO theme	Significant quality and Impact
3	Meets all requirements	Adequately connects to the MSSO theme	Adequate quality and impact
2	Missing one or a few requirements	Partially connects to the MSSO theme	Incomplete quality and impact
1	Missing some requirements	Minimally connects to the MSSO theme	Insignificant quality and impact
0	Missing most if not all requirements	Does not connect to the MSSO theme	Missing quality and impact

Submit Entry To: [Digital Photography - Entry Link](#)

DRAMA - ORIGINAL SCRIPT

Division: Elementary (3-5) and Intermediate (6-8)

The submission should be a video link (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) submitted through the Google Form link below.

The original script drama must be performed live in front of an audience (students, parents, etc.), and recorded continuously without editing (including set up). This recording can be in a classroom, auditorium, or any setting as long as the video is recorded in one continuous take from one camera position (no moving the video camera/device around). Groups will be disqualified if items 1 and 2 of the judge's scorecard are not followed.

All props (including tables, chairs, etc.) must be provided by the participants. Only self-supported backdrops are allowed. Set-up is to be done by the student participants only. Notes can be used by a narrator (if one is included in the cast), but not by other performers. Set up must be recorded as part of the continuous recording and is included in the 10 minute time limit.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Time limit: Not to exceed 10 minutes in length (including set-up time).

Participants: Three to ten student limit.

Drama must tie to theme

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1
Doesn't tie to theme	0

Use of props/costume (consider use of theme)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Delivery (eye contact, voice, body language)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Content of drama (accuracy, creativity, and use of theme)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Submit Entry To: [Drama Original Script - Entry Link](#)

HAND PUPPETS

Division: Elementary (3-5) and Intermediate (6-8)

The performance must be recorded continuously without editing. The submission should be a video link (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.), emailed to the event coordinator. Up to five puppets per school may be entered in this combined division event.

A hand puppet is a puppet that is manipulated by the use of one person's hand. The head must be constructed of papier-mâché. (The papier-mâché head may be constructed over various objects such as crushed newspaper, a light bulb, a balloon, etc.) Students may choose to construct any type of puppet that requires manipulation of head, arms and/or legs by the student (hand puppet, marionette, etc.).

All puppets must fulfill the following requirements:

- Puppets must be student constructed
- Puppet's head must be made out of papier-mâché
- The body is to be made of cloth or any other appropriate material
- It must represent in appearance the character chosen
- It may be of any character of international, national, or state historical significance

Students must complete the following as part of their presentation:

- Provide a picture of the character represented by the puppet (this may be emailed to the coordinator as a separate attachment or showed in the video)
- Give a one to two minute (no longer) autobiography
- As part of the autobiography, make a connection between the character and the theme of the MSSO.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Evaluation Area = # Points

Physical Appearance of Puppets = 6

- Met construction requirements
- Looks like character chosen
- Creativity/originality

Oral Autobiography of Character = 12

- Animation of character voice - inflection/ legibility
- Dramatic presence
- Facts about character including important events, contributions, etc.
- Connection to MSSO theme
- Creativity in presentation such as props, music, sound effects, etc.

Adherence to time limit (one to two minutes) = 2

TOTAL POINTS = 20

Submit Entry To: [Hand Puppets - Entry Link](#)

HISTORICAL TV NEWSCAST

All Divisions

- Each school may submit one TV Newscast per division via YouTube or other online video site (share the link).
- Students are to create, produce, and direct a 15-minute video for intermediate and senior divisions, and a 10-minute video for the elementary division.
- This video program is to simulate what a television newscast would have been in the past AND be related to MSSO Theme. (See YouTube clips of "Newscast from the Past" for examples.)
- Newscasts will be judged on the following elements: realism; organization; delivery; creativity in sets, props, costumes; graphics; maps and illustrations; historical accuracy; time limit (10 minutes in length, plus or minus 15 seconds for the elementary division; 15 minutes in length, plus or minus 15 seconds for intermediate and senior division.)

Submit Entry To:

[Historical TV Newscast - Entry Link](#)

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Events must focus on the theme. Each broadcast must also contain two commercials: one product produced in the U.S. and the other imported. The video must be 10 minutes in length for elementary division; 15 minutes in length for intermediate and senior divisions plus or minus 15 seconds. The students in your class must produce the video. Students must do the camera work and the editing themselves. (Teachers and parents must only advise.) Professional editing, cable studio or other adult "hands-on" work is prohibited. The teacher must attest to the rules regarding the production through the Google Form.

Newscast must tie to theme (realism, organization)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1
Not tied to theme	0

Use of props and/or costumes (consider use of theme)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Delivery of newscast (eye contact, use of voice, body language need to be considered)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Content of newscast (accuracy, creativity, and use of theme)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Technical quality (use of titling, sound, graphics, transitions, timing and lighting)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

INVESTMENTS

Sponsored by the Michigan Council on Economic Education

Division: Intermediate (6-8) and Senior (9-12)

Welcome to Michigan Social Studies Olympiad Stock Market challenge, sponsored by the Michigan Council on Economic Education! Can you prove yourself to be the savviest investor in our state? Student teams will be given \$100,000 to invest over the course of 8 weeks **(April 1-May 9, 2025)** in whatever stocks they think will lead the pack. The winners will be based on the highest percentage gained in their division.

To play:

- Email Derek D'Angelo at derek@michiganecon.org with your interest in participating
- Complete the entry form at the link below
- Visit MCEE at michiganecon.org for more information about the organization sponsoring this event

Submit Entry To: [Investments - Entry Link](#)

MAPPING MICHIGAN'S PAST

Division: Elementary (3-5) and Intermediate (6-8)

What in Michigan's history has impacted America or its people? The Mapping Michigan's Past event is intended to help develop students' knowledge of Michigan history and geography, as well as their map making and presentation skills. For this event, students will design a map which tells a story about Michigan's past and its effect on America or its people (e.g., Where did indigenous people settle? How important are Michigan's resources? Why did cities develop where they did? What did immigrants bring to Michigan?).

Maps should have a clear historical dimension, but topics dealing with modern history are acceptable. In creating a **video**, students will demonstrate using their map and make a statement about why the topic is important to people in Michigan today.

The video presentation

- should include introduction of student(s) and school making the presentation.
- should include a 2-3-minute explanation about the importance of the historic topic to the people of Michigan in the past and today.
- should include the student(s) demonstrating how the map explains the topic.
- should be made without notes. Students should be aware of the importance of speaking clearly and looking at the audience (camera). The viewers must hear every word that is said in the presentation.
- can use commercially produced blank outline maps, however students **MUST** write captions and any text, before or during the video. More than one map may be used.
- must show title and legend on each map. Sources of information must be visible at the beginning or end of the presentation.
- may include pictures.
- may not exceed 5 minutes.

JUDGES SCORECARD: (15 POINT SCALE)

Map Content	
Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Map technique	
Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Presentation	
Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

NOTE: Two students can work together to design and create the video. Adults may assist in the actual recording of the video but cannot help in setup of any props or give any additional assistance to the students during the performance.

Submit Entry To: [Mapping Michigan's Past - Entry Link](#)

MARATHON: A CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PROJECT

All Divisions

The Marathon event will provide an entire class (or a minimum of 10 students from one class, or school-sponsored organization), the opportunity to organize and participate in an original philanthropic, long-term social studies project. The goal is for students to plan, conduct research, and carry out a service-learning project that uses their time, talent, and treasure to better their world. Being involved, contributing citizens is the essence of social studies. It is the hope that this event will encourage students to learn about their role in the community, take a step toward addressing an issue, and GET INVOLVED!

RULES:

- A. A team will consist of at least 10 students. Every school can submit one entry.
- B. This project will **need to have the approval of the school principal**. Approval statement is provided in the Google Form.
- C. Students are encouraged to use resources and project ideas from the Learning to Give website. Here are some good places to get started:
 - Get Started: [<https://www.learningtogive.org/get-started>] List of 10 Ways to Get Started, #9 is a set of great 3-minute introductory videos
 - Issue Areas: [<https://www.learningtogive.org/teach/issue-areas>] Browse this page with links to issues kids care about and explore the toolkits that guide practice, including lessons, background, project ideas, and community and online resources.
 - Under the "Get Started" dropdown menu are three pages with good team building and service-learning skills: Build Community [<https://www.learningtogive.org/get-started/build-community>], Develop Skills and Knowledge [<https://www.learningtogive.org/get-started/develop-skills-and-knowledge>], and Take Action [<https://www.learningtogive.org/get-started/take-action>].
 - Projects are not limited to this resource, but it is encouraged that teachers point students to this site for structure and inspiration. The Trending [<https://www.learningtogive.org/news>] section has lots of stories and articles for ideas.
- D. Projects must be at least six weeks in length, in order to encourage thoughtful citizen involvement and philanthropy over time. Planning, meetings, and logistics are included in this timeframe.
- E. Evidence must be provided about the project. This includes photographs, student testimonies, testimonies of people who were helped, videos, social media posts and artifacts.
- F. In addition to the aforementioned evidence above, there must be a written submission that answers this question: "How did we utilize our time, talents, and treasure to better the world"? It is encouraged that both students and instructors reflect and answer this question. This writing must be in a digital format.
- G. Completed projects must be uploaded to the link below as one document which includes all the required components.

Submit Entry To: [Marathon - Entry Link](#)

AWARDS:

- The winning class will receive a plaque for their school.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

This CANNOT be an existing project at your school that was organized prior to Labor Day of the Olympiad school year and must be certified as such. It must be a project CREATED by teachers, students, together with other organizations.

1. Level of participation from each student. *Is there evidence that project was student-driven and that all children were involved in the outcome?*

Excellent	9-10
Superior	7-8
Very Good	5-6
Good	3-4
Average	1-2
Not Evident	0

2. Impact on the community. *How was the need demonstrated and the action shown to have an impact on the community? How was the issue addressed by the actions of the students?*

Excellent	9-10
Superior	7-8
Very Good	5-6
Good	3-4
Average	1-2
Not Evident	0

3. Evidence. *What was the quality of the evidence provided and writing prompts?*

Excellent	9-10
Superior	7-8
Very Good	5-6
Good	3-4
Average	1-2
Not Evident	0

MONOLOGUE - HISTORICAL

All Divisions

The submission should be a video link (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) with a link submitted using the Google Form link below. The monologue must be performed in front of an audience (students, parents, etc.), and recorded continuously without editing. This recording can be made at home, in a class, or any setting as long as there is an audience and the video is recorded in one continuous take from one camera position.

A Historical monologue is a long speech spoken by only one actor (usually in a play or movie). The speech content and tone must fit the time period and part of the world of the character. Monologues should be focused on one central point, and not simply an autobiographical speech.

- Monologues will be performed virtually using YouTube, Vimeo, etc.
- Only four (4) monologues per school per division may be entered in the MSSO.
- Schools are encouraged to have their own competition and select the monologues for the Olympiad.
- Fictional characters are not acceptable.
- The competing students must do set-up. Adults cannot help in setup of any props or give any assistance to the student during the performance.
- Presentation must be memorized, no notes allowed.

JUDGES

SCORECARD:

Monologue must be 2-3 minutes in length (including set-up time). The competing students must do set-up. Adults cannot help in setup of props or give any assistance to the student during the performance.

2 to 3 minutes 5

≤ 15 s. over/under 4

16-30 s. over/under 3

31-45 s. over/under 2

46-60 s. over/under 1

61 + sec. over/under 0

Monologue must tie to MSSO theme

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

Doesn't tie to theme 0

3. Use of props

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

No Props 0

4. Use of costume appropriate to monologue

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

No Costume 0

5. Eye contact (presentation must be memorized, no notes allowed)

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

Used notes 0

6. Use of voice

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

7. Body language

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

8. Historical accuracy

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

9. Originality in presentation

Excellent 5

Superior 4

Very Good 3

Good 2

Average 1

Submit Entry To: [Monologue - Entry Link](#)

ONLINE PRESENTATION

All Divisions

Guidelines:

Online presentations are tools that provide visuals, sounds, and words that increase people's understanding of a subject. This event entails having students create a digital presentation based on this year's theme. Students can choose from a variety of platforms to create their online presentation including, but not limited to:

PowerPoint
Prezi
Google Slides
Canva
Slide Share
Powtoon
Adobe Spark

Whatever platform is used, it is important that the presentation can be opened using a shareable link.

This is an individual event.

The presentation must include a title page that states your name, grade, school, and title of your presentation.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Historical Content- How clearly does the presentation teach the topic? Is it original work? Are facts accurate and from reputable sources?

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Use of visuals- How well do your visuals provide reinforcement and understanding of the topic and theme? Are they engaging?

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Creativity- How well did you utilize the various creative tools that your presentation software provided in order to make your presentation unique and interesting?

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Thoroughness- Does your presentation adequately cover the scope of your topic? Attempt to find an appropriate scale that includes the right amount of detail.

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Citations - Presentations must provide source citations for content and visuals. Intermediate and Senior Division citations must be in either MLA or APA styles. Elementary citations may contain website URLs or title and author information.

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Submit Entry To: [Online Presentations - Entry Link](#)

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Division: Intermediate (6-8) and Senior (9-12)

This event is a wonderful opportunity for the entrant to explore photography and to sharpen writing skills.

FORMAT:

- Mount 5-10 photographs and up to 300 typed words on the front of a 24 x 36 inch sturdy poster board. A foam core board is a good choice. (Use rubber cement glue to survive shipping.)

PHOTOS:

- Select entrant's own 4x6 inch color or black and white photos printed on photographic paper. Use no overexposed, under-exposed or out of focus shots. Describe photos in captions or in the body of writing accurately. Narrow the subject and focus on photo opportunities that support the theme. Arrange the photos in a logical way and copy/decorate as desired. Keep in mind that nothing should distract from the photos.

WRITTEN MATTER:

- Be aware of the difference between reporting fact and opinion and how to support each. Resist the impulse to inject personal feelings unless fully supported with data. Use research other than the computer to retain richer, deeper detail. Personal resources such as clubs, activities and family are good options as supplemental research. Correctly identify personal resources when quoting another source. Consider what your entry might look like if your title and copy were arranged as if printed in a publication such as a news article, magazine article, brochure, pamphlet or newsletter. Captions should be brief, the same size type as the copy; and should not repeat the data in the copy. Revise and edit out ideas that do not accurately reflect the theme. Proofread copy for spelling, grammar, and sentence structure.
- Entrant's name, school, division and theme should be typed under the Title/Headline on the poster front as well as on the entry form.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Entries will be judged on the basis of:
 - A. Appropriate use of theme
 - B. Quality of photographs
 - C. Content of writing
 - D. Creativity
2. Entries created by more than one individual will not be judged.
3. Complete the Photojournalism entry form electronically using the Google Form link below and also complete the hardcopy event form to attach to the Photojournalism entry before sending to the address on the event form.

Submit Entry To: [Photojournalism- Entry Link](#)

Entry form on next page →

PHOTOJOURNALISM– ENTRY FORM

Teacher or contact person only completes ALL PARTS of this form. PRINT OR TYPE ONLY. Fill out BOTH halves of this label for each student. **Special Instructions:** Glue or tape THIS HALF of the label to the BACK OF THE MAT. (The OTHER half will remain attached to this top half, but will not be glued or taped down.)

INFORMATION CARD:

Division: • Intermediate • Senior

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____

Name of School: _____ School District: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____

Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand photographs and essay/graphic design become(s) property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

INFORMATION CARD:

Division: • Intermediate • Senior

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____

Name of School: _____ School District: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____

Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand photographs and essay/graphic design become(s) property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit entry to:

Tim Constant
2017 Cresthill Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073
olympiad@mcssmi.org

PODCAST

Division: Elementary (3-5); Intermediate (6-8); and Senior (9-12)

This event invites students to create a podcast that tells a community story. Podcasts, which are audio programs that focus on a specific theme or topic, are a great way for students to participate in a more active study of history and contemporary issues.

Podcasts should be between 5 and 15 minutes in length and must address the theme of the 2025 Olympiad.

Links to the Podcasts will be provided through the Google Form.

Submissions should be original work and not violate any copyright or intellectual property laws (even with music). Students can submit individually or as a group.

Submit Entry To: [Podcast - Entry Link](#)

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Time limit: Between 5 and 15 minutes

Place-Based Content: Does your podcast tell a detailed story that is relevant to you or your community and addresses the theme?

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Organization: Is your story structured in a way that maintains the listener's attention?

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Creativity: Does your podcast highlight unique perspectives in an engaging way?

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Production: Does your editing create clean audio that ensures listeners are not distracted by outside noise, redundancy, etc.?

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

POETRY

All Divisions

Guidelines:

- Poetry entries must be typed, double spaced, minimum of 14 lines, maximum of 50 lines.
- Only three (3) pieces of poetry per school per division may be submitted.
- Each school is encouraged to have their own competition and select three pieces to be submitted to the Olympiad.
- Poetry can be of any style, rhymed or unrhymed, structured or free verse.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Poetry connection to theme

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Poetry form (spelling, grammar)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Content of poetry (accuracy, creativity, and use of theme)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Submit Entry To: [Poetry - Entry Link](#)

POLITICAL CARTOONS JOURNAL

Division: Intermediate (6-8) and Senior (9-12)

- The purpose of the journal is to examine current issues which have an impact on our government, political parties, and local, state, national, and international issues. You will find political cartoons online as well as in newspapers and magazines.
- Each cartoon entry should include:
 1. The date your cartoon appeared
 2. The newspaper, magazine, or website your cartoon appeared in
 3. The name of the political cartoonist
 4. A paragraph summary (**4 sentence MINIMUM**) of the cartoon
 5. A copy of the cartoon itself within the journal
- All of this information, with the exception of the actual cartoon, is to be typed. While it's important that your journal be very neat or organized, **the interpretation of your cartoon is the key to your success!**
- When completed, your journal should contain 15 pages (one cartoon per page). Your journal entries are to be in **chronological order** from oldest to the most recent. Your choice of cartoons should be no older than Labor Day of the Olympiad school year. Your journal should include a cover page that shows some originality in the title and anything else you might want to include on it.
- Your journal will be divided into three sections:
 - I. State/Local – 2 cartoons (in chronological order)
 - II. International – 1 cartoon
 - III. National – 12 cartoons
 - a) Congress 4 cartoons (in chronological order)
 - b) Courts 2 cartoons (in chronological order)
 - c) Presidency 6 cartoons (in chronological order)
- Each section and subsection should be separated by an “inside” title page with the section number and title on it.
- Upload journal using the Google Form link below.

Submit Entry To: [Political Cartoon Journal - Entry Link](#)

POSTERS

All Divisions

DESCRIPTION and REQUIREMENTS of poster categories:

1. **COLLAGE** - The background of this poster must be entirely covered with found objects (leaves, miniature toys, photographs, magazine pictures, etc.) or materials that tell a story that fit the Olympiad's current theme. Creativity in layout is very important. The depth of the poster cannot exceed one inch. (The materials used in the poster cannot stick out more than 1 inch from the face of the poster itself.)
2. **ARTISTIC POSTER** - Artistic interpretation of the Olympiad's designated theme through one, or a combination, of some of the following: painting, drawings, and use of a variety of material, photographs/pictures. PHOTOCOPIED material or photocopied pictures will be accepted as long as they are colored in and limited to three items or less. The poster must be titled. No caption and/or brief explanations permitted. Artistic merit and interpretation of the theme are scored equally.
3. **STORY BOARD** - Magazine pictures, photocopied pictures (no more than three and must be colored or painted in), newspaper clippings, photographs, found objects such as leaves, miniature objects, beans, etc., which tell a story that fits this year's Olympiad's designated theme. NO PHOTOCOPYING of articles, stories, paragraphs from texts, encyclopedias, pamphlets, promotional blurbs, will be accepted. The poster must be titled and pictures, items, etc. are to be captioned with brief explanations (no more than 3 sentences per picture/item). The story line with appropriate pictures and/or items will make up 60% of the score. Story must flow from beginning to middle, and end.

POSTER RULES:

1. There are three (3) categories within the poster event: Artistic, Collage, and Story Board (story in pictures). A school may enter one, two or all three of the poster categories.
2. Only those posters following the MSSO theme and poster rules will be judged.
3. The following material may be used in making posters unless specifically prohibited in the category descriptions: manila paper, drawing paper, newsprint, poster board, oak tag, watercolor paper, illustration board, banner paper, glitter, tissue paper, crepe paper, magazine pictures, photocopied pictures colored or tinted in, newspaper clippings, poster paint, markers, water colors, colored drawing pencils, photographs, found objects.
4. ALL POSTERS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF MSSO IF SUBMITTED AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED.
5. Poster can range in size from 14 X 22 inches to 22 X 28 inches for all divisions.
6. Computer generated materials/graphics is strongly discouraged.
7. Posters designed and created by more than one individual are not judged.
8. The posters may need to be hung, do not use heavy items.
9. DO NOT USE ITEMS OF VALUE.
10. Send with the poster an explanation in the student's own words which states the reason they chose to interpret the theme in the way that they did and the connection the poster has to this year's theme. Posters without this explanation will not be judged.

Submit Entry To: [Poster Artistic - Entry Link](#)
[Poster Collage - Entry Link](#)
[Poster Storyboard - Entry Link](#)

Entry form on next page →

POSTER – ENTRY FORM

Teacher or Contact person only completes ALL PARTS of this form. PRINT OR TYPE ONLY. Fill out both Information Cards for each student. Adhere the top Information Card to the back of the mat. (The lower half of the Information Card will remain attached to the top half, but do not attach this portion to the project entry.) ATTACH EXPLANATION ON THE BACK OF THE POSTER: Type or print an EXPLANATION in the student's own words which states the reason why they chose to interpret the theme in the way that they did and the connection the poster has to this year's theme. Posters without this explanation will not be judged.

INFORMATION CARD:

Category of Poster: • Artistic • Storyboard • Collage
Div. of Poster: • Elementary • Intermediate • Senior

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____
Name of School: _____ School District: _____
School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____
Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand posters become property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

INFORMATION CARD:

Category of Poster: • Artistic • Storyboard • Collage
Div. of Poster: • Elementary • Intermediate • Senior

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____
Name of School: _____ School District: _____
School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____
Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand posters become property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit entry to:
Tim Constant
2017 Cresthill Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073

PRIMARY DOCUMENTS JOURNAL

All Divisions

- Only three (3) entries per division per school may be submitted.
- The purpose of the journal is for the student to analyze a historical event through the use of primary documents. The documents need to address the MSSO theme.
- Photos of the primary document journal will be submitted through the Google Form link below as well as sending the journal poster board to the address stated below.

RULES:

1. Journals must be typed using Times New Roman at 12 pt. font.
2. Only four (4) documents will be used. These documents will be of four (4) different types. These types can include, but are not limited to letters, diaries, journals, receipts, speeches, laws, court cases, newspaper articles, other print materials, and photographs.
3. A map of the event will be included. The map does not need to be a primary document. The map should use an appropriate level (local, regional, national) that best represents the historical event.
4. The four (4) documents and the map need to be displayed on a poster board or bulletin board so that they show a connection to a common theme.
5. Each document and map will be annotated using the following criteria:
 - a. Origin (author, date, source)
 - b. Purpose (reason for the creation of the document)
 - c. Value (to historians)
 - d. Limitation (to historians)
6. The journal will include a 1-2 page summary of how the documents are connected. The student will show an ability to analyze and synthesize the content of the documents.
7. The journal will follow the following format:
 - entry form
 - title page
 - display photograph
 - document #1
 - annotation #1
 - document #2
 - annotation #2
 - document #3
 - annotation #3
 - document #4
 - annotation #4
 - map
 - map annotation
 - summary

Submit Entry To: [Primary Documents Journal - Entry Link](#)

Entry form on next page →

PRIMARY DOCUMENTS JOURNAL – ENTRY FORM

Please place ONE (1) copy of this form as the first page of the Journal. Please complete ALL PARTS of this form.
Please PRINT OR TYPE ONLY.

Entry information

Please check the division you are entering: • Elementary • Intermediate • Senior

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher or Contact Person: _____

School Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: MI Zip: _____

School District: _____

To the best of my knowledge _____ (student's name), created and wrote this MSSO event entry with minimal assistance in only theme comprehension and form requirements, if at all.

Principal's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit entry to:
Tim Constant
2017 Cresthill Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073
olympiad@mcssmi.org

QUILTATHON

Division: Elementary (3-5) and Intermediate (6-8)

- Historically, quilt making has been a practical activity, which values diversity and creative expression.
- Inherent in quilt making is the tradition of collaboration and sharing with many working together for the common good. The Quiltathon will provide students an opportunity to create a quilt block to be judged on its own merits.
- **Only FOUR quilt blocks per division, per school may be submitted.**
- First, Second, and Third place winners will be selected along with honorable mentions.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. The finished quilt square **MUST** measure 12 inches x 12 inches. Accuracy in cutting is essential to the success of the completed quilt. Blocks, which do not meet the size requirement, will be disqualified.
2. The foundation of the quilt block **MUST** be poster board, but the actual design may include the creative use of the following: fabric, photographs, artwork, decorative papers, embellishments, thread, or any other material which will enhance graphic appeal.
3. Quilt blocks may reflect any quilt type (patchwork, appliqué, or other quilting techniques). Only two dimensional work is acceptable. Items cannot be more than 1/2 inch high on the face or extend beyond 1/2 inch on the sides of the quilt block.
4. Quilt blocks will be judged on the creative interpretation of traditional quilt block patterns and the appropriate use of the designated MSSO theme.
5. **Complete the online entry form at the link below as well as complete the hard copy form to send with the Quiltathon entry. The online form requires a photo of the entry.**
6. **Each quilt block must have the completed form found on the following page affixed to the back of the quilt block. Please follow directions on the form. DO NOT LAMINATE OVER THE FORM.**
7. All quilt blocks become the property of MSSO and will not be returned.
8. Do not use items of sentimental or monetary value.
9. Quilt block entries must be postmarked on or before the Olympiad deadline.
10. Sources to consult: Quilting books and magazines (templates and quilt pattern ideas) and *Quilted Scrapbooks* by Memory Makers (Satellite Press, 2000).
11. **ATTACH EXPLANATION:** Type or print an EXPLANATION in the student's own words of why they chose to interpret the theme in the way they did. Posters without this explanation will not be judged.

Submit Entry To: [Quiltathon - Entry Link](#)

Entry form on next page →

QUILTATHON – ENTRY FORM

Teacher or Contact person only completes this form. PRINT OR TYPE ONLY. Complete both Information Cards and adhere the top portion to the back of the quilt block. Please leave the bottom Information Card on the same sheet. ATTACH EXPLANATION: Type or print an EXPLANATION in the student's own words of why they chose to interpret the theme in the way they did.

INFORMATION CARD:

Div: • Elementary • Intermediate

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____

Name of School: _____ School District: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____

Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand entries become property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

INFORMATION CARD:

Div: • Elementary • Intermediate

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____

Name of School: _____ School District: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____

Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand entries become property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit entry to:

Nancy Domke

8892 Marr Rd.

Almont, MI 48003

(586) 489-2314

nancy.domke@gmail.com

SOCIAL STUDIES SONG

All Divisions

- All students will create a video of their performance.
- Three (3) song teams per school per division may be entered in the Olympiad. The song may be performed by individual students or by a single group of not more than five (5) students.
- Vocals may be accompanied by an instrument, drum machine, or background track.
- The written portion (lyrics) must be sent along with a video link (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) of the performance.
- Song lyrics must be clearly and accurately typed or printed. This includes proper spelling. (Poetic license is allowed in grammar, usage, punctuation and manuscript.)
- Song must relate to the MSSO theme.
- Music and lyrics must be original - composed/written and performed by the student(s).
- The written portion and the musical performance will be judged as one entry.

Submit Entry To:

[Social Studies Song- Entry Link](#)

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Song must be 2-3 minutes long

2 to 3 minutes	5
1 to 15 s. over/under	4
16-30 s. over/under	3
31-45 s. over/under	2
46-60 s. over/under	1

Content of song reflects the MSSO Theme

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1
Doesn't tie to theme	0

Articulation (lyrics can be clearly understood)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Rhyme and rhythm

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Delivery (eye contact, use of voice, body language)

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Props and Costuming Appropriate to song

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Accuracy and use of original materials

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

SPEAKATHON

Division: Intermediate (6-8) nd Senior (9-12)

- Students will give a 4 to 5 minute speech tied to the Olympiad theme.
- Each school may upload only three student performance videos.
- Videos must be entirely written, performed, and edited by students
- If more than one video/entry, submit a Google Form for each entry.
- Points based on length, theme, control and delivery will determine the winner. See rubric.

Submit Entry To: [Speakathon - Entry Link](#)

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Speech must be 4 to 5 minutes in length

4 to 5 minutes	5
1 to 15 s. over/under	4
16-30 s. over/under	3
31-45 s. over/under	2
46-60 s. over/under	1

Content of speech reflects the MSSO theme

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Focus – how well your speech introduces and communicates your ideas

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Organization – how well your ideas flow from the opening to the conclusion and how well you stay on topic

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Elaboration of Evidence – how well you use sources, facts, and details as evidence

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Language and Vocabulary – how effectively you express ideas using language appropriate for your audience

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Presentation – how well your speech is presented, including eye contact, pronunciation, awareness of audience

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

STAMPATHON

All Divisions

The Stampathon is intended to help students become aware of the relationship between hobbies and social studies. Students must select a topic and choose between seven to ten stamps dealing with the topic. Stamps used in this event can be pictorial representations of stamps. Some suggested social studies topics are leaders, transportation, communication, environment, peace, social issues, entertainment, history, the MSSO theme, etc. Any other topic relating to social studies may be used.

- Stamps must be displayed on poster board at least 18" x 24" and not larger than 24" x 36".
- Commercially produced blank outline maps can be used as background.
- The student must draw additional pictorial representations such as backgrounds and captions.
- The poster board display must have a title.
- The student will record a 2-3 minute oral statement about the poster board display. The student should give relevant information about why the stamps were selected, their country of origin, and their significance to the social studies topic selected. A link to the video will be provided in the Google Form link below along with photos of the poster board.
- The oral presentation must be memorized. Reading of notes is not permitted.
- Each school may enter five Stampathon displays per division.

JUDGES SCORECARD:

Appropriateness of stamps to the topic, appearance of the stamps and their background.

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Presentation, knowledge of subject and questions

Excellent	5
Superior	4
Very Good	3
Good	2
Average	1

Submit Entry To: [Stampathon - Entry Link](#)

Entry form on next page →

STAMPATHON – ENTRY FORM

Please include a copy of this form with your entry. Please PRINT OR TYPE ONLY.

Entry information

Please check the division you are entering: • Elementary • Intermediate • Senior

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher or Contact Person: _____

School Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: MI Zip: _____

School District: _____

To the best of my knowledge
MSSO event entry with minimal assistance.

(student's name), created this

Principal's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit entries to:
Tim Constant
2017 Cresthill Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073
olympiad@mcssmi.org

TAKE A STAND ESSAY

All Divisions

- Students are to produce a written essay that expresses a position on a current public issue related to the Olympiad theme and justify the position with reasoned arguments. A public issue is an unresolved question that requires resolution if people are to govern themselves. For example, “Should Michigan provide subsidies for wind farms”?
- Only three written essays per school per division may be submitted. Each school is encouraged to have their own competition and select three written essays to be submitted to the Olympiad.
- **Essays must be** as a Word Doc or PDF.

JUDGES SCORECARD: (If rules are not followed, entry may be disqualified)

Essay must be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman – 12 pt. font, with 1 inch margins, and page numbers. The length of the essay must be 1-2 pages for elementary, 2-3 pages for intermediate and 3-4 pages for senior division. A separate bibliography page is required for all divisions. A minimum of 3 various sources (books, internet, etc.) for elementary and intermediate divisions and a minimum of 5 various (books, internet, etc.) sources for senior division. For the senior division, sources must be cited within the essay as well. Essay title and page numbers should be on the top of all pages.

ELEMENTARY- The student has identified a local, state or national issue related to the Olympiad theme and has taken a stand on it. The student has provided at least 2 reasons for taking that position and has elaborated on those reasons using appropriate references. The student has explained why the position is preferable to a possible alternative position. The essay contains no mechanical, usage or grammatical errors that impede understanding. Essay title and page numbers must be on every page.

INTERMEDIATE: The student has identified a national or international public issue related to the Olympiad theme and has taken a stand on it. The student has provided at least 2 reasons for taking that position, both of which are persuasively elaborated using appropriate references. The student addresses an opposing view and explains why it is less defensible. The argument in the essay contains no mechanical, usage or grammatical errors, which impede understanding. Essay title and page numbers must be on every page.

SENIOR: The student composes an accurately informed essay about a current national or international public issue related to the Olympiad theme. The student clearly expresses a position on the issue. The student supports the position with at least 2 elaborated persuasive reasons and with a clear argument why the position advocated is preferable to at least one alternative position identified in the essay. The argument in the essay is so clear, coherent and without error as to merit publication. Sources must be cited within the essay. Also, there must be a title for the essay that appears on the top of every page along with page numbers.

Submit Entry To: [Take a Stand Essay - Entry Link](#)

THEME GRAPHIC DESIGN

Division: Intermediate (6-8) and Senior (Grades 9-12)

- Each student will submit an **ORIGINAL** graphic design representative of the current theme.
- Entries must be 4" X 6", including any borders. The design must be on a white background and done in black (felt tip pen or fine tip marker recommended). **Pencil, ballpoint pen, or computer-generated entries will not be accepted.** The design must also include the initials MSSO and the year.
- Each school may submit three entries per school.
- All designs become property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes and imposed on merchandise.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each entry must have the completed form found on the following page stapled to the back of the entry.
2. Submit a photo of the Theme Graphic Design entry using the Google Form link below.
2. Entries must be postmarked on or before the Olympiad deadline.
3. Entries must be an original graphic design (4" X 6" including any borders) and completed in only black and white. The design must include the words: Michigan Social Studies Olympiad or the abbreviation MSSO and the year.
4. Entries will be judged on:
 - o Appropriate use of theme
 - o Quality of design
 - o Creativity
5. Reasons for disqualification include:
 - o Entries created by more than one individual
 - o Computer generated entries
 - o Entries traced or copied from another artist's work

Submit Entry To: [Theme Graphic Design - Entry Link](#)

Entry form on next page →

THEME GRAPHIC DESIGN – ENTRY FORM

Teacher or Contact person only must complete ALL PARTS of this form. PRINT OR TYPE ONLY. Complete both Information Cards one for each student. THEME GRAPHIC DESIGN ONLY: Do NOT glue or tape. Use a staple to attach form to the design.

INFORMATION CARD:

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____

Name of School: _____ School District: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____

Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand entries become property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

INFORMATION CARD:

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade Level: _____

Name of School: _____ School District: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ State: MI Zip Code: _____

Coach Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I understand entries become property of MSSO and may be used for further educational purposes or imposed on merchandise.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit entries to:

Tim Constant
2017 Cresthill Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073
olympiad@mcssmi.org

Judge:

Molly McNeece
mollymcniece@gmail.com