



# NEWS RELEASE

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**REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## TOPEKANS WIN TOP HONORS AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

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COLLEGE PARK, MD—Four Topeka students were awarded gold medals for their entries during this morning's National History Day awards ceremony at the University of Maryland, College Park, near Washington, D.C.

Sjobor Hammer, a Topeka High School student, won \$5,000 from the History Channel and a gold medal for her entry in the Senior Individual Documentary category, titled "Bones of Contention: Battling for Human Dignity at the Salina Indian Burial Pit." Harry Peterson, Jr., is Hammer's History Day coach.

Topeka Collegiate students Shelby Carpenter, Nyalia Lui, and Soren Lamb won a \$1,000 prize and a gold medal for their Junior Group Performance, titled "Asa Philip Randolph, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Franklin Roosevelt: Conflict and Compromise in Negotiating Executive Order 8802." Topeka Collegiate teacher Travis Lamb is the group's coach.

Michael Wollin, a student at Seaman High School, won an Outstanding State Entry award for his Senior Individual Exhibit, "Korematsu v. United States." Wollin's coach is teacher Susan Sittenauer.

Another Kansas team earned an Outstanding State Entry award for their Junior Group Exhibit, "The Story That Has Not Been Told: Conflict and Compromise within Topeka's Black Community at the Time of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education." The entry was done by Central Junior-Senior High School students Sophie Tate and Sophie Laufer of Burden, coached by teacher Christine Conner.

Fifty-five Kansas qualified in state competition to advance to National History Day. Throughout the school year more than 1,000 students statewide and more than 500,000 nationwide worked, researched, and tracked primary sources. Kansas students grades six through twelve compete in junior and senior categories, divided by individuals and groups in performances, documentaries, papers, exhibits, and websites.

Visit [kshs.org/teachers/historyday/national\\_photos.htm](http://kshs.org/teachers/historyday/national_photos.htm) for photos of Kansas students who participated in National History Day.

Kansas History Day is administered by the Kansas Historical Society with additional support from the Washburn University. For further information contact Kansas History Day co-coordinator Letha Johnson, 785-272-8681, ext. 306, [ljohnson@kshs.org](mailto:ljohnson@kshs.org). The Kansas Historical Society is a state agency headquartered in Topeka. For more information visit [kshs.org](http://kshs.org).

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