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## 2009 MICHIGAN HISTORY DAY STATE FINALS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**Media Note:** A full list of winners and can be found at <http://www.hsmichigan.org/mhd.php>

**Students from the following communities were awarded:** Ada, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Bloomfield Hills, Comstock Park, Detroit, Eaton Rapids, Farmington, Gladwin/Beaverton, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Grant, Hancock, Hastings, Holland, Howell, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon, Painesdale, Plymouth, Sault Ste. Marie, South Haven, Traverse City, West Branch, and Whitehall.

Over six hundred people were present as Michigan students received top honors at the Michigan History Day (National History Day in Michigan) State Finals on Saturday, April 25th in Allendale at Kirkhof Center at Grand Valley State University.

This year an estimated 5,500 students competed in the History Day program statewide in Michigan. After competing in ten regional districts statewide in March, over 300 of these students reached the state finals representing schools from all across the state. Finalists chosen at the state finals in the Junior and Senior categories now head to College Park, Maryland in June to compete in National History Day with their peers from the other forty-nine states and several US territories.

Michigan History Day is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan and hosted this year by Grand Valley State University. Lead sponsors of History Day include Meijer Inc., the Cook Charitable Foundation, the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation, the Detroit Salt Company, and Amway. In addition financial support was provided by the Holland Area Historical Society, the Algonquin Club of Detroit & Windsor, the Michigan Chapter of the Society for the War of 1812, the Daughters of the American Revolution Louisa St. Clair Chapter, and the Michigan Oral History Association..

Special award prizes were also given to students and sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History, the Michigan Women's Studies Association, the Michigan Roundtable of the Lexington Group in Transportation, the Michigan Archival Association, the Michigan Oral History Association, the Michigan Genealogical Council, the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History and the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services.

“This was my first year as the State Coordinator for Michigan History Day and I was so excited about the outstanding quality of the entries” commented Shannon D. White, Education and Awards Coordinator for the Historical Society of Michigan. “Students put in tremendous effort researching their topics and it shows throughout the day as they are interviewed by our volunteer judges.”

Winners at the National History Day Michigan State Finals included students from Ada, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Bloomfield Hills, Comstock Park, Detroit, Eaton Rapids, Farmington, Gladwin/Beaverton, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Grant, Hancock, Hastings, Holland, Howell, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon, Painsdale, Plymouth, Sault Ste. Marie, South Haven, Traverse City, West Branch, and Whitehall.

Entries may be in any one of seven categories. They include Research Papers (individuals only), Individual or Group exhibit, Individual or Group performance, Individual or Group documentary, and Websites. Groups may be from 2 to 5 students. Students compete in one of three age divisions: Youth (grades 4-5), Junior (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-12). Junior and Senior entrants are eligible to proceed to the national finals at National History Day in College Park Maryland in mid-June. Each category in a division is judged separately.

All entries in the competition were tied in some way to the National History Day theme for 2009, the Individual in History.

A full list of winners can be found at the Michigan History Day website (<http://www.hsmichigan.org/mhd.php>) or by calling the Historical Society of Michigan at (800) 692-1828, e-mail at [hsm@hsmichigan.org](mailto:hsm@hsmichigan.org).

Michigan History Day is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan, the state’s oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828. For more information contact the Society at 1305 Abbott Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 324-1828 or visit [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org).

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