



April 15, 2026

To: Dr. Joe Rodriguez
From: Amy Maddie
Subject: Students Advancing to National History Day and Special Awards from Texas History Day

We are proud to recognize the following students for their outstanding achievements at the Texas History Day competition.

Receiving special awards for their projects:

Jonathan Lewis and Yashvir Sing Gill from Goose Creek Memorial received the Naval Order of the United States Award and the National Maritime History Society's Special Prize for Maritime Projects for their group exhibit, "SUBSAFE: Revolutionizing the Depths through Vital Reform." They were under the direction of teacher April Vogel.

Brinkley Benoit from Gentry Junior High received the Outstanding Regional Junior Division Project Award for her individual documentary, "Up in Smoke: How the Tobacco Industry Lost Its Grip on America." Brinkley was under the sponsorship of teacher Sarah Capestani.

The following students were awarded first or second place at Texas History Day and will be advancing to the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland, June 14–18, 2026.

From Goose Creek Memorial, under the direction of April Vogel:

Ananya Sood was awarded first place for her individual documentary, "We All Bleed Red: Science, War, and the Fight for Equality." This project also received a special award at Texas History Day for Outstanding Regional Senior Division Project.

Anay Gupta received first place for his individual website, "When Truth Hit the Headlines: How the Pentagon Papers Sparked Reaction and Demanded Reform."

Manavendra Chouhan earned first place for his historical paper, "The Spark in Champaran: Revolution Through Satyagraha, Reaction of Empire, and Reform that Reshaped India."

Arya Patel and Aron Salazar received second place for their group website, "A Voice in Pecan Dust: Emma Tenayuca's Grassroots Revolution, the Red-Baiting Reaction, and the Reform of Mexican-American Labor."

From our junior high campuses:

Austin Thomas, David Orellana, and Jack Pettine earned first place for their group exhibit, "On the Line of Scrimmage: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform Under the Helmet." These Baytown Junior students were under the direction of Seth Tunink and Heather Caraway.



Isaac Graham from Gentry Junior High was awarded first place for his individual exhibit, "Revolution, Reaction, Reform: The Vietnam Draft Protests and America's Debate Over Duty." Isaac was under the direction of teacher Christina Barlow.

Please join us in celebrating these students and their remarkable accomplishments.