



# SPECIAL PRIZE NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Special prize applications must be submitted via email. Students can nominate their Florida History Day project for a special prize in a maximum of two categories that relate to their topic. Each winner in an individual or group entry receives a prize. To be eligible, students must submit a nomination packet, described below. The Cubberly, Florida Digital History, Civil War Heritage, and Mapping History Awards have restricted category eligibility, but all other prizes are open to entries in both divisions and all categories.

**\*\*Denotes NEW prize for 2026.**

## PRIZE NAME AND SPONSOR

## PRIZE DESCRIPTION

<b>African American Heritage Award</b> <i>The Jensen Family</i>	Active Tallahassee citizens, the Jensen family is a long-time supporter of Florida History Day. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with a Black history topic.
<b>American History Innovation Award</b> <i>In memory of Norman Schroeder</i>	Sponsored by the family of Norman Schroeder, World War II veteran, innovator, and FHF judge, this prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with social or technological innovation topics.
<b>American Revolution Heritage Award</b> <i>Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Inc.</i>	SAR is a lineage society whose members are descendants of patriots who gave service to the fight for American freedom. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry that falls within the time frame of 1754 to 1797 of US history.
<b>Best Use of Primary Sources Award</b> <i>Society of Florida Archivists</i>	SFA individual and institutional members are dedicated to identifying, preserving, and using historical records. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry with at least twenty primary sources of varying types in the bibliography.
<b>Celebrate Freedom Award</b> <i>The James Madison Institute</i>	A Florida-based research and educational organization, JMI apprises citizens about government and public policy. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with the impact of an immigrant or immigrants to the US.
<b>**Civil War Heritage Award</b> <i>Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War</i>	This prize is awarded to an outstanding <b>historical paper</b> that illustrates a person, group, or event that pertains to the causes, course, or consequences of the American Civil War from the period of 1840 to 1913. <b>DUE APRIL 6</b>
<b>Colonial Americas Heritage Award</b> <i>Florida Council for History Education and La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas</i>	Sponsored by an organization that supports and provides history education resources for teachers and students, this prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with events, issues, or actions that took place between 1513-1821.
<b>Economic Freedom Award</b> <i>The James Madison Institute</i>	This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry about an important economic episode in US or world history.
<b>Florida Archival Research Award</b> <i>Friends of the State Library and Archives of Florida Inc.</i>	This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry on a Florida topic incorporating original records obtained from archival collections residing in a Florida archive, university library, historical society or similar institution. Digital collections maintained by these institutions also qualify.
<b>Florida Digital History Award</b> <i>Friends of the State Library and Archives of Florida Inc.</i>	This prize is awarded to an outstanding <b>documentary or website</b> on a Florida topic incorporating primary source archival media (photographs, film, audio recordings).
<b>Florida Heritage Award</b> <i>Florida Historical Society</i>	Established in St. Augustine in 1856, FHS is the state's oldest existing cultural organization. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with a Florida history topic.
<b>Florida Historic Preservation Award</b> <i>Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources</i>	The Florida Division of Historical Resources preserves and teaches the public about Florida's historical, archaeological, and cultural resources. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry about a <i>historic property or archaeological site</i> located in Florida (e.g., building, fort, ship, battle site, place where major events took place, or a site where archaeological excavations have occurred); or <i>traditional cultural practices</i> passed down over time (e.g., canoe making, sponge diving, dance, music, or ritual or festive traditions); or a <i>person</i> significant in Florida history who is associated with saving, locating, or researching a historic place or building, or passing down traditional cultural practices.

<b>Frederick Cubberly Florida History Award</b> <i>Florida Historical Society</i>	The prize is awarded to an outstanding <b>historical paper</b> in either division that deals with a Florida history topic.
<b>Hispanic Heritage Award</b> <i>Florida Council for History Education Fort San Luis Chapter, NSDAR</i>	This award is sponsored by an organization that supports and provides history education resources for teachers and students. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry about Hispanic history.
<b>Holocaust Education Award</b> <i>Holocaust Education Task Force</i>	The Task Force prepares and assists school districts for teaching the history of the Holocaust. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry that commemorates or interprets the story of people who died in or survived the Holocaust.
<b>Mapping History Award</b> <i>Florida Geographic Alliance</i>	Founded with National Geographic Society support, FGA encourages the inclusion of geography learning in K–12 and post-secondary curricula. The prize is awarded to an outstanding <b>exhibit</b> dealing with maps or a geographic topic.
<b>Military Heritage Award</b>	The Vietnam Veterans of America is a service organization that assists all veterans and their families. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with a military topic from any era.
<b>Native American Heritage Award</b> <i>Fort San Luis Chapter, NSDAR</i>	This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry about native peoples, anywhere or in any era.
<b>Science Heritage Award</b> <i>Tallahassee Scientific Society</i>	TSS includes scientists, engineers, educators, and laypeople who are dedicated to increasing scientific literacy in Florida and the local area. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with a science history topic.
<b>Sports Heritage Award</b> <i>Specialty Sportswear and Promotions, Inc.</i>	A Tallahassee-based business since 1996, Specialty Sportswear provides tee-shirts and promotional items for businesses and individuals. This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry dealing with a sports-related topic.
<b>Women’s Heritage Award</b> <i>In memory of Norma Wasmuth</i>	This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry relating to women’s issues or accomplishments.
<b>World War II Heritage Award</b> <i>Florida State University Institute on World War II and the Human Experience</i>	The Institute collects and preserves the memorabilia of service men and women, defense personnel, and volunteers in the Second World War and post-war era (1939–49). This prize is awarded to an outstanding entry about a war-related event, person, or innovation during that time period.

## TO APPLY FOR A SPECIAL PRIZE

Each special prize nomination must include the four items below in the order listed. You must email a **PDF** of the packet to [FHDSpecialPrize@dos.fl.gov](mailto:FHDSpecialPrize@dos.fl.gov). If you are nominating your project for two prizes, you must complete a separate packet in PDF format for each entry; however, you may attach both PDFs to one email. Entries that do not include the following items may be eliminated from consideration.

- **Special Prize Application Cover Sheet.**
- **Nomination narrative.** On a separate sheet, describe in at least 100 but no more than 200 words why your topic is significant in history and how it relates to the special prize category that you selected.
- **Process paper.** A process paper is required for all entries. Follow the guidelines presented in the *NHD Contest Rule Book* on page 19.
- **Annotated bibliography.** Attach your project’s required annotated bibliography. Follow the guidelines presented in the *NHD Contest Rule Book* on page 19-20.
- **For the Civil War Heritage Award,** include the entire historical paper in the nomination packet PDF.

Nomination packets must be emailed by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, March 25, 2026** (except for the Civil War Heritage Award, due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, **April 6, 2026**). Email your packet to the Florida History Day office: [FHDSpecialPrize@dos.fl.gov](mailto:FHDSpecialPrize@dos.fl.gov)