

VERMONT HISTORY DAY 2024 Special Prizes



This list includes prizes that are confirmed as of November 2023. Additional prizes may be added later.

Student Prizes

Architectural History Prize

Sponsored by the Preservation Trust of Vermont

The Preservation Trust of Vermont will award prizes for a superior entry focused on historic buildings, architectural history, and building technology in Vermont. The money will be distributed evenly among group members.

First Place \$100

Second Place \$50

Arts and Medicine Prize

Sponsored by Brenda and Stephen Perkins

The Arts and Medicine Prize of \$100 is awarded to an outstanding Junior Division project that focuses on a person who has contributed in some way to the fine arts and/or the medical field. Priority is given to projects focusing on a remarkable Vermonter. This prize is sponsored in order to celebrate those who have impacted the lives of others by their approach to and accomplishments in their chosen field of arts and/or medicine. The money will be distributed evenly among group members.

Bennington Museum Southshire Award

Sponsored by Bennington Museum

Bennington Museum will award \$250 in recognition of an outstanding Senior Division project created by a student or students who live and/or attend school in the Southshire of Vermont or surrounding region of Bennington County. The prize will be distributed evenly among group members.

Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Prize

Sponsored by the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation will award \$250 to a first-place winner for an outstanding entry on a United States history topic. The money will be distributed evenly among group members.

The Deborah Pickman Clifford Vermont Women's History Prize

Sponsored by the Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation

Sponsored by the Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation in special recognition of the scholarship, dedication and enthusiasm of the late Deborah Pickman Clifford, prominent Vermont historian and author specializing in women's history.

The Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation will award a \$250 prize to an outstanding entry focusing on a Vermont woman who made an important contribution to the state, or the role that women played during a time in Vermont's history. The money will be distributed evenly among group members.

Freedom and Unity Civics Prize

Sponsored by the Friends of the Vermont State House

The Friends of the Vermont State House will award prizes to the projects that best express the spirit of the Vermont motto - Freedom and Unity - as practiced in an open government and with civic engagement for all people. A prize of \$200 will be awarded to one project in each age division, junior and senior. The money will be distributed evenly among group members.

This prize is awarded in memory of two civics education advocates, Bill Haines and Jack Carter.

George F. Edmunds Memorial Prize

Sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society through the George F. Edmunds Fund

The George F. Edmunds Memorial Prize honors the work and memory of George F. Edmunds, Vermont’s senator from 1866 to 1891. A monetary prize and engraved medal are awarded to superior projects reflecting on the life and work of George F. Edmunds or relating to the history, problems, or general welfare of Vermont. Students earn recognition for finding unappreciated primary sources and for using their own interests and experiences as launching points. The money will be distributed evenly among group members. Each winner will receive an engraved medal.

Junior Division

First Place \$350

Second Place \$150

Senior Division

First Place \$350

Second Place \$150

The Horace Greeley Foundation American Freedom Award

Sponsored by The Horace Greeley Foundation

The Horace Greeley Foundation will award \$50 to an outstanding entry focusing on American Freedoms, including but not limited to Abolition, Women's Rights, Women's Suffrage or Civil Rights. The money will be distributed evenly among the group members. The Horace Greeley Foundation American Freedom Award is sponsored by the Horace Greeley Foundation of Poultney, Vermont. The Horace Greeley Foundation is dedicated to preserving the sense of place and memory of Greeley's life in a small New England town, as well as the writer's trade and public oration that was central to Greeley's life.

International Studies Award

Sponsored by Terry Buehner

The International Studies Award will recognize the most outstanding entries that connect the National History Day annual theme to an international person or event. There will be two prizes awarded (First and Second place) in each division (Senior and Junior) with prize amounts based on the type of project (individual or group).

Senior Division

First Place \$125 (Ind) or \$200 (Group)

Second Place \$75 (Ind) or \$100 (Group)

Junior Division

First Place \$125 (Ind) or \$200 (Group)

Second Place \$75 (Ind) or \$100 (Group)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer History Award

Sponsored by the Vermont LGBTQ History Project

The Vermont LGBTQ History Project will award a prize for an outstanding entry presenting research recognizing the role of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people within Vermont history, United States history or world history. The prize for a winning entry will be \$250, with money distributed evenly among group members.

Lost Mural and Little Jerusalem Prize

Sponsored by the Lost Mural Project

The Lost Mural Project will award two projects in the junior and senior divisions. The projects must focus on the history of immigration at the local or state level. The Lost Mural is representative of an art form that was once prevalent in Eastern Europe and is a rare surviving example of a painted wall mural in a synagogue. The Lost Mural Project is dedicated to educating the public about the Lost Mural, the Burlington immigrant Jewish Community, (formerly called “Burlington’s Little Jerusalem”), and all immigrant groups who have found a home either in our region or across the state. Special consideration is given to projects that focus on art that is representative of Vermont’s immigrant history.

Junior Division

First Place \$200

Second Place \$100

Senior Division

First Place \$200

Second Place \$100

Military History Prize

The Military History Prize of \$100 recognizes an outstanding project on military history. This research field can include any time, place, or topic relating to warfare. A military historian may be someone who explores the decisions of commanding officers or the feats of soldiers in battle. The field could examine the experiences of men and women in uniform, or the influence of politics and culture on the armed forces. Military history also looks at populations who waged war, endured hardships, and reckoned with the aftermath of wars. Students should study military history in their quest to become engaged and informed citizens, who consider and question the use of military force – in the past, present, and future. With this goal in mind, this prize will be awarded for the best project in military history.

Mollie Beattie Memorial Environmental Prize

Sponsored in honor of Mollie Beattie

The Mollie Beattie Memorial Prize of \$150 is awarded to an outstanding project focusing on the natural world. In addition to adhering to the annual theme, the entry could address topics including, but not limited to, preservation of wild lands, protection of fish, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, the support of threatened species, or similar aspirations that human members of the natural world strive to achieve in Mollie’s honor. The award will be distributed evenly among group members.

About Mollie:

After earning an M.S. in forestry from UVM, Mollie Beattie began her public environmental stewardship career as Vermont’s Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Appointed to that post by Governor Madeleine Kunin in 1985, she went on to become Deputy Commissioner of DEC. A state park near her home in Grafton bears her name. Under President Clinton she became the first woman Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Under her leadership 15 new wildlife refuges were created. Clinton named the largest block of wilderness in the Brooks Range of the

northeastern Alaska National Wildlife Refuge after her. Among her legacies is the reintroduction of the grey wolf to northern Yellowstone National Park. She wrote, “What a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself.” Mollie died of a brain tumor at age 49 in 1996. The environmental community universally mourned her passing.

Truth and Reconciliation Award

Sponsored by the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created by Legislative Act 128 in 2022, and formalized in 2023. The Commission’s work involves researching the past in a manner that allows us to understand the laws that allowed unequal and harmful treatment of particular groups of people. We research the past to understand how to create a better future for all Vermonters. We search for truth. The Commission focuses on the following communities:

- Black Community
- French Canadians
- LGBTQ
- Disabled
- Native Americans
- Other communities decided by the Commission.

The TRC is awarding \$100 and a certificate for the selected project centered on Vermont History that best reflects the work of the commission with a focus on examining wrongs of the past. The selected project should consider multiple perspectives and include a restorative analysis.

Vermont History Award

Sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society

The Vermont History Award of \$300 is presented to an entry in each age division, senior and junior, for demonstrated excellence in the use of primary sources for researching a Vermont history topic. In addition to the monetary award, the winning student(s) will receive a publication about Vermont history. The award will be distributed evenly among group members.

Vermont State Archives Award for Outstanding Use of Primary Sources

Sponsored by the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Secretary of State

The Vermont State Archives and Records Administration will award prizes to projects that demonstrate outstanding use of primary sources, particularly Vermont primary sources. The money will be distributed evenly among group members.

First Place \$125

Second Place \$75

Women’s History Award

Sponsored by Patricia Passmore Alley in memory of Helen Vrooman Passmore

The Women’s History Award is presented to the best project focusing on the contributions of a woman or women in history. The recipient of this award will receive \$250. The award will be distributed evenly among group members.

Teacher Prizes

Shelburne Museum Award

Sponsored by Shelburne Museum

A teacher with a high student participation in Vermont History Day and dedication to the program will win a self-guided visit to Shelburne Museum. The winner may bring up to 50 students and 10 adults to the museum during the spring of 2024, with advance reservations. Contact School & Youth Programs Educator Sara Wolfson at schoolprograms@shelburnemuseum.org.

Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Teacher Award

Sponsored by the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation

The Coolidge Foundation offers a free History Exploration Visit for one class (up to 30 students) to the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth, Vermont. An advance reservation is required. Contact the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation at (802) 672-3389 or ncameron@coolidgefoundation.org.

2024 Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award

Sponsored through National History Day

The Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award recognizes two outstanding National History Day teachers at the national level. Two teachers from each affiliate, one in the junior division and one in the senior division, will be nominated at the affiliate level. Each nominee will receive a \$500 stipend. Two winners will be selected from the pool of nominated teachers (one in each division). These two teachers will each receive \$10,000.