

## **Event Attendance Guidelines**

**These guidelines apply to National History Day in Minnesota Regional/District contests and the Minnesota State History Day contest.**

Whenever possible, we expect all students connected with an entry to attend the contest. We do recognize that there may be times when this is not possible. Students may still be able to enter the Regional/District or State contest, even if they may not be able to attend on the day of the contest. Student competitors should weigh these options against other obligations to determine if they wish to participate in the History Day contest.

### **Religious Conflicts**

Students with religious conflicts for the day of the competition should contact the event coordinator to discuss options before the event registration deadline. Documentary, Exhibit, Paper (State), and Website students are able to have an advance interview. If the student wishes to attend the event but cannot operate technology for religious reasons, a staff member is able to assist.

### **Group Entries**

Documentary, Exhibit, and Website entries can be judged with only one group member present. There is no penalty for missing group members. All group members must register and pay any applicable fees.

Performance entries with missing group members cannot substitute in other students for missing group members. The script must be re-written for only the group members that are able to be present. A group Performance cannot switch to the Individual Performance category.

### **Phone Interviews**

Phone interviews must be requested by the student and approved by the event coordinator in advance of the contest.

- For Documentaries and Exhibits, a teacher or classmate must set-up the project and supporting materials.
- For Documentaries, Exhibits, Papers, and Websites, a teacher or classmate must be present at the judging time with the student on the phone for the interview. Judges will not call the student on their personal phone. A re-written Performance entry may choose to call the missing student to participate in the interview, but it is not required.

### **Websites Entries**

If the student(s) from a Website entry do not show up at the event and no prior phone interview has been requested or approved, the entry will be treated as a “no show.” The entry will not be permitted to advance to the next level and the judges will not provide any written feedback for the students.

### **Major Event Conflicts**

If another event conflicts with Regional, District, or State contests and has the possibility to significantly negatively impact History Day attendance, History Day staff reserve the right to arrange additional alternate options for students. These options will be designed to improve access to the event and will be applied consistently across all schools. Lead teachers will be informed of these additional options in advance and students should follow these additional guidelines.

## Last Minute Emergencies and Illnesses

Staff will make every effort possible to facilitate the fair and safe participation of any student who has already registered for a Regional/District event or State History Day and has a last minute family emergency, illness, and/or is under quarantine or isolation restrictions that prevents them from attending the event.

- The student must have previously registered for the contest by the registration deadline.
- The parent/guardian, student, or teacher must communicate with the event coordinator in advance of the student's judging time. This is to ensure that the entry is not considered a "no show" and mistakenly removed from consideration for advancement.
- **For group entries:** If other members of the group are able to be present in the event, they will be responsible for setting up the project and interviewing with judges.
- **For individual entries:** Judges will review the project without a student interview. Staff members will communicate that this is an approved exception in order to limit any potential bias from the judges.
  - Websites: Judges will use previously submitted URL.
  - Papers: Judges will use previously submitted Paper.
  - Documentaries: A classmate or teacher needs to be present at the judging time to play the project, and to watch for any final-round times at which they may need to play the Documentary again.
  - Exhibit: A classmate or teacher needs to set up and remove the Exhibit.
- **For individual or group performances:** Since no performance recordings are required to be submitted in advance for regular contest judging, contact Minnesota History Day staff to discuss the most fair and safe option for participation in the Performance category in case of last minute emergencies and illnesses.

**Please contact Minnesota History Day staff with any questions  
about these guidelines.**