



## The Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award

*The Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award* recognizes outstanding National History Day (NHD) teachers. Two winners, one at both the junior level (grades 6-8) and senior level (grades 9-12), will be selected from each NHD affiliate. The winners of the national awards will be selected from among the affiliate awardees. Each affiliate winner will be awarded \$500.00 and the national winners will receive \$10,000.00.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, a teacher must be a participant in the NHD program and be nominated by an NHD coordinator. The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- 1. Development and use of creative teaching methods that interest students in history and help them make exciting discoveries about the past. Strong applications will include an explanation and specific examples demonstrating:**
  - Active learning projects, such as mock debates or oral history projects;
  - Innovative use of primary sources;
  - Integrated technology in history research and classroom learning;
  - Teaching methods which link history to students' broader interests (e.g., using interdisciplinary approaches to historical topics or by developing projects that link history to current events, debates, and issues); and
  - The use of teaching methods that build a range of skills in students as they study history.
- 2. Exemplary commitment to helping students develop their interest in history and recognize their achievements. Examples should include some combination of:**
  - Exemplary support and guidance for students working on NHD projects;
  - Assistance in helping students showcase their projects within the community and/or publish their material;
  - Overall commitment to the intellectual development of individual students; and
  - Encouragement of students to use their understanding of history to become engaged, informed citizens in their community and beyond.

## Nomination Procedure

There are two ways that teachers may be nominated.

1. Interested teachers may self-nominate by submitting the following materials to their affiliate coordinators by **March 14, 2016**.
  - A completed cover sheet with contact information
  - A resume of the nominee
  - A testimonial as to why this teacher should be considered for this award (3 pages, double-spaced, maximum). This essay should discuss:
    - the impact of the NHD program on a class or an individual student and his/her/their academic and/or social growth;
    - how the teacher uses NHD in his/her classroom; and
    - a description of a lesson or a series of lessons which address creative teaching as defined in the eligibility criteria.
  - One classroom product referenced in the essay (handout, assignment, etc.) to share with the selection committee (2 pages maximum)
  - Two letters of recommendation
  
2. Teachers may be nominated by a peer, parent, or principal. The materials that follow should be submitted to the affiliate coordinators by **March 14, 2016**.
  - A completed cover sheet with contact information
  - A resume of the nominee
  - A testimonial as to why this teacher should be considered for this award (3 pages, double-spaced, maximum). This essay should discuss:
    - the impact of the NHD program on a class or an individual student and his/her/their academic and/or social growth;
    - how the teacher uses NHD in his/her classroom; and
    - a description of a lesson or a series of lessons which address creative teaching as defined in the eligibility criteria.
  - One classroom product referenced in the essay (handout, assignment, etc.) to share with the selection committee (2 pages maximum)
  - Two letters of recommendation

**\*\*Please scan all materials into one PDF file and email them to your coordinator.**

## Award Process

The affiliate coordinators will select the Affiliate Teacher of the Year (junior and senior division) and write a letter of nomination. All materials from the affiliate coordinator need to be forwarded to the Director of Programs via mail or email **no later than Monday, May 2, 2016**.

After the winners are announced at the affiliate contests, the teacher nominee will receive instructions via email to write notes to Mrs. Patricia Behring for her recognition and support. Monetary prizes will be released after the thank you notes are received.

**NOMINATION COVER SHEET  
THE PATRICIA BEHRING AWARD**

Teacher Title (Ms., Mrs., Mr., Dr...)	
Name of Nominee	
Email	
Phone number	
Division (Junior or Senior)	
Complete home address (please include zip code)	
School name	
School Address	
Name and title of principal / supervisor	
Current grade(s) taught	
Current course(s) taught	
NHD teacher since (give a year)	
Were you an NHD student? If so, what year(s)?	
Name and email of superintendent / head of school	
Address of superintendent / head of school	
Name and email of head of communications / press for the school / district	
Number of years of experience with NHD	

The following materials should be submitted by **March 14, 2016** to affiliate (state) coordinators.

- A completed cover sheet with contact information
- An essay explaining why this teacher should be considered for this award (3 pages, double-spaced, maximum). This essay should discuss:
  - the impact of the NHD program on a class or an individual student and his/her/their academic and/or social growth;
  - how the teacher uses NHD in his/her classroom; and
  - a description of a lesson or a series of lessons which address creative teaching as defined in the eligibility criteria.
- One classroom product referenced in the essay (handout, assignment, etc) to share with the committee (2 pages maximum)
- A resume of the nominee
- Two letters of recommendation

**Affiliate coordinators should submit materials (please scan as one PDF file) by May 2, 2016 to Lynne O'Hara, Director of Programs, at [Lynne@nhd.org](mailto:Lynne@nhd.org)**