Connecticut History Day
2023 State Contest Special Prize Results

David O. White Prize for Outstanding Entry in African American History
*Sponsored by: Association for the Study of Connecticut History*

**Project: Jackie Robinson: Breaking Barriers in Baseball and Beyond**
Category: Senior Group Exhibit
School: Ellington High School (Ellington)
Students: Jaela Garrow, Jenna Garrow, Kayleigh Wiegand

George Washington Leadership in History Prize-Junior Division
*Sponsored by: The Washington Library at George Washington's Mount Vernon*

**Project: Lafayette and The Revolution**
Category: Junior Group Documentary
School: Torrington Middle School (Torrington)
Students: Diego Flores, Gaige Gawrych

George Washington Leadership in History Prize-Senior Division
*Sponsored by: The Washington Library at George Washington's Mount Vernon*

**Project: America Goes Global: How Benjamin Franklin Shaped a National Identity**
Category: Senior Individual Documentary
School: South Windsor High School
Student: Grace Smith

Outstanding Award Related to a Social Justice Issue
*Sponsored by: History Department, Southern Connecticut State University*

**Project: "Denied Entry"**
Category: Senior Group Exhibit
School: Torrington High School (Torrington)
Students: Keila Santos, Makayla Rodriguez, Olivia Andrade

Outstanding Entry for Use of Materials from a Connecticut Museum or Collecting Institution
*Sponsored by: Connecticut League of History Organizations*

**Project: The Role of Operation Bootstrap on Puerto Rican Migration**
Category: Senior Group Exhibit
School: High School in the Community (New Haven)
Students: Isabella Rivera, Nicole Tubac
Outstanding Entry in American Colonial History  
*Sponsored by: Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford*

**Project: The Trial of Levi Weeks: America’s First Fully Transcribed Murder Trial**  
Category: Junior Individual Documentary  
School: Bristow Middle School (West Hartford)  
Student: Ari Shukla

Outstanding Entry in Connecticut History  
*Sponsored by: Connecticuthistory.org, a program of CT Humanities*

**Project: Adapting to The American Frontier: The History & Legacy of Samson Occom and the Brothertown Indian Nation**  
Category: Senior Paper  
The Academy of Information Technology (Stamford)  
Student: Michael Iacovacci

Outstanding Entry in Native American History  
*Sponsored by: Akomawt Educational Initiative*

**Project: "It's Hard to Hate Someone That You Know a Lot About": How Gladys Tantaquidgeon Was a Frontier for Preserving Mohegan Culture, Protecting Indigenous Medicine, and Defining the Role of Indigenous Women in Society and Academia**  
Category: Junior Group Documentary  
Memorial Middle School (Southbury)  
Students: Jillian O'Connor, Maria Bueno, Marlo Gabriele, Payton Pentino

Outstanding Entry in World History - Junior Division  
*Sponsored by: Connecticut Council for the Social Studies*

**Project: "The Greats" That Came Before**  
Category: Junior Individual Performance  
School: Bedford Middle School (Westport)  
Student: Jasmita Mani Lorenzato

Outstanding Entry in World History - Senior Division  
*Sponsored by: Connecticut Council for the Social Studies*

**Project: Footsteps of an Empire: Frontiers of the Ancient World**  
Category: Senior Group Website  
School: Pomperaug Regional High School (Southbury)  
Students: Liam Quinn, Owen Broadwater
Outstanding Entry Related to an Under-Represented Connecticut Community
Sponsored by: Connecticut Landmarks

Project: Mary Townsend Seymour: Rethinking the Role of Women and African Americans in the Connecticut Political Frontier
Category: Senior Individual Exhibit
School: Windham Technical High School (Willimantic)
Student: Denayah Bostick

Outstanding Entry Related to Civics, Government, or Citizenship
Sponsored by: Connecticut Democracy Center

Project: Ulysses S. Grant and his effect on the Civil Rights movement of the 1800’s
Category: Senior Individual Website
School: Staples High School (Westport)
Student: Liam Furlong

Outstanding Entry Related to Slavery or Abolition
Sponsored by: The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition

Project: The Pioneers: How Formerly Enslaved Haitians Re-Ordered Society and Changed History Forever
Category: Junior Paper
School: Bedford Middle School (Westport)
Student: Owen Boberski

Outstanding Entry that Best Incorporates Jewish History, Heritage and/or a Jewish Personality
Sponsored by: Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County

Project: Jews on the American Frontier; How They Helped Expand the West and the Challenges They Faced
Category: Junior Individual Website
School: King Philip Middle School (West Hartford)
Student: Amaia Potashner

Prize for Outstanding Entry in American Legal History - Junior Division
Sponsored by: Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society

Project: AMBER: The Murder That Saved Thousands
Category: Junior Paper
School: Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School (East Haddam)
Student Kaelyn Cambi
Prize for Outstanding Entry in American Legal History - Senior Division
Sponsored by: Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society

Project: Margaret Sanger: The Creation of Birth Control
Category: Senior Group Exhibit
School: Staples High School (Westport)
Students: Katherine Fitzgerald, Lola Lamensdorf, Rhiya Anand, Sophie Cochran

Special Prize for an Outstanding Entry in Aerospace or Technological History
Sponsored by: New England Air Museum

Project: Women who worked on the Manhattan Project: How did women help create the two bombs that ended WWII?
Category: Junior Group Exhibit
School: Bristow Middle School (West Hartford)
Students: Nina Francone, Payton Bailey

The Bruce Stave Special Prize for the Best Use of Oral History Prize
Sponsored by: Connecticut Coalition for History

Project: Frontiers in the Vietnam War: The Role of Geography and its impact on Tactics
Category: Senior Group Exhibit
School: High School in the Community (New Haven)
Students: Marbella Escobar Gonzalez, Yeilienys Ojeda