

School Fairs

There are many different ways for your school to participate in the Heritage Fairs Program. Fairs begin as hands-on classroom projects. Students research an area of Canadian history, often of local or family interest, and present their discoveries using the medium of their choice. Student presentations range from tabletop dioramas to performance pieces to web-based projects.

School and classroom Fairs are the most important level of involvement: more than 263,000 Canadian students participate in Fairs at their schools each year.

A School Fair is a celebration that includes the entire school and acknowledges the achievements of all students. Students of all ages may create projects and share their stories at the School Fair. These Fairs can take place any time before the middle of April; many are held during Heritage Week in February to coordinate with other events happening in the community.

School Fairs are as unique as the schools that host them! Many include heritage-related activities like workshops, performances, and guest speakers. Even classroom Fairs can involve the whole school: projects can be displayed in a classroom, library, or multipurpose room

The goal of the School Fair is to share stories and celebrate learning by including as many people as possible.

Community and Regional Fairs

Once students have participated in the classroom or at a School Fair, their projects may be selected to attend a Community or Regional Fair. These Fairs, which showcase anywhere from 50 to 400 student projects, generally take place during the second week in May.

They are vibrant community celebrations where local museums, historical associations, businesses and multicultural groups come together to offer displays, demonstrations, food, and entertainment. Most Regional Fairs include heritage-related activities like educational workshops, cultural performances, and guest speakers, which enhance the students' experiences during the Fair and sustain their interest in history after the event is over. All Regional Fairs have public open hours when students are asked to interpret their projects for visitors, thereby sharing their stories with the community.

Provincial Fair

Provincial Fairs allow students from diverse regions to connect with each other and share their personal stories. Through field trips and other heritage-related activities, they become engaged in the history and cultures of their province.

Students representing each Regional Fair take part in five days of sightseeing, historic tours, hands-on workshops, and special events. The Provincial Fair is a unique opportunity for students to learn about Ontario and Canada and to interact and establish friendships with young people from a diversity of backgrounds.

During the one-day public exhibition, students proudly share their outstanding history projects with the general public and with each other.

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The Heritage Fairs are an experience unlike any other!

Heritage Fairs begin as hands-on, independent research projects. Students take on the roles of historian, interpreter, storyteller, and myth-maker. They learn and teach others about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones in their communities, or family achievements.

Since its beginning in 1993, the Fairs Program has grown to include more than 263,000 students across Canada each year. In the long term, it is the OHFA's intention that every eligible student in Ontario will have the opportunity to participate in a Fair or an on-line showcase during his or her years at school.

The Heritage Fairs Program:

- ▶ creates an environment where students are excited to learn and share
- ▶ provides recognition for student achievement
- ▶ celebrates cultural diversity and multiple perspectives
- ▶ reveals connections between past and present
- ▶ inspires Canadians to celebrate their place in history

Inspiration and Ideas for Student Projects

A Fair project is a chance for students to satisfy their curiosity about a topic, and to learn about something that's important to them! Many Fair projects start with family or local history.

Here are some ideas:

- Write a journal that describes daily life in your school or community. Compare today to 50 or 100 years ago, and see how life has changed!
- Interview someone knowledgeable about the history of your school or community.
- Study the history of sports in your area. Is there one important sport, or a special sports competition, in your community?
- Write and perform a play about local history, with historic figures as the characters. You could even make a short video of you and your friends performing the play!
- Put together a cookbook on local heritage recipes. Why are these foods traditional in your area?
- Investigate the life of a local hero, entertainer, politician, sports star, or other VIP.
- Write a report on the animals or plants that are native to your area. Include pictures!
- Study the development of industry in your area. What are the important businesses?
- Research your own family or culture. Every family has an important story to tell!
- Record the snowfall, rainfall, or temperatures in your community over a period of time, and compare these statistics to those from 50 or 100 years ago.
- Do a fashion study: what was cool for your parents or grandparents to wear to school? Explain how fashion is linked to history.

Student Project Guidelines

So you want to take your project to a Fair, eh? The following guidelines will let you know what types of projects are considered fair game!

The following guidelines apply to every Fair:

- Projects can be created by individuals or in groups. **Please note that projects selected for the Provincial Fair can be represented by one student only.**
- All projects must have a Canadian theme - history, geography, heritage, or culture - and include written research conducted by the students.
- Teachers or other adult supervisors can help, but all submissions must be produced by students.
- Projects may be submitted in either a single format or any combination of the following formats:

3-Dimensional Presentations Creative Writing and Performance Multimedia Presentations

- Students and their projects must be registered with the local Fair organizing committee. Some personal information is required, including: a brief description of the project, the student's full name, address, telephone number, school and grade, address of school, name of contact teacher, and name of parent/guardian.
- Because of space limitations in certain areas, the Fair organizers reserve the right to register participants on a first come/first served basis.
- Projects should be ready for display. Those selected for the Provincial Fair may not exceed: eighty (80) centimetres in depth, one

hundred & fifty (150) centimetres in width, and one hundred (100) centimetres in height.

- All presentations must avoid profanity, racial or sexist remarks, innuendo, negative stereotypes, or any other potentially offensive matter.
- Any person or organization clearly identifiable in a presentation must have given permission to the presenter.
- Students must be present to interpret their displays at scheduled times during the day(s) of the Fair.

