
SECTION C

How to Enter the Heritage Fair Project

Your school principal or contact teacher will have advised the Regional Heritage Fair Coordinator in their area of the intent to participate in the fair by filling out the *Intent to Participate Form* by the January 15 deadline. Upon receipt of the Form, a Teacher's Guide will be sent to you. After January 15th only those schools registered will receive ongoing information about the Regional Heritage Fair.

The emphasis of the Heritage Fair is the importance of the learning process and the exchange of ideas. Projects must be student produced although it is recognized that teachers or other adult advisors might work with the students in the capacity of a supervisor.

Classroom/School/Division Heritage Fairs

Fairs can be held on an individual basis within the classroom, or by regrouping several classes together to hold a School Fair, or by regrouping projects from several schools within a school system or within a geographical region to hold a Division Fair. These Fairs are known as *Feeder Fairs* to select students and their projects for the Regional Heritage Fairs.

The method of selecting students and their projects for advancement to other levels of the Fairs is left to the discretion of the teachers and their school policies. The number of students for advancement to the Regional Heritage Fair will be announced at a later date. Organization of Class, School and Division Fairs is the responsibility of the teachers and administrators of the schools/divisions. The suggested number of projects for the Feeder Fairs should be easily managed within a school auditorium or at a local community hall.

The Feeder Fairs should be held by March 15th.

The local museum could be involved in assisting the students with project research, preparing their projects, and involving the general public in the Fairs project (i.e. judging, sponsoring awards).

Regional Heritage Fairs

The projected number of Heritage projects to be exhibited at each Fair is approximately 100. Factors that determine which Regional Heritage Fair you will attend are:

- participating schools in specific geographical areas;
- number of students from the various school systems;
- number of rural and urban students; and,
- distance to travel to the Regional Heritage Fairs.

Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fair Association Inc. (SYHFA)

The umbrella organization, the Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fair Association Inc. (SYHFA) was established in April 2000. The Provincial Coordinator acts as liaison between Historica and the provincial committee. Each Regional Team will plan to ensure efficient and effective coordination and promotion of the Feeder Fairs and the Regional Fairs. Responsibilities include forwarding Historica material to all schools participating in the school/division fairs, registration of the students for the Regional Fairs and the National Fair, coordination and management of resource persons for workshops and celebrities, and advertising and promoting the Fair events on a provincial level. Schools and communities are responsible for organizing and coordinating the Feeder Fairs, including materials for producing the projects and transportation to the Regional Fairs.

Resource Services

Copies of the teacher's guide are available in both official languages. Contact your Regional Heritage Fair Coordinator to obtain copies of the teacher's guide in either French or English.

Several provincial cultural organizations such as the Canadian Ukrainian Museum, Genealogy Association, Diefenbaker Centre, Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, and the Western Development Museums offer assistance to students researching their projects.

Funding

The Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fair Association Inc. will provide assistance to regional heritage fairs on a matching grant basis. Advertising costs and central coordinating costs to ensure efficient, consistent operations of the Fairs are borne by the Regional sites.

Guidelines for Student Participation

Encourage students to participate in the Fair. Assist them in developing their projects. **In the event of a group or class project, establish criteria for selection of one student to represent the group (should the project be selected for the National Heritage Fair).**

- Ensure all required forms are submitted by the deadlines. Failure to comply with signed forms by the deadlines will eliminate participation in the Regional Heritage Fair due to quantity control. Consequently, it disqualifies the project for selection to the National Heritage Fair.
- Solicit volunteers for car pools, and/or request busing as early as possible.
- Solicit financial assistance if necessary to assist in subsidizing the Heritage Fair costs for set-up and dismantling of the projects.
- Ensure on-site supervision of the students at all times during the Fair.
- Ensure that all students registered at the Fair are in attendance for the full duration of the event, (exceptions: medical appointment or personal family events such as marriages or funerals).

Judging

Judging is part of the selection of students and projects to advance to the Regional Heritage Fair and the National Heritage Fair. The judging process is designed to support growth and to celebrate the achievements of the students whether or not they go on to the National Fair. There are two main parts to the judging process:

- the actual research process where the student learns about the topic,
- the product that the student produces to tell others about their learning.

Note to Parents:

As much as possible, it is required that all projects are the work of the student; over-zealous parents can be detrimental in the project selection process. Judges are familiar with the capabilities of the various ages of students and will make a note of projects that have been largely parent assisted. Parents are encouraged to visit their child's project at the fair but may not interfere with the student's interpretation of his/her project or interfere in any way during the judging of projects.

Judging Panel

A panel of judges' use predetermined judging criteria to evaluate each project.

Judging Process

Judges must not represent teachers, the school board or administrators of the school. Parents of children involved in the Fair shall not be judges.

There are two parts to the judging: one part with the student absent and the other part including an interview with the student. The written report and interview enable students to provide further information about their project to assist the judges with their evaluation. The interview is an opportunity for the student to provide further information to the judge. Share *Your Interview with the Judges* with the students. This will help prepare students for the interview process. Practice in public speaking skills also prepares students for the interview portion of judging.

The selection process will include judging results, school recommendations, student input, and a selection interview. All decisions made by the judging panel are final and must be adhered to by all participants.

1. Historical Research

Regardless of the medium chosen to present, the project must be based upon historical research. This category considers the level of difficulty, the depth of the study, the complexity of the project, and the degree of completeness or the thoroughness of analysis.

2. Product

Product relates to the display used by the student to tell his/her story. There is no preferred medium. Students may choose any medium to share what they have learned. The quality of the display is evaluated

according to visual aspects, size and creativity as well as the “ownership” of the student(s) in its development.

3. **Written Report**

The written report states the purpose of the project, explains the choice of medium, the research procedures and the results of the study. It must be available to the judges at the Fair.

4. **Interview**

During the interview, judges ask students questions, providing an opportunity for students to explain their project. Students should be prepared to provide succinct information on background, procedure, results, conclusions, and acknowledgments.

Awards and Recognition

At the closing ceremony or in a separate ceremony after the Regional Heritage Fair, students may receive honourable mentions and awards in categories such as (but not limited to) First Nations, creativity, history, agriculture, war and peace, and architecture

Announcement of the selected students and their projects for the National Heritage Fair are made via letters to their respective schools within three weeks following the Regional Heritage Fairs.

Your Interview with the Judges

Please share this advice with your students

- **Be at ease.** Many students are afraid of talking to judges but you need not be. Judges are only human and very much like other adults you know. Your interview is simply your opportunity to tell the judges what you learned by doing your heritage project.
- **Be interested!** If you are really interested in your project and research and what you are saying most likely the judges will be interested too.
- **Be prepared.** It is a very good idea to prepare for your interview. Ask adults and other students to question you about your project. Write down the questions they ask and be prepared to answer those questions and others like them.
- **Usually the judges will ask you questions you can answer, but if you are asked a difficult question to which you do not know the answer, it is best to say you do not know or are not sure of the answer rather than fake it.** Two questions that judges often ask are: “If you could do this project differently, what changes would you make?” and “what would you do if you had more time on this project?” Think about these questions before the interview.
- **Have fun!** Interviews are both interesting and fun. By talking to the judges you will probably learn new things.