VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

District 4 Winners to Compete with Hundreds of Students from Across the Commonwealth On Virginia History Day at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Richmond, VA — First and second place winners from the District 4 history contest in Charlottesville will advance to compete with hundreds of students in the statewide contest known as Virginia History Day on April 27, 2019, at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture in Richmond. Virginia History Day, a massive history competition for students in grades six through twelve, is directed in conjunction with the National History Day Contest.

"We are honored to host Virginia History Day, and excited to provide a permanent home in Richmond for this statewide program," said Virginia Museum of History & Culture's President and CEO, Jamie O. Bosket. "Encouraging students of the Commonwealth to learn and appreciate our shared history is at the very heart of our mission."

Social studies was the spotlight at the Charlottesville contest, which took place on March 12, at UVA's Curry School of Education. 205 middle and high schoolers from thirteen area schools submitted exhibits, websites, papers, documentaries, and performance pieces. Fifty-seven students from eleven schools placed to advance to the statewide competition. Their projects covered a wide range of topics from Lady Jane Grey to the Transcontinental Railroad, from the Russian Revolution to the O.J. Simpson trial. Two special prizes were awarded for projects on local and Virginia history. Evelyn Wellmon, a 7th grader at Buford Middle School in Charlottesville, received a $150 cash award from the Charles Fund, Inc. for the best project on Charlottesville or Albemarle County history. Her website, *The History of Slavery at UVA*, also received second place in the Junior Individual Website category. The Virginia Museum of History & Culture presented Ashley Cortez, a 7th grader at William Monroe Middle School in Greene County, with a $250 cash award for the best project on Virginia history. Her individual theatrical performance, *Separate, But Unequal: Barbara Johns Fight for Equality*, also took first place in the category and will advance to the state contest.

Participants came from Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle, Buford Middle, Leslie H. Walton Middle, Mortimer Y. Sutherland Middle, Powhatan School, Robert E. Lee High, Shelburne Middle, Sherando High, St. Anne's-Belfield School, Stonewall Jackson High, Western Albemarle High, William Monroe Middle, and William Monroe High. The competition took place in partnership with the Curry School of Education, Monticello, Greene County, Albemarle County Public Schools, and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

After Virginia History Day, the top two entries in each project category from both the Junior and Senior divisions will advance to the national contest. Founded in 1974, the National History Day Contest was created to inspire students to conduct original historical research. Since its creation, the contest has grown into an international competition with more than half-a-million participants and thousands of dollars in scholarship awards and prizes annually. According to an independent study in 2011, students who participate in the National History Day Contest are better prepared for college, careers, and citizenship. They also outperform their peers in areas including communication, planning, research, and perseverance.

"Creating a project for the National History Day Contest is challenging. It requires hard work and dedication. But, it also provides great reward," said Dr. Cathy Gorn, National History Day® Executive Director. "The skills of conducting research and recognizing credible sources are crucial to increasing civic engagement in young people."

The national contest will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park in June. The theme of this year's competition is "Conflict and Compromise in History." Students are encouraged to examine their topic's influence on history and draw conclusions about the ways in which it had an impact on the course of events and on individuals, communities, nations, and the world.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society — a private, non-profit organization established in 1831. The historical society is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. For use in its state history museum and its renowned research library, the historical society cares for a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call 804.340.1800, visit VirginiaHistory.org, or connect with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture on Facebook and Twitter.

Virginia Historical Society

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