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## NEWS RELEASE

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### 53 Oregon Students Qualify for National History Day® Competition to be Held near Washington, D.C.

**Portland, OR – May 8, 2017** – Fifty-three students from across Oregon have qualified to advance to the National History Day® competition after successfully submitting their work at [Oregon History Day](#) on Saturday, April 22, 2017. The students who qualified to advance in the competition received first or second place in their category.

Each year, one project is awarded Best Entry at Oregon History Day, and the winner receives round-trip air fare to Washington, D.C. for the [National History Day® Contest](#), which will take place at the University of Maryland at College Park campus June 11-15, 2017. This year, Eshani Jha from Stoller Middle School in Beaverton received top honors for her documentary “Mahatma Gandhi: Messenger of Peace.” This award is made possible through generous grant funding from Joseph E. Weston Foundation, Marie Lamfrom Charitable Trust, the Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, and the H.W. and D.C.H. Irwin Foundation.

Each fall, OHS kicks off the Oregon History Day program alongside over half a million 6-12 grade students across the country. OHS Education Manager Kristen Pilgrim works closely with educators throughout the state, and students use the [OHS Research Library](#) and digital assets like the [Oregon History Project](#) and [Oregon Encyclopedia](#) to conduct research on the annual theme. The 2017 National History Day® theme is “Taking a Stand in History,” and students can present their final project in the form of a paper, website, exhibit, performance, or documentary, and can work individually or as a group.

More than a half-million students and 30,000 teachers participate in NHD annually. Through historical research on topics of their choice and interviews with multiple judges, students learn research and reading skills, critical thinking, problem-

solving, and self-esteem and confidence. For more information on National History Day®, visit [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org).

A full list of participants of the 2017 Oregon History Day contest, including those who have qualified for nationals, can be found at [www.ohs.org/oregonhistoryday](http://www.ohs.org/oregonhistoryday).

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### **About the Oregon Historical Society**

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state's collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website ([www.ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org)), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon's history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon's cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.