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For Immediate Release

2020 Michigan History Day® State Champions Announced

LANSING, Mich.—**A total of 152 students received top honors at the virtual State Finals competition of Michigan History Day® on Saturday, May 9, 2020. This year, 380 Michigan elementary, middle and high school students took part in the Michigan History Day State Finals contest, which is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM). In addition, 130 people volunteered to serve as judges, who evaluate the participants’ entries and provide constructive feedback. The finalists in the junior and senior divisions will now move on to the virtual National History Day competition.** The winners of the national contest will be announced on June 20.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic both the state and national competitions were moved to a virtual platform for the safety of all involved. Switching to a virtual contest for the Michigan History Day State Finals presented some unique challenges for both students and judges. Students in the exhibit category uploaded pictures of their exhibits to Google Slides and shared the text of their projects next the pictures. Performance students submitted scripts of their performances, relying on words to bring their characters and scenes to life. The judges missed the opportunity to interview and discuss projects with students but were still impressed with the quality of work.



“This year, the History Day theme of ‘Breaking Barriers in History’ became reality with the need to move to a virtual platform because of the pandemic. We never had a virtual program before, and we broke through many barriers to make 2020’s contest happen,” said Michigan History Day state coordinator Amy Bradfield. “I am so proud of our students and judges who all rose to the occasion to make our virtual Michigan History Day a success.”



The state champions for Michigan History Day 2020 include students from Ada, Bay City, Berkley, Bloomfield Hills, Bruce, Bruce Township, Canton, Clinton Township, Drummond Island, Eastpointe, Farmington Hills, Fennville, Fraser, Gobles, Grand Blanc, Grand Rapids, Harrison Township, Hillsdale, Holland, Holly, Howell, Kalamazoo, Mattawan, Milan, Montague, Mount Pleasant, Muskegon, Paw Paw, Pickford, Portage, Richland, Roseville, South Haven, South Lyon, St. Joseph, Sterling Heights, Traverse City, Troy, Twin Lake, Warren, West Bloomfield, Whitehall and Ypsilanti.

[Click here to download a PDF with the names of the winners, what school they are from and the awards they won.](#)

The virtual State Finals ceremony was broadcast live to participants on Michigan History Day's YouTube channel on May 9. Nearly 300 people viewed the program live, and some students involved in group projects held viewing parties with their teammates via Zoom. A link to the recording of the ceremony is available on the 2020 State Finals page of the HSM website, located at hsmichigan.org/mhd/state-finals-2020. The recorded ceremony can also be viewed from Michigan History Day's YouTube channel at youtube.com/watch?v=IgapZ_1_QMQ.

Michigan History Day (National History Day in Michigan) offers a fascinating opportunity to move beyond routine learning. **Based on an annual theme, students choose to explore and research a local, national or international historical topic.** Students then present their work in one of five categories: performances, exhibits, papers, websites and documentaries.

Lead sponsors of Michigan History Day 2020 are The Meijer Foundation, Frederick S. Upton Foundation and Scripps Howard Foundation.

The Historical Society of Michigan is the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft. A nongovernmental nonprofit, the Society focuses on publications, conferences, education, awards and recognition programming, and support for local history organizations to preserve and promote Michigan's rich history.

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Editor's Note: Since this was a virtual program, no photos of the winners are available.

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