



October 5, 2012

Dear Educators:

Peru State College and their Social Science Department would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 28th annual **District History Day Contest on Wednesday, February 29, 2012**. National History Day wants to encourage this as more than just a contest that last a day, but rather a year long experience. As such, this program is intended to motivate the teaching and learning of history through primary and secondary sources and then present such information in different forms of media.

National History Day has produced booklets to help you and your students through every step of the process; from choosing a topic to designing an effective project. The National History Day website (www.nationalhistoryday.org) has such booklets for purchase, or you can request to borrow our copies for a two week period.

This year's theme is "**Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.**" The students conduct extensive research related to this annual theme and present their findings in one of five medias: exhibits, documentaries, performances, papers, or as a website. Students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while creating their entries.

As with every year the theme allows a student to choose a topic that interests them but still relates back to the main idea. This means that a student interested in music, art, sports, or even math can create a historical project in a field that intrigues them. There is history in everything! No subject is left untouched by the hand of the past.

There are two divisions: junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12). Students can choose to participate in the contest individually, or as part of a group of up to five students in every category, except papers, which are individual entry only.

For the eighth year the Peru State College Foundation is planning to award scholarships to each winner in the senior division, individual and group, in every category. This means that **all senior division first place winners will receive a \$500 tuition grant to Peru State College.** The grants may be used for tuition costs for any classes held on the PSC campus. No early entry or online courses are eligible for use of these "Tested for Excellence" scholarships.

Peru State College will have once again, special awards that will be presented by local historical groups:

- Peru Historical Foundation is sponsoring a trophy for the best entry, individual or group, focusing on a historical event/innovation of Nebraska.
- Arbor Lodge is donating a book and a "Friends of Arbor Lodge" individual membership to the best individual entry involving Nebraska and/or environmental issues.
- Nebraska City Museum Association is sponsoring an award with individual trophies for the best use of oral history interviews in an individual or group entry.

The National Archives has developed an interactive web site for teachers and students using... you guessed it... primary documents! www.doctest.org

- The Mayhew Cabin is sponsoring an award for the best entry, individual or group, using 19th Century African-American History. An individual pass to the Mayhew Cabin and a book will be awarded.
- Two \$50 cash awards (1 junior division and 1 senior division) for entries with a focus specifically on Nemaha County or southeast Nebraska. The projects will be judged with the following criteria:
 - Nemaha County Topic -10 points
 - Southeast Nebraska Topic (counties surrounding Nemaha County) - 5 points
 - Use of Primary Source Material - 10 points
 - Use of Oral History - 10 points
 - Use of Nemaha Valley Museum resources - 10 points (this needs to be referenced in the annotated bibliography)

For special awards at the Nebraska state contest check out their website at <http://ne.nhd/org/Awards.htm>)

For special awards at the National History Day Contest check out the website at www.nationalhistoryday.org

This year we are once again offering our services to you even before the contest starts. **Our Assistant Director, Megan Bottcher, or I will be available to meet with you and your students and brainstorm about ideas for the 2012 contest.** At no cost to you or your school we would be delighted to come and visit and assist in any way possible. We are available for the after school hours on Monday-Thursday or for an in-class visit anytime on Fridays. If you are interested please email me at the address listed below and let us know what date and time works for you.

Again the Peru State College District Contest is being held February 29, 2012 at the college from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. The entry deadline for our District Contest is **Wednesday, February 1, 2012.** The deadline for mailing in papers and websites is **Wednesday, February 8, 2012.** This allows time for us to send the entries to the judges in advance. The entry fee will remain at \$10.00 per person.

The top three winners in each category from the District Contest are eligible for the State Contest held at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln on Saturday, April 21, 2012. The National Contest will be held from June 10-14, 2012 at the University of Maryland

The online registration site should be available to you and your students (although the teacher must start the process) starting January 1st. The site will be at <http://ne.nhd.org>. Instructions for both teachers and students are included. However, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

As always, the Social Science faculty and the entire Peru State College campus community are looking forward to working with you and your students.

Sincerely,

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 District History Day Director
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