

Expectations for Judges



As a judge, History Day events are rewarding experiences. The History Day program, students, and teachers will also be relying on you as a critical part of the educational process. Fair and effective judging is an integral part of that experience for students.

Here is what you can expect at History Day, as well as what the program expects of you as a judge.

As a judge you will:

- Sign up in advance on the website at www.history.idaho.gov/nhdi/judges.
- Attend a judge orientation on the day of the event.
- Work with 1-2 other volunteers to review projects and interview students.
- Select the strongest projects to advance to the next level of competition.
- Provide written feedback about each project you view. Comments should be constructive and helpful.

As a judge, you are responsible to:

- Arrive on time and stay until the judging process is completed.
- Let us know as soon as possible if your schedule changes and you are unable to judge.
- Be familiar with the category rules of the projects you are evaluating.
- Remember the age of your audience. Some students are as young as 4th grade and may be nervous to discuss their work. Be patient if they are shy or anxious. Please remember this may be the first time a student has ever had to stand in front of an audience.
- Pay careful attention so you can evaluate well. Students have worked for months on their projects and are looking forward this opportunity to share their work. We want them to improve their project at each contest, and your feedback will guide them.
- Judges should avoid distractions such as personal phone calls, texts, etc. during the event. Judges may not bring minor children that they need to supervise to the event.
- Set aside your own bias. You may know a lot of a student's topic, but please allow them to be the expert. If you encounter a topic that you do not like, set aside those feelings in order to fairly judge the work of the student(s).
- Confer with other judges in private.
- Avoid being swayed by glitz and glamour, focus on the research and analysis.
- Have fun! Share in the enthusiasm of the students! You are helping Idaho students learn, grow and succeed!
- Let the History Day staff know right away if there are problems. We are here to help! This is an opportunity to foster a lifelong love of learning and creativity.

We appreciate your time and will do our best to make this experience rewarding for everyone involved!