

2026 NHD in Iowa National Contest Results

2026 Medalist:

- 1st Place in Junior Individual Documentary
 - o Student: Adrian Gillette
 - o Teacher and School: Deb Temperly, Bettendorf Middle School
 - o Title: Brought to You by the Letter R: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in Sesame Street's Mission of Educational Equality
- 3rd Place in Junior Group Performance
 - o Students: Jace DeRocher, Nola McKee, Nora Mathistad, Peyton DeRocher, and Quinton Hart
 - o Teacher and School: Val Philips, Akron Westfield Middle School
 - o Title: The Cherry Sisters: How the World's Worst Act Reformed Freedom of the Press

2026 Outstanding Entries

- Junior Paper
 - o Student: Carly Lohmann
 - o Teacher and School: Matt Hoodjer, Tripoli Middle/Sr High School
 - o Title: Edna Griffin Reacts To Lunch Counter Discrimination: By Reforming Laws In Iowa
- Senior Individual Documentary
 - o Student: Kaia Schleifman
 - o Teacher and School: Shauna Cihacek, Abraham Lincoln High School (Council Bluffs)
 - o Title: Rats, Roaches, Love, and Guts: The Music that Moved a Nation

Top Ten Finalist

- Junior Group Performance
 - o Students: Collins Grant, Naysa Rottink, and Rachel Sher
 - o Teacher and School: Ann Jackson, B.R. Miller Middle School (Marshalltown)
 - o Title: Jane Goodall: A Scientific Revolution, a Contentious Reaction, and a Reformed Definition of Man
- Junior Individual Exhibit
 - o Student: Max Mensing
 - o Teacher and School: Gena Ward, Nodaway Valley Middle School
 - o Title: Horses to Horsepower: The Tractor Revolution In Charles City, Iowa
- Junior Group Exhibit

2026 NHD in Iowa National Contest Results

- o Students: Charlotte Mays, Emma Curry, and Nora Gallagher
 - o Teacher and School: Deb Temperly, Bettendorf Middle School
 - o Title: Beyond the Bar: Gertrude Durden Rush, Civil Rights Pioneer and Legal Revolutionary
- Junior Individual Website
 - o Student: Jade Rupp
 - o Teacher and School: Shauna Cihacek, Gerald W Kirn Middle School (Council Bluffs)
 - o Title: The Tie That Binds: Revolution on the Rails
- Senior Paper
 - o Student: Dutch Smith
 - o Teacher and School: Shauna Cihacek, Abraham Lincoln High School (Council Bluffs)
 - o Title: "Se ha ordenado la incineración de cadáveres": El Salvador's Failed Revolution, Genocidal Reaction, and Meager Reforms
- Senior Group Exhibit
 - o Students: Abigail Nelson and Adrienne Stotts
 - o Teacher and School: Shauna Cihacek, Abraham Lincoln High School (Council Bluffs)
 - o Title: Copper Cross Hi-Bred Corn: Yield of Dreams

Honorable Mentions (Projects that received 2nd place in the first round of judging)

- Junior Group Documentary
 - o Students: Branden Park and Zane Yehyaw
 - o Teacher and School: Kristina Dvorak, Harding Middle School (Cedar Rapids)
 - o Title: Haber: The Tragic Genius
- Junior Group Documentary
 - o Students: Paige Nicholson and Tynnlie Schram
 - o Teacher and School: Val Philips, Akron Westfield Middle School
 - o Title: The Sky Was Never the Limit, Just the Beginning: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in Women's Spaceflight
- Junior Individual Performance
 - o Student: Charley Seneli
 - o Teacher and School: Deb Temperly, Bettendorf Middle School
 - o Title: "I'm Lovin' It": A French Fry Revolution Served Hot
- Junior Group Exhibit

2026 NHD in Iowa National Contest Results

- o Students: Bailey Taylor, Evangeline Neighbor, and Harper Moran
 - o Teacher and School: Deb Temperly, Bettendorf Middle School
 - o Title: Carnival Curiosity to Clinical Necessity: Martin Couney's Incubator Revolution and NICU Reform
- Junior Group Website
 - o Students: Lydia Beek and Winner Moo
 - o Teacher and School: Ann Jackson, B.R. Miller Middle School (Marshalltown)
 - o Title: The Stonewall Inn: Catalyst for Revolution, Target of Reaction, and Engine of Reform
- Senior Group Performance
 - o Students: Alex Gutierrez, Conner Holman, Jade Schwartz, and Josue Corral Coronado
 - o Teacher and School: Susan Fritzell, Marshalltown High School
 - o Title: Death and DuPont: How One Lawyer Revolutionized How People Trust Big Corporations
- Senior Group Performance
 - o Students: Colby Cross, Jacob Seberger, Luke Stalzer, Parker Christen, and Preston Johnson
 - o Teacher and School: Susan Fritzell, Marshalltown High School
 - o Title: The Granger Movement: How a Farmers' Revolution in the Midwest Sparked Nationwide Reformation
- Senior Group Website
 - o Students: Eden Laguna Zavala, Fernando Ramirez, Frank Arbizu-Guerra, John Schwint, and Riak Tut
 - o Teacher and School: Christina Rice, Storm Lake High School
 - o Title: "Say Cheese!": How the Introduction of Community Water Fluoridation in Grand Rapids Revolutionized Dental Health

2026 Project Showcase Selections

Smithsonian National Museum of American History Exhibit Showcase

- Senior Group Exhibit
- Student: Abigail Nelson and Adrienne Stotts
- Teacher and School: Shauna Cihacek, Abraham Lincoln High School (Council Bluffs)
- Title: Copper Cross Hi-Bred Corn: Yield of Dreams

2026 NHD in Iowa National Contest Results

National Archives and Records Administration

- Senior Individual Website
- Student: Jaevier Patel
- Teacher and School: Susan Fritzell, Marshalltown High School
- Title: JFK's Impact on the Space Race: Shooting for the Moon

2026 Junior NHD National Teacher of the Year

- Ana Jackson from B. R. Miller Middle School, Marshalltown, IA