

## A PARENT'S ROLE IN NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Parents and teachers play an important role in helping National History Day students complete the process of researching and developing entries. Some points to remember when working on a project with your child:

- ◆ Give encouragement, support and guidance.
- ◆ Make sure your child feels it is his or her project. Make sure the work is the work of the child.
- ◆ Realize the main goal of a National History Day project is to help your child use and strengthen the skills he or she has learned and developed. The main goal should not be the medal, prize, etc.
- ◆ Assist your child or children as they conduct research. Adults can help students locate materials, but students should take notes, conduct interviews, etc.
- ◆ Make sure your child is doing a project he or she is interested in or excited about.
- ◆ Help your child plan a mutually agreed upon timeline to prevent a last-minute project. Talk with your child's teacher to find out the timetable for completing an NHD project.
- ◆ Provide transportation for research trips to libraries, museums, universities, etc. that can help your child find project information.
- ◆ Learn about your community with your child. Find out what kinds of museums and historical sites are in your area. Your child may even want to do a project on your family history. Get involved in your child's learning process and share this experience.
- ◆ Support your child's participation in the NHD contest by going with him/her and attending the contest yourself.
- ◆ Celebrate your child's accomplishments. Emphasize everything your child has learned throughout the entire process, as well as the pride he/she should feel as a result of completing a major project and presenting it at the contest.