Young Historians Win Awards

July 7, 2022 (RALEIGH, N.C.) – Another great year of the N.C. Museum of History’s Tar Heel Junior Historian Association (THJHA) awards is in the books. This year’s awards recognizing junior historians for their outstanding projects feature a wide variety of historical significance of people, places, and events in their own communities and across our state. From artifacts to visual arts, photography, creative writing, and more, there is plenty to awe at and learn from in this year’s student projects. Winners were announced as part of the 2022 Tar Heel Junior Historian Association Annual Convention, which was held virtually in April.

THJHA Program Coordinator Jessica Pratt had this to say about the event: “We were thrilled to be able to gather virtually with nearly 500 junior historians from across North Carolina to recognize this year’s award winners and offer interactive history workshops. By displaying their projects at the museum, these students are helping us tell a wider story of North Carolina history.”

All winning projects are showcased in the exhibit History in Every Direction: Tar Heel Junior Historian Association Discovery Gallery, now open to museum visitors.
Authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1953, the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association is sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of History, part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The association is made up of a network of FREE clubs across the state, with members in grades 4–12. Each club must have at least one adult adviser.

Clubs may be sponsored by public, private, or home schools, or by other organizations such as museums and historical societies, 4-H groups, Boy Scouts, or Girl Scouts. Clubs can be any size, from one student and one adviser to hundreds of students and several advisers. Clubs must renew their membership each school year, and new clubs can join at any time using an online application at tarheeljuniorhistorians.org.

**Student, Chapter, and Adviser THJHA Award Winners**

Awards are given for outstanding THJHA chapters and advisers, as well as for student projects. Categories of competition include media projects, art projects, literary projects and essays, an artifact search, photography projects, and a state history quiz.

Projects encourage students to understand and appreciate our state’s rich history. Groups as well as individuals received awards.

**CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**
The **2022 Chapter of the Year Award** goes to TFA NC Explorers from the Fletcher Academy in Raleigh. These eighth-grade social studies students dug into North Carolina geography and studied the unique and rich culture of each region. They practiced using the skills and tools of historians by examining primary and secondary sources, discussing perspective and bias, and sharpening their historical research skills. TFA NC Explorers even participated in independent study, uncovering events or topics in our state’s history that they wanted to know more about and created contest entries from their discoveries!

**ADVISER OF THE YEAR**
The **Adviser of the Year** for 2022 is Dilip Barman of the Oakbrook Academy Junior Historians. In his own words: “I am delighted and honored to be selected to be Adviser of the Year. We value the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association, which inspires us in considering how we as a state have come to be what we are. THJHA has been very helpful with the variety of excellent online and in-person programs, including the Annual Convention, as well as valuable education on topics like finding primary sources and ways to approach history.”

**ROOKIE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**
The Rookie Chapter of the Year Award recognizes a first- or second-year club that gets off to a strong start aligning its activities with the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association’s mission and goals. The **2022 Rookie Chapter of the Year Award** goes to Sister Angela Mary Parker at Saint Paul Catholic School. Junior historians at the Sister Angela Mary Park chapter of THJHA (chartered in
September 2021) met weekly to explore local and state history. They played games, watched movies, participated in annual contests—all in an effort to learn more about the people of North Carolina. This Rookie Club is one to watch!

*Craven County 2022 THJHA Winners*

**Winners from Peluso Christian Academy, New Bern**

Elizabeth Peluso won first place in the intermediate division, fall 2021 prompt, in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest.

Matthew Peluso won first place in the secondary division, fall 2021 prompt, in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest.

The Peluso Junior Historians won first place in the intermediate division of the Video Documentary Contest for their submission *Tasty Tar Heel Treats*.

**Winners from Saint Paul Catholic School, New Bern**

Jade Blake won second place in the intermediate division of the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz.

Emilie Conard and Cora Mitchell won second place in the elementary division/group category of the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for their submission *Tryon Palace*.

*Harnett County 2022 THJHA Winners*

**Winners from North Carolina Homeschool Adventures, Sanford**

Ashland Bailey won first place in the intermediate division of the Creative Writing Contest for her submission *Mistake or Matter of Fact*. Ashland also won first place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Architectural Details category, for her submission *Hezekiah Alexander House*, as well as first place in the intermediate division/individual category of the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for her submission *Hezekiah Alexander House Museum Painting and Sketch*.

Jacob Hill won first place in the secondary division, individual category of the Video Documentary Contest for his submission *The Carbine Rifle*. Jacob also won second place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Commercial/Industrial Building category, for his submission *The Cool Springs Tavern*. In the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz, Jacob won first place in the secondary division.
Charlie Watkins won second place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Houses category, for his submission *The House in the Horseshoe*.

Zoe Garcia won first place in the intermediate division of the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz.

Claire Ledford won second place in the secondary division of the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz.

Madelyn Watkins won the special Genealogy Award for her submission *Olive and the School Storm*, which was also awarded second place in the Creative Writing Contest, elementary division/individual category.

*Moores County 2022 THJHA Winners*

Winners from Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School

Fletcher Thompson was an Artifact Search Contest winner for his submission *The Race of Currie Mill*.

Jane Clendenin was an Artifact Search Contest winner for her submission *Pinehurst Dairy Bottle*.

Kate Sanders won second place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Architectural Details category, for her submission *Fireplace of the Jefferson Inn*.

*Orange County 2022 THJHA Winners*

Winners from St. Thomas More Catholic School, Chapel Hill

Ana Jimenez was an Artifact Search Contest winner for her submission *Coffee Grinder*.

Vance Cundiff was an Artifact Search Contest winner for his submission *Quilt*.

Hazel Kleinman won first place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Commercial/Industrial Buildings category, for her submission *Sutton’s Drug Store*.

Lucas Odermatt won first place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Institutional/Public Buildings category, for his submission *Chapel Hill High School*.

Aurora Molina won first place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Monuments/Markers category, for her submission *The Virginia Dare Statue*.
Matthew Simpson won second place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Monuments/Markers category, for his submission *The Thomas Wolfe Memorial at UNC*.

Darwin Rivas won second place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Institutional/Public Buildings category, for his submission *Historical Significance of Kenan Stadium*.

*Surry County 2022 THJHA Winners*

Winners from the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, Mount Airy

Helayna Robertson and Andrew Edwards won second place in the intermediate division in the Video Documentary Contest for their submission *The Arm—An Interview with the Ghost of Belks’ Building*.

James Caudill won first place in the NC Historic Architecture Photography Contest, Houses category, for his submission *The Gertrude Smith House*.

The Jesse Franklin Pioneers received recognition for their History in Action project.

Amelia Edwards won second place in the elementary division of the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for her submission *9 Facts About Mount Airy’s Fire Trucks and More*.

*Wake County 2022 THJHA Winners*

Winners from Underwood GT Magnet Elementary, Raleigh

Janie Burton was an Artifact Search Contest winner for her submission *Great-Aunt Janie Wilkey’s Teapot*.

Lucie Rosenbaum won first place in the elementary division of the Creative Writing Contest for her submission *The Diary of Katherine Wright*. Lucy also won first place/individual category in the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for her submission *Basket Weaving*.

Noah Naylor and Ezekiel Montague won first place in the elementary division/group category of the Video Documentary Contest for his submission *The Presidents*.

Arjun Pant won first place in the elementary division of the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz.

Benjamin Hill won second place in the elementary division of the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz.
Abby Neblett and Emily Neblett won first place in the elementary division/group category of the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for their submission *The Greensboro Four*.

**Winners from the Fletcher Academy, Raleigh**

Nathan Balazich was an Artifact Search Contest winner for his submission *Olympic Softball*.

Anderson Crumpler won second place in the intermediate division/individual category of the Creative Writing Contest for his submission *The Story of Blackbeard*.

Trystan Hanna won the Sports History Award for his submission *The Hurricanes*.

Carter Haynes and Colin Jee received an honorable mention in the intermediate division/group category of the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for their submission *Piedmont Airlines*.

Donovan Gill and Evan Compson received an honorable mention in the intermediate division/group category of the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for their submission *Queen Anne’s Revenge*.

**Winner from Seed, Art, Share in Raleigh**

The *Seed History Seekers Club* received recognition for their *History in Action* project.

*Wilson County 2022 THJHA Winners*

**Winner from Greenfield School**

Noah Brown won second place in the intermediate division/individual category of the Exhibit & Visual Arts Contest for his submission *Pepsi Cola*.

~~~

**About the NC Museum of History**

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Before the COVID public closure, more than 465,000 people visited the museum annually to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

**About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network**
Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums and cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums and other educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state’s natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR’s mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state’s history, conserving the state’s natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette’s Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation’s first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.

# # #