

Connecticut History Day
2026 State Contest Results: Special Prizes

Outstanding Entry for Use of Materials from a Connecticut Museum or Collecting Institution (Sponsored by: Connecticut League of Museums): *A Legal Fight for Civil Justice: The Legacy of the Amistad Trial*

Senior Group Website

Students: Ana Cuevas, Carina Cisneros

School: Norwich Free Academy

Outstanding Entry in Native American History (Sponsored by: Akomawt Educational Initiative): *The Columbian Exchange*

Junior Group Performance

Students: Allison Herrera, Ashley Cardenas, Olivia Melendez Aviles

School: West Rocks Middle School (Norwalk)

Outstanding Entry in American Colonial History (Sponsored by: Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford): *Henry Knox and the Train of Artillery*

Senior Individual Website

Students: Abigail Wilkinson

School: Norwich Free Academy

Prize for Outstanding Entry in American Legal History - Junior Division (Sponsored by: Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society): *Connecticut's Battle With Capital Punishment*

Junior Individual Website

Students: Xinghan Guo

School: Amity Middle School (Bethany)

Prize for Outstanding Entry in American Legal History - Senior Division (Sponsored by: Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society): *Claws of Change: New Haven Black Panther Trials*

Senior Individual Website

Students: Mahlik Lodge

School: Manchester High School

Outstanding Entry in Connecticut History

(Sponsored by: Connecticuthistory.org, a program of CT Humanities): *Connecticut Witch Trials: The Weight of Accusation*

Junior Group Performance

Students: Alexander Grant, Maximus Sr. Germain, Nora Kovacs, Taegan Domain

School: Torrington Middle School

David O. White Prize for Outstanding Entry in African-American History (Sponsored by: Association for the Study of Connecticut History): *"Hang, Curs, Hang!": The Reconstruction Acts, Black Civic Reforms, and Reactionary Southern Extremism*

Senior Paper

Students: Ethan Zimmer

School: Hall High School (West Hartford)

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

Junior Group Performance

Students: Audra Williams, Bethany Christians, Molly Cook, Samerah Beason

School: Vernon Center Middle School

Outstanding Entry in World History - Senior Division (Sponsored by: Connecticut Council for the Social Studies): *Il Banco Dei Medici: How One Finance Family Changed It All*

How One Finance Family Changed It All

Senior Group Documentary

Students: Ferran Ruiz, Jayden Hardy, Kostas Rakevicius

School: Farmington High School

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

Writing a Revolution: How the Declaration of Independence Was Written

Senior Group Documentary

Students: Charles Stuckey, Jack Freitas, Leah DeMarco

School: Greenwich High School

Outstanding Entry Related to Civics, Government, or Citizenship (Sponsored by: Connecticut Democracy Center): *Crisis Reaction and Reform Gone Wrong: The Homeland Security Act of 2002*

Senior Individual Exhibit

Students: Rachel Little

School: Norwich Free Academy

Outstanding Entry Related to Slavery or Abolition (Sponsored by: The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition): *Beyond Freedom: Unpacking the History and Holiday Status of Juneteenth*

Junior Individual Exhibit

Students: Haylee Spence

School: James H. Moran Middle School (Wallingford)

Outstanding Entry that Best Incorporates Jewish History, Heritage and/or a Jewish Personality (Sponsored by: Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County): *The Nuremberg Trials: A Turning Point for Justice and Human Rights*

Senior Group Documentary

Students: James Mezzo, Jaylen Reyes

School: Naugatuck High School

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

The Bicycle Boom

Junior Group Documentary

Students: Ariana Morais, Dahlia Berrezueta, Graci Windebank

School: Westside Middle School Academy (Danbury)

The Bruce Stave Special Prize for the Best Use of Oral, Immigrant, or Urban History Prize (Sponsored by: Connecticut Coalition for History): *Journey to the East: The Founding of New York's Chinatown*

Senior Group Website

Students: Cindy Li, Isabella Tan

School: Norwich Free Academy

George Washington Leadership Prize (Sponsored by: George Washington's Mount Vernon): *America's Favorite Fighting Frenchman: How the Marquis de Lafayette Played a Crucial Role in Revolutions on Two Continents*

Junior Individual Exhibit

Students: Kinley Payne

School: Fields Memorial School (Bozrah)

Outstanding Entry in Maritime History Junior Division Prize

(Sponsored by: National Maritime Historical Society): *The Titanic*
Junior Group Exhibit
Students: Chloe Hill, Ekaterina Gregoire
School: Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School

Outstanding Entry in Maritime History Senior Division Prize
(Sponsored by: National Maritime Historical Society): *The Turtle: David Bushnell's Revolutionary Invention and how it Reformed Marine Warfare*
Senior Group Exhibit
Students: Aubrie Howell, Autumn Clark
School: Enfield High School

Outstanding Entry that incorporates a building, landscape or archeological site in the US that promotes a historic preservation ethic. (Sponsored by: Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): *The Highline Railroad's Remarkable Reformation*
Junior Group Exhibit
Students: Irene Lynch, Tali Friedman
School: Mansfield Middle School