

Junior Docent National History Day Projects

This summer Junior Docents will develop work towards a National History Day project. This exciting program serves to engage young people in historical research and skills development. With such an abbreviated timeline **we do not expect that students will have the time to develop a full project.** We also do not expect that students will enter their projects in the regional competition at Colorado College in February. Of course, please know that students who do choose to continue to develop their project and to compete have our full support! We believe in this program and are excited to challenge students to be creative, explore their interests, and develop critical skills.



Project Timeline

Please keep track of the due dates listed below. These will help you to stay on track over the course of the summer.

- **June 13: NHD Project Topic & Format DUE** – Let us know what topic you’ve chosen and whether you are doing a website, documentary, paper, performance, or exhibit (or a format of your choice)
- **June 27: Research Overview DUE** – Submit an [annotated bibliography](#) with a minimum of five sources (at least one must be a primary source)
 - An annotated bibliography tells the reader how many sources you used and the quality and range of sources used in your research. The annotation informs the reader how you used your sources and why they were valuable to understanding your topic.
- **July 11: Thesis & Project Outline DUE** – Make sure you are clear on what a thesis statement is (Go to [“Step 3”](#)). This is so important to your project! Your statement as well as an outline of your project are due.
- **July 25: Final Project DUE** – as a reminder, “final” means that you have something you can present. Are you making an exhibit but haven’t created the board yet? No problem! Make a PowerPoint with pictures and text describing each section of your exhibit. Are you creating a documentary, but the film isn’t ready? Show us the first minute and a story board of what the rest would be. If you plan to enter the competition, you’ll still have months to finish your final project. Consider this a draft.
- **July 28-August 1: Project Presentations** – This is your chance to show us all the hard work you’ve done. Your presentation can take many forms. Let us know in advance what you might need. Families are welcome to join us!

Choosing a Topic

As we are a regional history museum, our goal is for you to engage in local history! We would love for you to choose a local history topic but are fine with you branching out. We do require that you find a regional connection and use sources from local history. For example, a project on jazz music in America could include the *local* story of Fannie Mae Duncan and the Cotton Club. A project on activism as communication could include the work of *local* activist Charles Banks or Juanita Hairston. As we heard in our meeting with Celeste, the narrower your topic, the better. A broad topic can be narrowed down

through a local/regional lens. The other great part is that you have regional history experts at your disposal, along with exhibits and primary and secondary sources to support your efforts.

When choosing your topic, you have to make sure it connects to the 2021 theme: [Communication in History: The Key to Understanding](#) (click to learn more about the theme!). While you may be very interested in sports, that isn't necessarily a great topic. You'll need to find a story from history (at least 15-20 years ago) that meets the theme. For example, the Brown Bombers, an all African American local baseball team, was organized shortly after World War II. They played in the extremely competitive City Baseball League, and won back-to-back championships in 1949 and 1950. This topic meets the local history requirement – you would just need to explore how to connect to the theme. How do athletics serve as a form of communication? That's for you to discover and prove with your project.

Choosing a topic may feel overwhelming, but we are here to help:

1. What are your interests? Come up with a list of interests that you could possibly explore.
2. Is there a history connection (of course there is!)? Do some research online, talk to the JD mentors and your family to see what ideas they have.
3. How can you connect this to local history? Ask your JD mentors! Explore the CSPM website:
 - a. www.cspmstoryofus.com is an excellent resource for ideas
 - b. Email our Archivist, Hillary Mannion at Hillary.mannion@coloradosprings.gov – she can help you see what connections their might be
4. How can you connect to the theme – *Communication in History*? This is where we'll have to get creative, but again, we're here to help! I imagine that it would be difficult to find a topic that doesn't connect to the theme. Think outside the box. A communication project doesn't need to be about cell phones. It can be about art, music, activism, sports, animals, architecture, photography – you name it! This is where your thesis will come into play. You need to make an argument that your topic demonstrates communication in history.
5. Time to research! Start looking for books. We'll find sources in our collection for you to examine during your research appointment. Set-up an interview with a local expert!

EXAMPLE...I love archaeology....Gertrude Bell was an accomplished archaeologist called the 'mother of Mesopotamian archaeology' (I did a google search)...the city has an archaeologist I can interview! Also – we have sources in our archive on Virginia McClurg who helped found Mesa Verde and believed in historic preservation...Gertrude communicated information from the past through her excavations – I'll consider how archaeology helps communicate the message of history...how cool!

Research Appointments

Hillary Mannion, our Archivist, is excited to offer research appointments at the Starsmore Center for Local History Archive (main level of the museum) for every Junior Docent! We have already scheduled your appointments, so make sure you mark your calendars and let us know if you need to make any changes (see schedule below).

We will do our best to find at least one primary source document that you can work with during your appointment that is related to your NHD project. Of course, if you choose a local history topic then you

are more likely to find resources in our archive. Our goals for the appointment are for you to get an archival research experience, work with primary sources, and learn about this aspect of museum work. Please note that, along with the Archivist, one of the CSPM mentors will accompany each of the JDs for their appointments. When you arrive, please come to the front door (215 S. Tejon Street) and ring the doorbell to the right of the main entrance (if we are still closed to the public). Each appointment will take two hours. If parents/students need to park we are surrounded by parking meters or there is the City Administration Parking Garage on the corner of Colorado and Nevada.

What to Expect:

- Researchers are asked to wear masks.
- At this time, one researcher is allowed in the Reading Room at a time – unless otherwise designated (accompanied by a CSPM mentor).
- There is no food or drink permitted in the Reading Room (including water bottles).
- You will be asked to complete a research registration form and sign our guidelines for working in the collections.
- You will be asked to put your bag, and any other personal belongings in a Reading Room locker.
- There are pencils and notepads for you to use in the Reading Room. You are also welcome to bring a laptop.
- You will be given cotton or nitrile gloves to use as you handle archival materials.

To learn more about the CSPM Archives, and narrow down your research topic visit this page:

<https://www.cspm.org/collections/archives-collection/>

You can explore the collections in our online database, browse a listing of our manuscript collections, and explore the history and geography of the Pikes Peak Region in the interactive story-telling tool [Story of Us: The Pikes Peak Region from A-Z](#).

Appointment Schedule

WED		THURS		FRI		SAT	
17-Jun		18-Jun		19-Jun		20-Jun	
	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm
	Oliver & Violet C.	Adelaide E.	Kalila M.	Madeleine P.	Maria G.		
24-Jun		25-Jun		26-Jun		27-Jun	
	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm
	Jessica L.		Owen G.	Emily Sharp	Autumn & Eden L.	Kyla R.	
1-Jul		2-Jul		3-Jul			
	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm		
	Tim H.	Logan S.	Annelise K.				
8-Jul		9-Jul		10-Jul			
	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm	10am-12pm	1-3pm		