

National History Day in Indiana 2026 State Contest Winner Report

Youth Paper

1st – “Norman Shumway and Cardiac Transplantation: Revolution, Reaction, and the Reforms that Made it Successful” – Omid Raiesdana (Sycamore School)

Youth Individual Performance

1st – “Reaction to Revolution: Simone Segouin and the French Resistance” – Ingrid Rentschler (Little Turtle Elementary)

2nd – “How Santa Claus Land Revolutionized Theme Parks” – Elizabeth Mundy (Homeschool)

Youth Group Performance

1st – “Hanging on to Hope During Dance Marathons” – Giselle Chavez Hernandez, Jaliyah Veal, Sara Moore (Maplewood Elementary School)

Youth Individual Exhibit

1st – “How Woman Impacted the War” – Ava Turba (St. Anthony de Padua)

2nd – “Harriet Tubman” – Tori Sparks (Anderson Preparatory Academy)

3rd – “Frederick Douglass” – Josiah Webb (Anderson Preparatory Academy)

Youth Group Exhibit

1st – “The Destruction of Abundance” – Catalina Martinez, Isaac Depp, Naomi Rodriguez, Ngaha Opiew, Zefe Ibanez Garcia (Maplewood Elementary School)

2nd – “911 K-9 Dogs” – Braydon Rogers, Lincoln Anderson, Zeph Hardin (Anderson Preparatory Academy)

3rd – “Betsy Ross” – Brooklyn Burchfield, Charlotte Smith (Anderson Preparatory Academy)

Junior Paper

1st – “Miriam Menkin’s Watch-Glass: The American Story of IVF from Revolution to Reaction to Reform” – Mina Raiesdana (Sycamore School)

2nd – “Levi Coffin’s Fight: How a Peaceful Abolitionist Helped End Slavery” – Stephen Olson (Homeschool)

3rd – “Unstoppable Desire for a Better Life: The Berlin Wall Through an Economic Lens” – Lai Wei (Discovery Middle School)

Junior Individual Documentary

1st – “The Revolution of the LZR Racer: A Question on the Role of Technology in Sports” – Kacie Yan (Sycamore School)

2nd – “Minidoka: A Wartime Reaction and the Long Road to Reform” – Tabitha Ko (Sycamore School)

3rd – “Hippies: The Counterculture of Artistic Revolution” – Lucy Feng (Clay Middle School)

Junior Group Documentary

1st – “Halted at Midway: The Rise of Kamikaze” – Calix Kowalewski, Maurice McDonald (John J Young Middle School)

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2nd – “Columbine High School Massacre” – Elsie Gaskill, Lennon Amador (John J Young Middle School)

3rd – “Ether: A Breath of Relief” – Oliver Johnson, Rhys Long (Eastwood Middle School)

Junior Individual Performance

1st – “Pilot at Purdue: How Amelia Earhart Changed the Lives of the Coeds She Taught” – Amelia Larsen (Homeschool)

2nd – “Miracle Drugs: How Antibiotics Revolutionized the Medical Field and Reshaped Modern Medicine” – Mariah Smith (West Side Middle School)

3rd – “Dr. Rolla Harger’s Drunk-o-meter” – Carson Squires (Homeschool)

Junior Group Performance

1st – “Hoosiers on the Move: How Indiana Reacted to the Interurban” – Elena Olson, Rebecca Larsen (Homeschool)

2nd – “Spill the Tea” – Addison Helman, Avery Cota (Discovery Middle School)

3rd – “More Than Just Makeup” – Jaimie Santos, Mahi Patel, Marlie Hygema (West Side Middle School)

Junior Individual Website

1st – “Saving Our Birds: How the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Brought Birds Back From Near-Extinction” – Amos Groothuis (Northview Middle School)

2nd – “The Revolution and Reaction of the 1924 Notre Dame Riot Against the Ku Klux Klan” – Mary Divita (St. Anthony de Padua)

3rd – “The Occupation of Kaho’olawe – The U.S. Navy Turned a Sacred Island into a Bombing Range; Yet the Aloha Spirit Prevailed” – Diego Morales Ramirez (Northview Middle School)

Junior Group Website

1st – “Reform but Not for All: The Impact of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and the Two Powell Families of South Bend, Indiana” – Hunter Smith, Noah DeVreese, Owen Burns (John J Young Middle School)

2nd – “The Pink Triangle: From Persecution to Pride” – Bailey Kuzmicz, Lilly Taylor (John J Young Middle School)

3rd – “Abolishing the Quotas: The End of the National Origins System” – Aurelia Ogden, Carmen Rabb, Zoe Nichols (Northview Middle School)

Junior Individual Exhibit

1st – “Going Electric: How Bob Dylan’s Performance at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival Shocked the American Sound” – Dylan Terry (Eastwood Middle School)

2nd – “The Gutenberg Press” – Whitney Hicks (Discovery Middle School)

3rd – “The Opium War: A Single Pellet to China’s Reform” – Norah Gao (Discovery Middle School)

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1st – “A Look In: Central State Hospital” – Brie Scott, Kaycie Lyon (Tippecanoe Valley Middle School)

2nd – “The Great Railroad Strike of 1877” – Jaliyah Gray, Melis Pegg (Eastwood Middle School)

3rd – “Gus Grissom’s Final Revolutionary Act” – Lincoln Adams, River Toschlog (Brown County Middle School)

Senior Paper

1st – “The Battle of Blair Mountain: The Revolution Against Oppression that Shocked America Forever” – Abhijay Masetty (Penn High School)

2nd – “Reform Without Power Change: The Country Life Movement and Rural Skepticism, 1900-1916” – Xiaoyue Huang (Culver Academies)

3rd – “A Clash on the Frontier: Tecumseh’s Challenge to Jefferson’s Agrarian Republic” – Zaina Nasir (The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities)

Senior Individual Documentary

1st – “From Campus Protest to Courtroom Reform: The Revolutionary Impact of Hess V. Indiana” – Whitney Barber (Jennings County High School)

2nd – “The Green Feather Movement: How Robin Hood’s Merry Men Fought McCarthyism” – Genevieve Laguna (Brown County High School)

3rd – “A Nebulous Frontier: How Reform Efforts in the Wild West Served as Instruments of U.S. Expansionist Control at the Cost of Tribal Autonomy” – Karter Rogers (Morristown Jr-Sr High School)

Senior Group Documentary

1st – “From Reaction to Reform: How ACT UP’s “Inside-Outside” Strategy Revolutionized AIDS Activism” – Benjamin Lu, Divya Ariyur, Emma An, Shawn Feng (Carmel High School)

2nd – “Indiana’s Terror: The Ku Klux Klan” – Addilyn Lucas, Kasandra Gongora Mora (Columbus North High School)

3rd – “Buddhism: From the Dharma to the Rising Sun” – Louisa Eicholz (Oak Farm Montessori School)

Senior Individual Performance

1st - “From Buckets to Trucks: The Taco Revolution” – Maximilian Mundy (Homeschool)

Senior Group Performance

1st – “Dignity From Unity: How South Bend’s Better Homes Movement Rewrote the Rules” – Ana Kochanski, Breanna Wolheter, Hannah Lautzenhiser (Oak Farm Montessori School)

Senior Individual Website

1st – “The Catalyst for Change: Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring and the Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in Environmental Policy” – Iman Hallab (Eman Schools)

2nd – “Resisting Hate: Notre Dame Students’ Revolutionary Reaction to the Ku Klux Klan” – Katelyn Chen (Carmel High School)

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3rd – “The Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire of 1911’s Effect on Labor Laws in the United States”
– Mia Taliaferro (Carmel High School)

Senior Group Website

1st – “The War Powers Resolution: Redefining the Separation of Powers in the Vietnam Era” –
Katie Zhao, Olivia Lim, Stephanie Tan, Valerie Fu (Carmel High School)

2nd – “The Wounds of Labor Justice: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in the Indianapolis
Streetcar Strike of 1913” – Eryn Arockia, Joenghu Yang, Luke Zang (Carmel High School)

3rd – “Cuyahoga in Flames: The Fire That Ignited Environmental Reform in America” – Annalise
Swonger, Clinton Wolfe, Jonathon Pratt, Luke Bean, Steven Boyd (Columbia City High School)

Senior Individual Exhibit

1st – “The Floating Hells and the Voyage to Modern Prisons” – Sophia Andres (Carmel High
School)

2nd – “Blood Money The True Story Behind the UK Blood Scandal and How it Reformed the NHS
and Health Regulations” – Thea Purvis (Carmel High School)

3rd – “Reaction, Reform, and Quakers” – Grant Block (Carmel High School)

Senior Group Exhibit

1st – “Insulin: A Partnership, a Revolution, and Millions of Lives” – Thomas Washburn, Tyler
Carlston (Carmel High School)

2nd – “Dorothea Dix and the Central State Hospital” – Isabella Henderson, Kate Templeman
(Carmel High School)

3rd – “The 6888 and the Letters that Saved the War” – Journee Collins, Oli Muyumba (North
Central High School)

National History Day Teacher of the Year Award Indiana Nominee

Lawney Francis II, Tippecanoe Valley Middle School

Gene Stratton Porter Prize

“Drains and Ditches” – Ada Mundy, Junior Individual Performance (Homeschool)

Cole Porter Prize

“Cole Porter’s Life and Legacy” – Arianna Willis and Ellie Crawford, Senior Group Website
(Plainfield High School)

Indiana Pioneer Prize for Early Indiana

“Levi Coffin’s Fight: How a Peaceful Abolitionist Helped End Slavery” - Stephen Olson, Junior
Paper (Homeschool)

Roy F. Stringer Memorial Prize for Labor Unions in Indiana

“The Wounds of Labor Justice: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in the Indianapolis Streetcar
Strike of 1913” - Eryn Arockia, Jeonghu Yang, Luke Zhang, Senior Group Website (Carmel High
School)

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Indiana Local History Prize – Youth/Junior Division

“Reform but Not for All: The Impact of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and the Two Powell Families of South Bend, Indiana” - Noah DeVreese, Owen Burns, Hunter Smith, Junior Group Website (John Young Middle School)

Indiana Local History Prize – Senior Division

“Resisting Hate: Notre Dame Students’ Revolutionary Reaction to the Ku Klux Klan” - Katelyn Chen, Senior Individual Website (Carmel High School)

Indiana Women in Politics Prize

“Dorothea Dix and the Central State Hospital” - Kate Templeman and Isabella Henderson, Senior Group Exhibit (Carmel High School)

International History in Indiana Prize

“The Vietnamese Refugee Journey: A Long Way from Home” - Michelle Dew, Senior Paper (Marian High School)

Indiana State Library Prize

“Indiana’s 1907 and 1927 Eugenic Laws: Sterilization as a Reaction to Perceived Unfitness” - Akshara Ramidi, Junior Paper (Discovery Middle School)

William Henry Smith Memorial Library Prize

“Free Riders or Fair Share? How an Indiana Agency Shop Battle Reshaped American Labor Law” - Sheza Nawaz, Senior Individual Website, (Carmel High School)

National History Day in Indiana Prize

Genevieve Laguna, Brown County High School