

## Making the Annual Contests Work for You



Contest winners at the 2014 Annual Convention. Image courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History.

**W**e want your students to participate in our annual contests! Though the Contest Rules and Requirements package may seem daunting, there are many ways to incorporate the projects into activities you may already be doing. Just some of the ways your students will benefit include practicing their research and analytical skills, working as a team, and connecting with history.

Here are some ways that you may be able to fold the contests into your class or club activities:

- **Work** with your school's librarian to pull books and web resources related to local and NC history. Give students time to explore the sources before selecting a project that appeals to their interests.
- **Assign** an essay contest topic as a regular class writing assignment or extra-credit assignment.
- **Visit** a historic site or take a walking tour of your area to give students an opportunity to take pictures for the Architectural Photography Contest.
- **Do** an Artifact Search as a class assignment or for 1 club meeting—ask each student to bring in an object and fill out the analysis sheet, then have a club show-and-tell.

Tar Heel Junior Historian Association Adviser Newsletter is published periodically during the school year by the Education Section of the North Carolina Museum of History. It is sent to all THJHA advisers.



www.tarheeljuniorhistorians.org  
 thjhclubs@ncdcr.gov  
 www.facebook.com/TarHeelJuniorHistorianAssociation

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- **Work** with the school art teacher to align a fourth- or eighth-grade project with our Art/Exhibit Contest. Submit the top 2 projects to our contest.
- **Offer** the Christopher Crittenden Quiz one afternoon after school.
- **Partner** with a local senior center to interview residents about their experiences as children during the Great Depression. Use the oral histories as the basis for a literary or video documentary project.
- **Work** with your local historical society to learn about WWI in your community. Mark the 100th anniversary of the war by cleaning up a veterans cemetery or monument. Submit your work for the History in Action award.

## Don't Forget This PRIMARY Contest Requirement

THJHA contests require students to use at least one primary and two secondary sources in their research. A **primary source** is a record that was created during the historical period that your student is studying; it serves as a firsthand account of the past. A **secondary source** is one that was created later by someone who did not experience an event firsthand. Primary sources allow junior historians to interact with real pieces of history. Secondary sources are important because they provide context and can often lead to other valuable sources. A well-researched project includes a balance of both types of sources.

### Primary sources include:

- Letters
- Photographs
- Artifacts
- Buildings/sites
- Maps
- Gravestones
- Political cartoons
- Advertisements
- Oral history interviews
- Government records
- Music written at the time of your topic

For more information on primary sources, review your copy of the spring 2009 *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine. To help your students better understand and experience primary sources, register to borrow the museum's History in a Box kit (Primary North Carolina at <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/learn/ForEducators/Historyinaboxkits.aspx>).

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Rules and regulations for this year's THJA Annual Contests, as well as essay prompts, are online at <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/Portals/7/Collateral/THJA/EDITED%20FINAL%2014-15ContestInfo.pdf>. (You also can find this packet by going to [www.tarheeljuniorhistorians.org](http://www.tarheeljuniorhistorians.org) and clicking on For Advisers.)

We would love for every club to enter at least one contest! Winners are displayed for a year in the THJA Gallery at the museum, which is an exciting chance for students to share what they have learned.

## Snap a Selfie!



The fall 2014 issue of the *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine focuses on **Remembrance**. One way to learn what your community values is to take a look at the statues and monuments in your area. What do they tell us about the past? What can you learn about the people who erected the monuments? **Have your junior historians take a selfie or a group photo with their favorite local monument and send it to [thjhclubs@ncdcr.gov](mailto:thjhclubs@ncdcr.gov).** We'll share the pictures on our Facebook page. Remember to be respectful; no climbing on monuments.

Spring 2015 *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine theme: *From Here to There: Moving People, Goods, and Ideas*

# THJA Contests: Reminders and FAQs

## What's Our

### Deadline, Again?

All contest entries must be postmarked by **Friday, February 27**. This deadline also applies to the entry form, research paper, and bibliography for all Exhibit Contest entries, although the actual projects are not due until the day of the Annual Convention, Friday, April 24.



The only exception to the February deadline is the History in Action Award. Documentation of your club's HIA project must be postmarked by **Friday, April 3**.

## How Many Entries Can We Submit?

Check the rules for specific contest requirements, but the general guidelines for number of entries are:

**CC Quiz:** top 3 scorers per age-level division or all students scoring 100 percent on Part I.

**Artifact Search:** 1 entry per student.

**Literary:** 2 entries per age-level division. Group and individual entries accepted.

**Video Documentary:** 2 entries per age-level division. Group and individual entries accepted.

**Exhibit/Art:** 2 entries per age-level division. Group and individual entries accepted.

**Historic Architecture Photography:** 2 entries per student.

**Essays:** 1 entry per student for each essay topic.



Junior Historians explore exhibits at the Annual Convention. Image courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History.

## About That Annotated Bibliography

Entries submitted to many of the contests require an annotated bibliography and **cannot win a prize without one**. A bibliography is a list of sources (books, websites, articles, and so forth) used to research a topic and complete the project. An annotation is a summary, explanation, or evaluation of a source. Each source listed in the bibliography should have a brief annotation written by the student.

*Let us know if you need advice!*

Annotated bibliographies encourage students as to show the contest judges the quality and depth of their research. Junior historians who work on contest projects gain research and documentation skills that will benefit them in future studies. Please check the printed or online version of the Adviser Handbook for helpful hints on annotated bibliographies and on research using primary sources, which contests also require.

## Bragging is Encouraged!

Do not forget that THJA offers Chapter of the Year, Rookie Chapter of the Year (for clubs in their first or second year), and Adviser of the Year awards. How excited would your students be to have their history club efforts recognized at the Annual Convention's Awards Ceremony and featured in the THJA Gallery? Let the association and the state of North Carolina know what your group is doing. Submit a nomination!

# A Contest That Isn't in the Packet

Many clubs wear self-designed T-shirts to the convention each year in order to identify their group. In 2013 we held the first **club T-shirt contest**, which proved popular again in 2014. Start thinking now about your club's look for the 2015 contest!

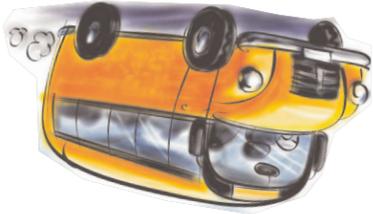


Participants in the 2014 T-shirt contest. Image courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History.

# Getting to the Annual Convention

**Need a little help covering your transportation costs?** The NC Museum of History Associates Foundation and Duke Energy Foundation have you covered!

The deadline to apply for a travel grant to help your students visit the NC Museum of History has been extended to February 1. We hope to assist six clubs (two from each region of the state) with their transportation costs. Title I public schools and other schools with high percentages of low-income or at-risk students will receive priority.



For more information on how to apply and to receive a grant application, contact Kate Betka at the museum at 919-807-7984 or kate.betka@ncdcr.gov. Be sure to include on your application that grant money would be used for travel to the THJA Annual Convention.

# Annual Convention Schedule

<b>Club Check-In</b>	8:30-10:00 a.m.	<b>Workshops</b>	10:15-10:50 a.m.
<b>Art Project Registration</b>	8:30-10:00 a.m.	<b>Session 1</b>	10:15-10:50 a.m.
(Judging starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.)		<b>Session 2/Lunch Period A</b>	11:00-11:35 a.m.
<b>Welcome</b>	10:00-10:10 a.m.	<b>Session 3/Lunch Period B</b>	11:45 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
Singing of the State Song,		<b>Session 4</b>	12:30-1:05 p.m.
Roll Call of Clubs,		<b>Session 5</b>	1:15-1:50 p.m.
T-Shirt Contest		<b>Awards Ceremony</b>	2:00 p.m.