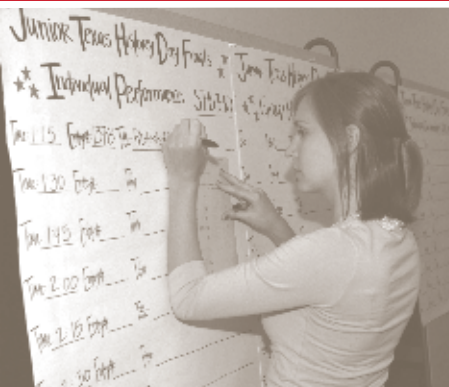


Texas Education



TSHAonline.org



The Nation's Report Card: 2018 U.S. History Assessment, released by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, found that 34 percent of eighth graders did not demonstrate basic knowledge of American history, and only 14 percent demonstrated proficient or advanced knowledge. History education addresses a number of these issues by introducing students to the events and decisions of the past while equipping them with critical thinking, research, and analytical skills to become more informed citizens in the future.

TSHA's Student Education Programs, including Texas History Day, Junior Historians of Texas, and Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society, connect to thousands of teachers and students throughout the state at all levels. Currently, about 65,000 students directly benefit from the Association's education programs.

Through webinars, seminars, institutes, and a variety of other professional development opportunities, TSHA provides timely content and instructional strategies to assist educators in preparing accurate, engaging, and effective learning activities for their students.

A wide variety of educator resources are also provided by TSHA, including TeachingTexas.org, Lesson Plans, and a variety of print and online tools in support of other TSHA content. Based on statistical analysis of the number of teachers who use TSHA's online educator resources, TSHA indirectly touches the lives of about 1,000,000 students across the state.

Demographic: 4th-12th grade Texas students; undergraduate and graduate students; educators

Current participation: 65,000 students (directly); 1,000,000 students (indirectly)

Time frame: all year

Texas History Day

Demographic: 6th-12th grade Texas students and educators

Current participation: 65,000 students

Time frame: all year

Structure: local, regional, and state competition; national finals

Regional competitions: February-March

State competition: April, Austin, TX

National finals: Summer, Baltimore, MD

Texas History Day, an affiliate of National History Day, is also an event where middle and high school students collaborate on historical research projects to compete in a fun celebration of historical discovery. Students choose historical topics related to an annual theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research at libraries, archives, museums, historic sites, and more.

After analyzing and interpreting their source material, students create projects, like papers, documentaries, and performances, to present at competitions in the spring to determine who advances to one of our twenty (or more) regional contests across Texas. Top entries from each regional competition advance to the state contest in Austin, and students who place first or second at our state contest advance to the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest held each summer at the University of Maryland at College Park.

In addition to discovering the exciting world of the past, Texas History Day also helps students develop the following attributes that are critical for future success:

- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Project management skills
- Research and reading skills
- Teamwork
- Oral and written communication and presentation skills
- Self-esteem and confidence

The Texas National History Day Program not only teaches students about history, it encourages them to participate in history!

Junior Historians

Demographic: 4th – 12th grade Texas students and educators

Time frame: school year

Structure: local chapter annual assignments, Annual Meeting with awards, publication

The Junior Historians of Texas is an extracurricular program for 4th through 12th grade students. Junior Historians was founded in 1939 by Walter Prescott Webb, the respected Texas historian who wanted students to get involved in the actual “doing of history”.

Guided by a school-approved sponsor, students participate in chapter activities that enable them to discover and research history, both in the classroom and in the community. While encouraging the exploration and documentation of state and community history, the Junior Historian program creates opportunities for students to learn research, critical inquiry, analytical reading, writing, critical thinking, and debate skills.

One of the major objectives of the program is to encourage chapter members to research a topic on state or local history and to record their findings in a research project: individual historical paper, individual or group exhibit, individual or group performance, individual or group web site, or individual or group documentary. Topics may vary from major events, such as the 1900 Galveston storm, to personal stories, such as that of one student's grandmother who immigrated to Texas from Germany. While learning about history in a personal venue, these experiences also enable students to develop skills of formal writing, public speaking and presentation, media visual design, and public performance, among others.

The Junior Historian Annual Meeting and History Fair marks the pinnacle of the year's activities, as chapter members, along with their sponsors and cosponsors, assemble to share ideas, problems, achievements, and the results of the year's activities. In addition to possibly receiving awards at the end of the meeting, their work may be published in the Junior Historians' journal, the *Texas Historian*, one of the few historical journals in the nation dedicated to publishing secondary students' work. The *Texas Historian* is published in October. The *Texas Historian* Archive contains all back issues online and offers available hard copies for purchase.

The **Annual Meeting and History Fair** is usually held in late March or early April. Previous meeting locations have included San Antonio, Arlington, Houston, Galveston, Abilene, Mesquite, and Austin.

Walter Prescott Webb Society

Demographic: undergraduate and graduate students

Time frame: annual

Structure: local chapter meetings, 2 society assemblies per year, annual meeting, awards

The Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society works through college and university history departments to encourage students to discover, research, write, and publish the history of Texas as they find it where they live. Founded in 1973 and named for the distinguished UT historian who served as Director of the Association from 1939-1946, the program provides the organizational framework for developing comparable learning projects and activities across campuses at the college and university level. Local, community, and regional history comprise the focal point of chapter activities.

Student members of the Webb Society are eligible to submit papers for publication consideration and to compete for the Caldwell Memorial Award, the annual competition for college students researching a topic in Texas history. The professional-quality results of their published projects are reflected in *Touchstone*, the undergraduate journal of the Webb Society published each year since 1982. A cumulative index for Volumes I - XXV is now available online.

The Society assembles twice a year for organizational and learning purposes. At the TSHA annual meeting each March, the Webb Society convenes to hear presentations by professional historians and by the winners of the Caldwell Memorial Awards. Students and sponsors meet each fall semester at a historic location for on-site learning and to share their experiences of the past year's work. In contrast to the Annual Meeting, which is usually held in a major city, the fall meeting is held in a smaller city that is located in an area of historical significance to students of Texas history. Members and sponsors are encouraged to follow activities through the Society's Facebook page.

TeachingTexas.org

Demographic: Texas educators (focus on 4th and 7th grade Texas educators)

Time frame: annual

Structure: online resource and lesson plan database

TeachingTexas.org is a collaborative project between the Texas State Historical Association, the University of North Texas Library's Portal to Texas History, and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The purpose of the site is to provide a tool for educators, which brings together in one place the diverse resources for teaching Texas social studies in order to both save time and promote awareness of what is available.

Resources at TeachingTexas.org include primary and secondary sources, lesson plans, staff development, apps and interactive websites, museum exhibits and programs, books, events, and TSHA resources as well.

Awards & Fellowships

Demographic: educators and scholars

Current participation:

Time frame: annual

Structure: nominations and applications are accepted in the fall; awards presented in the spring

Cost: all awards are individually funded upon creation

Funding opportunities:

New awards can be created with a minimum \$50,000 endowment gift

The Texas State Historical Association offers one annual education award and five research fellowships to encourage the study and teaching of Texas history.

Mary Jon and J. P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award

The Mary Jon and J. P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award is given annually to honor an outstanding teacher in Texas. History teachers at the middle school, high school, and college levels are eligible. Any person may nominate any full-time teacher presently teaching history in a Texas school or college.

Catarino and Evangelina Hernández Research Fellowship in Latino History

The Catarino and Evangelina Hernández Research Fellowship in Latino History is given annually for the best research proposal relating to the history of Latinos in Texas. Catarino and Evangelina Hernández were Mexican immigrants who made their home in Texas beginning in the 1950s. Like many other citizens of Mexican heritage, they were as proud of their roots as of their new homeland. The Fellowship recognizes that their story, like the stories of all Latinos, is worthy of investigation, preservation, and illumination for generations of Texans to come.

Mary M. Hughes Research Fellowship in Texas History

The Mary M. Hughes Research Fellowship in Texas History is awarded annually for the best research proposal on twentieth-century Texas history. The Mary M. Hughes Research Fellowship in Texas History was established in 1999 by the thirteen children of Mary M. Hughes to celebrate their mother's eighty-ninth birthday and her fiftieth year in Texas. The award honors her great love of Texas and its history.

John H. Jenkins Research Fellowship in Texas History

Established in 1994 from funds made available by the family and friends of John H. Jenkins, the John H. Jenkins Research Fellowship in Texas History is awarded annually for the best research proposal having to do with Texas history. The fellowship honors Mr. Jenkins for all that he accomplished on behalf of Texas history as an author, editor, bookseller, and Fellow and member of the Executive Council of the Texas State Historical Association.

Cecilia Steinfeldt Fellowship for Research in the Arts and Material Culture

The Cecilia Steinfeldt Fellowship for Research in the Arts and Material Culture is given annually for the best research proposal on decorative and fine arts, material culture, preservation, and architecture in Texas from the seventeenth century to the present. The Cecilia Steinfeldt Fellowship was established in 1996 to honor Cecilia Steinfeldt, the long-time curator of the Witte Museum of San Antonio, in recognition of her lifelong scholarly devotion to the arts in Texas.

Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellowship in Civil War Texas History

The Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellowship is awarded annually for the best research proposal having to do with Texas history and the Civil War. The award was established in 2000 to honor Lawrence T. Jones III for his many contributions to the study, collection, and publication of Texas and Civil War history.