



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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For Immediate Release

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Forty-Five Knox County Students Win Medals and Awards at 16th Annual East Tennessee History Day

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., March 13, 2017 – Forty-Five Knox County students won special awards or took first, second, or third place in the 16th annual East Tennessee History Day Regional Competition (ETHD), held March 3 in Knoxville. First and second place, with third place serving as an alternate, will advance to state competition, [Tennessee History Day](#), held April 8, 2017 in Nashville. From there, state winners will advance to nationals in College Park, Maryland, June 11-15. Regional competition co-sponsors, the [East Tennessee Historical Society](#) and the [University of Tennessee's Department of History](#), congratulate and commend these students and their teachers on their hard work and success. **(Knox County's ETHD winners are listed at the end of this release).**

“East Tennessee students consistently do well in this competition,” according to Lisa Oakley, ETHS curator of education and ETHD regional coordinator. “Three ETHD winners have placed first in the nation, plus several placing second and third and many more finishing in the national top 12 for their category.”

Some 3,500 students competed at the basic school level in the East Tennessee Region. An estimated 750,000 students nationally compete at the basic level.

About National History Day:

[National History Day](#) is the leading program for history education. This year's broad theme was “Taking a Stand in History.” Students select a topic related to the annual theme and then choose to present their research through a website, documentary, paper, exhibit or documentary. Through research and interpreting their findings into a sound argument, these middle and high school students learn the priceless skills of an historian—critical thinking, research, and the value of primary sources.

About the East Tennessee Historical Society:

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged as one of the most active history organizations in the state and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For 182 years the East Tennessee Historical Society has been helping East Tennesseans hold on to our unique heritage—recording the events, collecting the artifacts, and saving the stories that comprise the history we all share.

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East Tennessee History Day: Knox County Winners

Junior Division

St. John Neumann Catholic School, Michele Tarricone (teacher)

- **Maksym Ulmer, Wyatt Devall, and Luke Jessie** placed first in the Junior (6-8) Group Exhibit category with their entry, *The King of the Ring*.
- **Alonso Vela and Nicholas Beldyk** placed first in the Junior (6-8) Group Website category with their entry, *The Cristero Rebellion and the Boy Who Took a Stand for Religious Liberty*.

West Valley Middle School, Karen Peterman (teacher)

- **Rulan Gu** placed first in the Junior (6-8) Individual Website category with the entry, *Taking a Stand for Democracy: The Protestors at Tiananmen Square*.

Senior Division

Farragut High School, Angela Breeding (teacher)

- **Sydney Kittrell** placed third in the Senior (9-12) Individual Website category with the entry *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.
- **Lauren Fiet** placed first in the Senior (9-12) Individual Websites category with the entry *Defiance or Compliance? Holland Under Nazi Occupation*

L&N STEM Academy, Jill Robbins, Derek Griffin, Karen Stanish, and Tressie Norton (teachers)

- **Jared Watkins** placed second in the Senior (9-12) Individual Documentary category with the entry *The Bijou Theatre: Taking a Stand for Equality*.
- **Gregory Croisdale** placed first in the Senior (9-12) Individual Documentary category with the entry *Deliberate Speed*.
- **Nicholas Boyd, Hila Williford, Josie Bresler, and Rachel Barrick** placed second in the Senior (9-12) Group Documentary category with the entry *The Resistance to the Nanking Massacre*.
- **Zachary Medley, Alexandra Lee, and Abigail Wells** placed first in the Senior (9-12) Group Documentary category with the entry *The Coal Creek Saga: When Miners Stood Up For Their Labor Rights*.
- **Connor McGinley** placed second in the Senior (9-12) Individual Exhibit category with the entry *The Battle of Lexington and Concord: Taking a Stand Against the British*.
- **Juan Benn and Justyce Thompson** placed third in the Senior (9-12) Group Exhibit category with the entry *Sophie Scholl*.
- **Joey Motto and Thomas Miller** placed second in the Senior (9-12) Group Exhibit category with the entry *Thomas Jefferson and American's War on Terrorism*.
- **Hyatt Christenberry, Madison Jackson, Aruha Khan, and Molly Miller** placed first in the Senior (9-12) Group Exhibit category with the entry *Anne Hutchinson: Religious Rebel*.
- **Alex Seaver, Connor Shields, David Stewart, and Owen Porter** placed third in the Senior (9-12) Group Website category with the entry *Chiang Kai-Shek: Defying Communism*.

- **Hunter Mills-DiGennaro, Nina Klein, Emmanuel Sosa-Cruz, and Witt Spiller** placed first in the Senior (9-12) Group Website category with the entry *Galileo Galilei: Taking a Stand in History*.

Special Award

- **McCrea Finley** won the Sequoyah Award for the best project on Native American History with his website *The Oneida Nation in the Revolutionary War*.

West High School, Carrie Hastings and Buzz McNish (teachers)

- **Piper Hansen** placed third place in the Senior (9-12) Individual Documentary category with the entry *John Lennon and Yoko Ono: Peace Activists*.
- **Evenson Schow, Colton Pennington, Stephen Arnold** placed third in the Senior (9-12) Group Documentary category with the entry *Oskar Schindler: Taking a Stand to Semitism*
- **Jessica Brittain** placed third in the Senior (9-12) Individual Exhibit category with the entry *Apollo... For all Mankind*.
- **Amelia Zahn** placed third in the Senior (9-12) Individual Performance category with the entry *Boudicca's Attempt at Celtic Revenge Against Rome*.
- **Kiana Patterson** placed second place in the Senior (9-12) Individual Website category with the entry *Lewis Hine: Taking a Look Through My Lense*.
- **Mason Werner and Kate Atkins** placed second in the Senior (9-12) Group Website category with the entry *Pirate Radio: The Rock Revolution*.
- **Nolan Wells** placed third in the Senior (9-12) Individual Paper category with the entry *Mother Jones: Taking a Stand for the Working Class*.

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