

Hi,

March is Women's History month! This month is an opportunity to remind students of the many contributions of women in our history, communities, and schools. In addition to the accomplishments of individual women, consider the names of buildings, bridges, and airports named to honor women, To Unsubscribe from our newsletter, send an email to hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu Hank Bitten, Executive Director

NJCSS News

Celebrating the semiquincentennial of our *Declaration of Independence* in 2026!

A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

A print copy is available on our website, www.njcss.org

March 2026

hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu

Celebrating 250 Years!

Theodosia Ford, Morris County

My husband died today of pneumonia following his exhausting walk back to our home in Morristown after the Battle of Princeton. He walked in snow, ice, rain, wind, and bitter cold temperatures. Help me in my loneliness and depression as my two-year old daughter Phoebe and mother-in-law, Hannah, are also sick and facing death.



My Story Documentary Video

Bergen250

2026's Revolutionary War Roundtable Speaker Series!

These presentations are free and open to the public

#America250



March is Women's History Month

Lesson Plans for Women's History Month from the Council for Foreign Relations

What Is Gender Inequality? (Middle School or High School)

Learn how gender-based discrimination harms countries around the world and how governments are combating it.

Gender Inequality (High School)

Students will identify and categorize examples of gender inequality and propose and analyze policy options

Tracking Gender Equality: Realities and Solutions (AP class and College)

Students will identify the widespread costs of gender inequality and assess proposed solutions using case studies.

Women currently serve as the head of government in just 13 of the 193 member states of the United Nations. Overall, 60 UN member states (31%) have ever had a woman serve as head of government. The first was Sri Lanka, where Sirimavo Bandaranaike began her first term as prime minister in 1960. [Source](#)

2026 NJCSS Conference

Monday, October 19, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Busch Student Center at Rutgers University

604 Bartholomew Road

Piscataway, NJ 08854

Road Map for a Changing World: Connecting, Engaging & Inspiring

[Call for Proposals](#) (Deadline: June 15, 2026)

[Exhibitor Registration](#) (Deadline: September 5, 2026)

[Conference Registration](#) (\$25 for Preservice and Retired Teachers)

Teacher Resources

Become a Revolutionary NJ School
*for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence
and the American Revolution*
[Sign Up Here!](#)

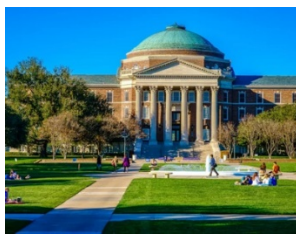
[Resources for NJ Schools](#)

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History **Teacher Seminars Online**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute is once again offering ten Teacher Seminars Online, giving K–12 educators, librarians, community college instructors, and museum professionals the opportunity to study with eminent American history professors and dive deep into primary sources with master teachers. New to 2026, each seminar will be composed of live lectures, Q&A sessions, and opportunities for discussion with scholars, Gilder Lehrman master teachers, partner organizations, and your peers.

Registration for Teacher Seminars is just \$25 per seminar (with discounts available for three or more registrations), and each seminar comprises between 11 and 17 professional development hours. Learn more about and register for our ten Teacher Seminars Online. [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Three Options for Summer 2026 Teacher Seminars in Person



June 14 to June 19, 2026

[America's First Principles: The Declaration of Independence](#)

Location: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas



July 26 to July 31, 2026

[Declaration of Independence and Founding of the United States](#)

Location: Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, Yorba Linda, California
Lead Scholar: Denver Brunzman, George Washington University



July 19 to July 24, 2026

[Reframing Lincoln: Myth, Memory, and Changing Narratives](#)

Location: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois

Lead Scholar: Jonathan W. White, Christopher Newport University

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Programs for Teachers

[Resources for Applicants and Participants](#)

[Applicant and Participant FAQs 2025-2026 \(PDF\)](#)

[Participant Eligibility Criteria \(PDF\)](#)

[Principles of Civility](#)

Application and Notification Dates for 2025-2026

March 6, 2026: Applications close for all 2026 programs at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time

April 6, 2026: All applicants are notified of their status

April 17, 2026: Deadline for applicants to accept or decline their offer

Questions regarding applications and program requirements should be directed to program project directors.

New Jersey State Bar Foundation

[The Informed Citizen Blog](#)



[Engaging & Amazing Resources](#)



Contact Aracely Suto at asuto@njsbf.org.

2026 U.S. Supreme Court Summer Institute

For Secondary School Teachers

[Application](#)

For more than thirty years, the Supreme Court Historical Society, in partnership with Street Law, Inc., has hosted the Supreme Court Summer Institute in Washington, D.C., a fully funded professional development opportunity for middle and high school social studies teachers.

Each summer, the Institute brings together 60 educators from across the country for two intensive six-day sessions. Teachers gain a deeper understanding of the Supreme Court's role in American democracy and return to their classrooms with innovative strategies to teach the Constitution and the judiciary.

Applicant Requirements: must teach secondary (grades 7-12) social studies or law-related education; commit to attend all sessions (**Week 1: June 7 - 12 or Week 2: June 21 - 26**)

National Constitution Center

Story Themes for Elementary and Middle School Students

Participating teachers can choose a story theme from select constitutional topics that best align with what they are teaching in their curriculum. The specific artifact tied to each story theme will remain a mystery until the day of the program, adding an element of surprise for students. Through this exploration, students will connect with the past, the Constitution, and the ways these historical themes shape our world today.

First Amendment

Civil Rights

American Revolution

Voting Rights

Slavery

Civil War

[Schedule a Story](#)

New Jersey Center for Civic Education

Save these dates!

The New Jersey Center for Civic Education is offering five free, all-day professional development workshops for NJ teachers at Rutgers University Busch Campus Center in Piscataway. All of the workshops start with registration at 8:30 and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Continental breakfast, lunch and materials are provided:

Civics for K-5: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

The Development of Democracy in Ancient Civilizations (middle school): Friday, March 20, 2025

Infusing Civics, Economics and NJ History into High School U.S. History: Thursday, March 26, 2026

All workshops are held on the Rutgers-Piscataway campus, starting at 8:30 and ending by 3:00 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. The workshops are supported by state funding and offered FREE to school districts.

[Register Here!](#)

The Future of Civics
Celebrating America@250 and
Our Commitment to Civic Learning and Engagement in New Jersey

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Rutgers University – Camden
Campus Center, 326 Penn street
Camden, NJ

Information and Registration: www.civicsnj.org

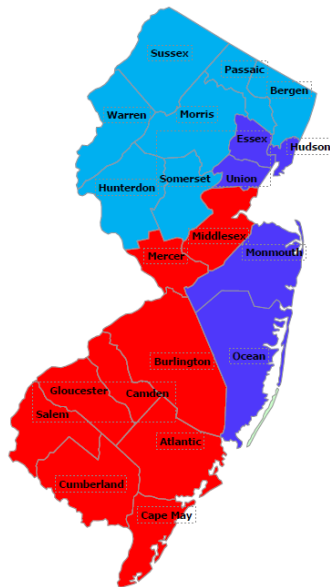
Join us as we convene a diverse audience of educators, practitioners, students, community members, policymakers and funders to explore the critical question: What does the future hold for civics in new Jersey? As we draw on lessons from the nation's founding in this 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we will spotlight innovative and excellence in civics around the state and find inspiration for the work to come.

New Jersey History Day

If your school is in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Middlesex, Mercer, or Salem County, register for:
[Regional Contest at Rutgers-Camden University: March 7, 2026](#)

If your school is in Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, or Warren County, register for:

[Regional Contest at St. Elizabeth University. March 21, 2026](#)



NJHD 2026 Special Awards Program

NJHD is proud to partner with a number of community groups, nonprofits, and educational organizations to offer Special Awards for the State Contest. Students may want to review the Special Awards list before selecting their topics. Those who go on to the State Contest will be able to nominate themselves for up to two Special Awards. You'll find the list of Special Awards for 2026 attached to this email, with a few more still in the works. This year, the following groups have confirmed they will offer a Special Award:

[The New Jersey Historical Commission](#)
[The Amistad Commission](#)
[The National Maritime Historical Society](#)
[The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Essex Division](#)
[The National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, Morristown Chapter](#)

NJHD is looking for help - work with us!

Judge Coordinator: This role supports the NJHD program by upholding the quality of our volunteer judges' work, ensuring that contest judging is fair, constructive, respectful, and meaningful for students. They help provide judge training, support and coach judges during the contest, and verify contest results.

Contest HQ Assistants: This role supports NJHD by managing the operations of the contest headquarters. They help set up and break down the judging room, check judges in and out, organize paperwork, track results, and keep things running smoothly.

Ideal candidates have experience with National History Day, have served as an educator and/or judge for the program, and is enthusiastic about the value of NHD. Each role is a contract (1099) position, and offers a modest stipend. Candidates should be available for most or all of the NJHD contests - dates and locations here. Travel to contest sites is required. For full job descriptions and more information, please reach out to njhistoryday@wpunj.edu

Environmental Cooperation as a Path to Peace in the Middle East

March 18th - 6pm-7pm EST over Zoom

Sponsored by the Institute for Curriculum Services

How can environmental cooperation lead to peace-building? The Middle East is often viewed as a region fueled by conflict. In this session, explore environmental crisis points in the area, like climate change and water scarcity, and how Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians are cooperating to address these challenges.

[Link to Registration](#)

AAPI of New Jersey

Teach Asian American Stories

<https://aapinewjersey.org/events/>

Living Voices Offers Live Performances and Video Productions.



Winning Her Wings-NEW. for March 2026 – A partner program to Fly for Freedom

Discover the lives of women aviators who helped reshape the skies—and the limits placed on them—during WWII and beyond.

NEW Spring 2026: [Winning Her Wings](#) brings to life the groundbreaking Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) Follow journeys of women who faced and broke barriers together, fighting for justice in a time of global conflict and domestic prejudice. Discover how they soared—despite the odds. *Partner program to Fly for Freedom.*

[Fly For Freedom:](#) Black women during WW2 through the Rosie the Riveters, the Tuskegee Airmen, and the Double Victory campaign.

Explore the Full 2025–2026 Lineup

- [Our Revolution](#): The American Revolution from a Black soldier's point of view
- [Through the Eyes of a Friend](#): Young people and the Holocaust/Anne Frank Story
- [The Right to Dream](#): Struggle for racial equity in the civil rights movement
- [Within the Silence](#): World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans
- [Hear My Voice](#): Long fight for women's right to vote
- [The New American](#): Leaving the old world for a new life in America/Triangle Factory fire
- [Island of Hope](#): immigrant experience of life on Ellis Island
- [La Causa](#): César Chávez & migrant farm workers movement
- [Northwest Passages](#): Diverse communities of turn-of-the-century Pacific NW
- [Journey from the Dust](#): Surviving the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression
- [Klondike](#): The Last Adventure: Worldwide gold rush to the Yukon
- [Native Vision](#): Native American boarding schools & Navajo Code Talkers

Register for a program or Learn more at www.livingvoices.org

Japan Society

K-12 School Gallery Tours

School Gallery Tours invite students to observe, discuss, and explore various Japanese art forms and their rich historical backgrounds through seasonal exhibitions led by experienced museum educators and teaching artists.

[Learn More](#)



K-12 Arts & Culture Workshops

Japan Society Arts and Culture Workshops introduce and connect students to the dynamic historic and contemporary culture of Japan through engaging workshops led by experienced teaching artists.

[Learn More](#)

NJ Department of Education Learning Lounge

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Future Learning Lounge Social Studies Sessions](#)

[Click here for event description and registration.](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Council on Foreign Relations

[Resources for High School and College](#)

[Three Ways to Teach About Venezuela in a Nonpartisan Way](#)

[Simulation from Technology and Conflict & Warfare](#)

[Cyber Clash with China \(UNSC\)](#)

[Reading from Climate & Energy](#)

[How Climate Change Can Get Even Worse](#)

Economics is for ALL Students!

The Dollar: The World's Reserve Currency

The global role of the dollar began in 1944 at the Bretton Woods conference. It has influenced the world in several important ways and provided lower interest rates to fund our national debt. Today, the value of the American dollar is weakening.

[Video with Resources from Council on Foreign Relations](#)

Financial Literacy and Economics

WISE

[Financial Literacy Certification](#)

[MoneyWISE](#)

[Personal Finance Certification for Educators](#)

[Quality of Life INNOVATIONS](#)

[Wise Institute](#)

[Engineered Green Economics \(EGE\)](#)

[Services](#)

Empowering Your Students as Changemakers in 2026

Through the NCSS Online Social Entrepreneurship Institute

[Register Now](#)

What if your students didn't just learn about civic engagement, but practiced it by solving real-world social problems?

This year, National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) invites you to join the Online Social Entrepreneurship Institute, an immersive professional learning experience designed specifically for middle and high school educators ready to bring relevance, purpose, and innovation into their social studies classrooms.

Part A: Entrepreneurial Mindset

Spring 2026 | Feb 23 – Apr 30

5 weeks | 25 hours | \$225

Live Zoom classes: Tuesdays, 7–9 PM ET

New York Federal Reserve Bank

Comic Book Series

Middle & High School

Online and Print copies



How Does Monetary Policy Work?
How Do I Use Economics in My Life?
How Do We Get the Things We Want?
What Is an Economy?
A Story of Interest
The Story of Monetary Policy
The Story of the Federal Reserve System

The New York Historical

Scholar Talk and Workshop: Reproductive Rights

Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 10:00am - 1:00pm | \$15 3 CTLE hours

Join clinical psychologist Aurelie Athan (Teacher's College, Columbia University) and historian Rhae Lynn Barnes (Princeton University) for a conversation about the history and current state of reproductive health and education in the United States.

Following the discussion, The New York Historical's Education staff will lead an interactive workshop about how to approach teaching these important topics in your classroom.

[Register](#)

[Curriculum Library](#)

Virtual Outreach Series

Discover our bounty of live, remote lessons on topics ranging from colonial America to the Civil War and Reconstruction to World War II and the civil rights movement. In each one-hour online lesson, a New York Historical educator conducts a lively and interactive conversation with students as they examine artifacts, paintings, documents, and virtual exhibitions.

Students are invited to work collaboratively to find answers to history's big questions, and in the process, develop their critical thinking skills and expand their understanding of our collective past.

Virtual programs last up to one hour and are booked according to your schedule. All lessons cost a flat rate of \$120.

Book lessons in two ways:

In-Depth Series: Multiple lessons connected by a major theme

One-off: A single lesson

- patriotism to the United States of America,
- relevance or application of the Revolution to modern life,
- and high academic standards in the classroom
- feedback from students, parents, and peers will be considered

In order to select the recipient among candidates presented, we will require a resume or summary of each candidate's qualifications plus information on educational materials, initiatives, or programs.

Award Criteria

- Full-time teacher with at least two-years of experience teaching American history at the middle school or high school level
- Adheres to or excels at the five credentials stated above
- Must teach in the State of New Jersey

Award Process

The NJCSS will require applications to be received by April 15, 2026 and will provide the NJSoC with its nominees by May. Submit applications and supporting documents using the form below. The Education Committee will select the award winner based on summary information provided by the NJCSS and present a candidate to the NJSoC Board of Trustees for approval. The award will be announced in August and presented by Society representatives at the candidate's school of instruction in September. The recipient will be invited to the NJSoC meeting at a time established by the recipient and the President of the NJSoC.

Begin developing your resume now!

NJ Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR)

The New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR) is thrilled to report a series of inspiring programs and contests designed specifically for teachers eager to bring American Revolution history alive in the classroom. These initiatives are perfect for enriching curricula, fostering civic responsibility, and cultivating critical thinking among students.

One of our flagship offerings is providing **qualified speakers on Revolutionary War topics**, including colonial life, soldier experiences, founding documents, espionage, and local historical events. Our speakers can tailor sessions for classrooms, homeschool groups, or community organizations, making history accessible and engaging.

For educators, the Rev. John Witherspoon American History Teacher Grant is awarded to recognize outstanding middle and high school educators who enhance their students' understanding of this pivotal era. Recipients will attend prestigious summer seminars at venues such as Valley Forge and Colonial Williamsburg, gaining firsthand experience to enrich their teaching and inspire students.

For aspiring young patriots, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Program offers recognition for Eagle Scouts who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to patriotic principles before their 19th birthday. The program involves a multi-phase competition with local, state, and national levels, culminating in awards such as cash prizes or scholarships.

Students across all grade levels can participate in our engaging contests and awards. **The SAR Elementary School Poster Contest invites students from grades 3-5 to explore themes like revolutionary events or influential figures through art and research.**

Middle schoolers (grades 6-9) can showcase their understanding of foundational documents with the SAR SGT.

Moses Adams Memoriam Brochure Contest. High school students (grades 9-12) are encouraged to participate in the SAR's Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Scholarship, delivering inspiring speeches about the Revolution, the SAR George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, and, for young filmmakers, the SAR Video Award.

To learn more about these programs and how your school can participate, visit NJSSAR.org/edu. Let's work together to inspire the next generation of Americans through history!

NJSSAR is a 501c3 nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our mission is to honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, supporting education, and inspiring future generations about our country's founding principles.

CONTACT:

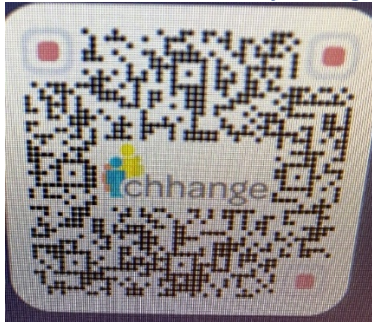
Roger S. Williams, State Education Chair
New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution
roger@princetonsar.org 609-389-5657

Chhange -Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education

Resistance: Mothers' Quest for Justice

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 (9:45 – 12:30) (3 PD Hours) \$10

Brookdale Community College



NJCSS Student Recognition Awards (Deadline is March 15, 2026)

[Middle School Student Nominations](#)

[High School Student Nominations](#)

[NJ College Student Nominations](#)

NJCSS Teacher of the Year Awards (Deadline is April 30, 2026)

[K-5 Elementary Teacher Nomination](#)

[Grades 6-8 Middle School Teacher Nomination](#)

[Grades 9-12 High School Teacher Nomination](#)

Just for Students!

PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 250TH ANNIVERSARY DIGITAL HISTORY PROJECT CONTEST FOR NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

March 31, 2026 – Registration Deadline

June 12, 2026 – Final Submission Deadline

By September 11, 2026 – Prize winners notified

Todd Quackenbush, a trustee of the Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS) and speaking on behalf of PBS, has announced a 250th Anniversary contest for New Jersey high school students. Prizes of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded to winners, supported by The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation.

“The upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Princeton,” explained Quackenbush, “is not only a time to remember America’s past, but an opportunity to ask new questions about it. Our contest invites New Jersey high school students to move beyond memorizing historical facts but instead, think like historians by analyzing historical events and figures, interpreting them, and communicating ideas to a public audience.”

Using digital media, students are encouraged to explore how the American Revolution shaped New Jersey and how its stories continue to influence ideas about leadership, conflict, loyalty, and civic responsibility today. By participating, students will become active interpreters of history during a once-in-a-lifetime anniversary.

Guidelines and information on the contest may be secured on the Princeton Battlefield Society website (www.pbs1777.org) or by email to outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com

Students may submit either: a **Video** (MP4 format – MP4 4K 60 resolution) or an **Audio Podcast** (MP3 format). Submissions must be between **5 and 10 minutes**.

Each submission must focus on an event, person, demographic group, document, or topic related to the **American Revolution (1775–1783) in New Jersey**.

Submissions may take the form of a Documentary, Dramatization, Interview, Animation, Debate, Advertisement, or another creative format.

Each student must work with a **Sponsoring Teacher**, who is currently employed by the student’s school To provide guidance on topic selection, research, structure, and content. For home-schooled students, a qualified parent, tutor, or mentor may serve as the Sponsoring Teacher.

Great History Challenge

New Jersey teachers are invited to register their schools to participate in the Great History Challenge, a national academic competition for middle schoolers (grades 6–8).

The Challenge is designed to:
Spark excitement for history in a fun, Jeopardy!-style buzzer-based format
Align with the NJSL-SS for middle school (grades 6–8)
Be simple for teachers to implement - minimal time investment!

Students first participate online at their school, with top students advancing to live regional events and the National Championship later this school year!

Learn more and register your school at greathistorychallenge.com

America’s Field Trip - 250th Anniversary

“What Does America Mean to You?”

[Information](#)

Art contest for students in grades 3-12

Deadline: March 30, 2026

America’s Field Trip is a nationwide contest that invites students across the country in grades 3–12 to be part of our nation’s 250th anniversary by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the chance to earn an unforgettable field trip experience at some of the nation’s most iconic historic and cultural landmarks.

Students are asked to submit writing or original artwork in response to the contest’s prompt: “What does America mean to you?”

A total of 250 students will be awarded a special behind-the-scenes field trip experience this summer or a cash prize.

Contest ends 5:00 pm PT/8:00 p.m. ET on 3/30/26. Open to U.S. students (3rd – 12th grade); student’s parent/legal guardian or teacher with parental permission must submit Entry on student’s behalf (unless student is age of majority).

Professional Conferences

NCSS 2026 – December 4 – 6, Chicago
NCSS 2027 – November 19-21, Minneapolis
NCSS 2028 – December 1-3, Washington, D.C.

NJ Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)

President: Joseph Dwyer

Vice President: Kaitlin Mahaffey

Secretary: Katherine DeVillasanta

Treasurer: Michael Kenduck

Executive Director and Editor: Hank Bitten

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association (NJSSSA)

President, Aldo Deodino

Vice-President, Cindy Assini

Secretary, Jean Marie Seal

Treasurer, Gabrielle Rendek