



Celebrate 250 Years of American History!

Honoring Our Milestone Birthday at the AFHE Convention

America is turning a quarter-millennium, and we're celebrating with a blast from the past! AFHE invites students to bring history to life through a creative, research-based exhibit. This isn't just a poster board—it's an argument for why history matters.

Event Details

- When: July 16, 2026
- Where: AFHE 43rd Annual Convention, Phoenix Convention Center, South Building
- Theme: Colonial through Present Day American History
- Goal: Celebration through Education!

The Challenge

Pick an event or person from the Colonial Era to the Present Day and showcase your findings in one of two formats:

- Classic Tri-Fold Panel: For those who love a visual narrative
- 3D Diorama: For the builders who want to recreate a moment in time

The Mission (What Makes a Winning Exhibit?)

To create a truly impactful project, you'll need to go beyond the "Who, What, and Where." Your exhibit should tackle:

1. Historical Significance: Don't just tell us what happened or what a person did; tell us why it changed the course of our nation.
2. Multiple Perspectives: History is rarely one-sided. What did different people think about this event/person at the time?
3. A Strong Argument: Develop a clear thesis or claim. What is the central point you are trying to prove or demonstrate?
4. A Balanced Voice: We want to hear your conclusions! Support your ideas with primary and secondary evidence but make sure your unique voice shines through. Primary evidence is from the period you are covering and secondary is from outside the period.

2026 AFHE History Fair Guidelines

Pro-Tip: Make it eye-catching! Use color, texture, and clear headings to guide your audience through your historical journey.

Entry Details

- **Eligibility:** Open to children of AFHE members. Students must be currently homeschooled in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes §15-802 or educated at home under an Empowerment Scholarship Account in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes §15-2402 and *not* enrolled at a public school, microschool, virtual charter, or private school.
- **Register:** Complete the entry form at the AFHE website by June 30.
- **Entry fee:** \$8 per student; only one project per student will be admitted.
- **Submit topic for approval:** Topic will be reported on the entry form and must be approved by the History Fair Director.
- **Set up:** Thursday, July 16, 12:00-1:00 PM
- **Fair hours:** 1:00-3:30 PM, Thursday, July 16
- **Take down:** Winning projects from each division will be on display at the AFHE Home Education Convention, Friday and Saturday, July 17-18. These displays must remain on display until 5:00 PM on Saturday. All other entries may be taken down at the conclusion of the fair at 3:30 PM on Thursday.

Let the celebration and the education begin! We can't wait to see the stories you choose to tell.

2026 AFHE HISTORY FAIR RULES

Work must be original; no plagiarism. Citations and a bibliography are required. (see bibliography requirements for each division below)

Panel exhibit (tri-fold):

- Maximum size: 36" H × 48" W, plus 10" header if desired.
- May use the space between panels.
- Must stand on its own.
- No digital, audio, video, or hands-on elements.
- Maximum 500 words.
- Follow rubric guidelines. The relevant judging rubric will be emailed to each entrant.

3D diorama exhibit:

- Maximum size: 24" × 48" table space required; max height 24"
- Follow rubric guidelines. The relevant judging rubric will be emailed to each entrant.

Content must be family-friendly ("G"):

- Minimize graphic content; omit blood and explicit depictions of death.
- If unsure about an image, email the History Fair director for approval.
- Any non-family-friendly images will not be displayed or judged.

Entry divisions:

- **High school (age 14-18):** High school entries must include an annotated bibliography: Include author, date, title, publication/publisher and 2–3 sentence per source. Sentences will be a summary of what each source provided.
- **Upper elementary / Middle grade (age 9-13):** Entry must include a standard bibliography: title and author for each source (include illustrator where applicable).
- **Lower elementary (age 5-8):** Entry must include a standard bibliography: title and author for each source (include illustrator where applicable).