



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY  
Making history personal

## For Immediate Release

**Press Contact:** Lisa Oakley, Curator of Education  
865-215-8828

[Oakley@eastTNhistory.org](mailto:Oakley@eastTNhistory.org)  
[www.eastTNhistory.org](http://www.eastTNhistory.org)

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### East Tennessee Historical Society and University of Tennessee Department of History to Host 17<sup>th</sup> Annual East Tennessee History Day Regional Competition

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., February 19, 2018 –Students from across the region will compete in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual East Tennessee History Day (ETHD) regional competition on Friday, March 2, at the University of Tennessee Conference Center in downtown Knoxville. Three hundred and fifty middle and high school students representing 28 schools from Anderson, Blount, Cumberland, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Scott, and Sevier counties, plus a number of private and home schools from the area, will become junior historians competing in a variety of research categories. The annual competition is presented through a partnership of the East Tennessee Historical Society and the University of Tennessee Department of History.

[National History Day](#) is the leading program for history education. This year's broad theme is "Conflict and Compromise through History." Sixth through twelfth grade students select a topic related to the annual theme and then choose to present their historical research as a website, documentary, paper, exhibit, or documentary. Through research and interpreting their findings into a sound argument, these middle and high school students learn the priceless skills of an historian—critical thinking, research, and the value of primary sources.

Some 3,500 students competed at the basic school level in the East Tennessee Region. Students will compete to advance to the state competition, [Tennessee History Day](#), held on April 7 in Nashville. From there, state winners will advance to nationals in College Park, Maryland, in June. East Tennessee students have a history of doing well at nationals, with six East Tennessee students bringing home gold or silver in the past and many capturing special awards and advancing to final rounds.

The East Tennessee History Day Regional Competition will begin on Friday, March 2, at 9:15 with a welcome ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, 620 State Street, with student competitions beginning at 10:00 at the University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, and the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street. An Awards Ceremony will begin at 2:15 at the First Presbyterian Church. The East Tennessee District History Day Competition is sponsored by Randy and Jenny Boyd and the



*Dressed in character as aviation pioneer Bessie Smith, Amaris Spratley of Knoxville Christian School competes in the performance category.*

University of Tennessee College of Arts and Sciences and Humanities Center. For more information on ETHD, please contact Lisa Oakley at (865) 215-8828.

### **About the East Tennessee Historical Society:**

Established in 1854, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged to be one of the most active history organizations in the Southeast, and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For 184 years the East Tennessee Historical Society has been helping East Tennesseans hold on to our unique heritage -recording the events, collecting the artifacts, and saving the stories that comprise the history we all share.

The historical society pursues its education mission through publications, lectures, conferences, school programs, museum exhibits, and heritage programs such as the popular First Families of Tennessee and the new Civil War Families of Tennessee. The East Tennessee History Center houses the staff and programs of the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Museum of East Tennessee History, the Calvin M. McClung Collection and the Knox County Archives. For more information visit the website at [www.eastTNhistory.org](http://www.eastTNhistory.org).

### **About the University of Tennessee History Department:**

The Department of History at the University of Tennessee provides an engaged and exciting place to learn about the past. They have an award-winning faculty that provides a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum. The History Department offers graduate programs in Modern Europe; American history, with special emphasis on Atlantic and transnational history, 19th century history, religious history, southern history, and African-American history; and, Medieval and Renaissance history, with particular strengths in Muslim-Christian relations, the Crusades, and Mediterranean-facing Europe. The Department houses editorial projects on the presidential papers of Andrew Jackson and James Polk. They also work closely with interdisciplinary institutes and centers on campus, most importantly the Marco Institute and the Center for the Study of War and Society. For more information on the Department of History visit [history.utk.edu](http://history.utk.edu).

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