



# RUSD History Day 2024-25

Welcome to History Day 2025! I'm so glad your student has decided to participate in this exciting and valuable program. Read on for some resources and tips for participating in History Day.

National History Day engages more than half a million students around the world in rigorous historical scholarship every year. Students compete with their historical projects at the school, district, county, state, and national levels. Riverside Unified is proud to have sent numerous students on to the finals in College Park, Maryland over the years.

Each year, 4th - 12th grade students research topics related to the annual theme and create one of several types of projects:

- Poster (4th & 5th grade only)
- Podcast (4th - 12th grade)
- Exhibit Board (6th - 12th grade)
- Website (6th - 12th grade)
- Documentary (6th - 12th grade)
- Performance (6th - 12th grade)
- Historical Paper (6th - 12th grade)

All projects, except for the historical paper, can be completed in groups or as individuals. Group projects and individual projects are considered separate categories and compete separately. In addition to their categories (i.e. Individual Documentary or Group Exhibit) students also compete by division. Elementary Division includes 4th - 5th grades; Junior Division includes 6th - 8th grades; and Senior Division includes 9th - 12th grades. 4th and 5th grade students may create a poster or a podcast. All students, when choosing a category type, should take into account their own creative skills as well as the resources they have for their topic. Some resources and topics lend themselves to certain types of projects better than others.

This year's theme is [Rights & Responsibilities in History](#). Student projects must clearly fit within the theme in order to be competitive.

As your student starts thinking about a topic, there are a number of things to consider. What are they interested in? Do they like the topic enough to research it for the next 6 months? Can the student link the topic to the theme?

It is important for students to remember that a History Day project is not only about telling a story, but rather about building a thesis from the evidence they find in their research, supporting their thesis with the evidence, and building an argument with their evidence.

Be sure to check out the following NHD and research resources as you begin your journey:

RUSD History Day Website: [bit.ly/RUSDNHD](http://bit.ly/RUSDNHD)  
[National History Day - California Website](#)  
[National History Day Website](#)

[Library of Congress](#)  
[National Archives](#)

Happy researching!

Carolyn Power, Ed.D.  
RUSD History Day Coordinator  
[cpower@riversideunified.org](mailto:cpower@riversideunified.org)