

GET INVOLVED

Teachers are the key to the success of the Fairs. They supervise the creation of student projects, organize School Fairs, and often volunteer at Regional Fairs.

The continued success of the Fairs depends on dedicated teachers and educators supported by a strong volunteer committee. By getting involved, you can help make history come alive for young Canadians!

Why Participate?

- It supports existing curricula in all provinces and territories, and encourages a cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning.
- Historical Fairs give students the chance to share their own ideas and voices, thereby building student creativity and initiative. A wide variety of expressive styles are encouraged so that students can tell their own stories in their own ways.
- Creating a Fair project will enhance literacy skills. The emphasis on communication skills such as researching, interviewing, writing, editing, and speaking will benefit all students.
- The nature of the project topics explored by students often leads to valuable intergenerational dialogue. There are many opportunities for home / school / community interaction.
- Participation in a Fair engages citizenship skills. As young people develop stronger roots in their communities, they will have the confidence to become active citizens who shape the future of our country.

An Invitation to Teachers

The Heritage Fairs Program provides an opportunity to include your entire school community in an exciting educational event. Students are encouraged to explore themes or stories that are interesting and relevant to them. Their enthusiasm, creativity and passion create important learning opportunities. **Fabulous projects are inevitable!**

The Fairs Program is successful because it is a cross-curricular activity that can meet learning outcomes in several subjects. Teachers from all departments (social sciences, humanities, literature, language and immersion, science and technology, fine arts) can encourage their students to learn more about history while developing and expressing creative talents.

Participation in a Fair can help teachers meet their teaching goals, provide recognition for student achievement, and satisfy curriculum requirements. Its model of project-based, hands-on learning helps teachers fulfill their curriculum requirements for critical thinking and research skills.

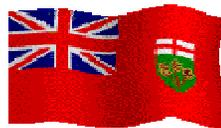
Contact us for more information!

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The Heritage Fairs are an experience unlike any other!

The Heritage Fairs Program encourages students to explore Canadian heritage in a dynamic, hands-on learning environment. Students use the medium of their choice to tell stories about Canadian heroes, legends, milestones, and achievements - and present the results of their research at a public exhibition.

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 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 and present
- Inspires Canadians to celebrate their place in history.

The Fairs Program is driven by volunteers!

More than 12,000 people contribute their time every year. Volunteer committees involving educators, museums, heritage groups, and community associations work together to organize School, Regional / Community and Provincial Fairs. The result is a community-based celebration of Canadian heritage that has a lasting impact on participants.

General Rules and Criteria

The administration of the Fairs Program is decentralized. While each Fair site is required to follow certain provincial guidelines, the flexibility of the Fairs model allows each volunteer committee to design its Fair to meet the particular needs of the school, community, region or province.

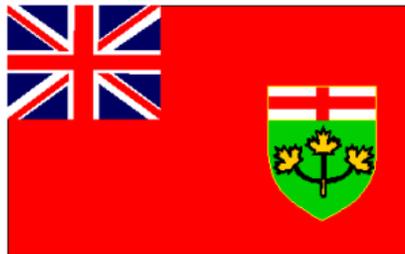
The following guidelines apply to every Fair:

- The Fairs Program emphasizes the importance of the learning process, the exchange of stories, and the value of multiple perspectives.
- Projects can interpret aspects of Canadian heritage on a local, provincial, national, or international level.
- All presentations must avoid profanity, racial or sexist remarks, innuendo, negative stereotypes, or any other potentially offensive matter.
- Although it is recognized that teachers or other adult supervisors might have provided assistance, all submissions must be produced by the student.
- Any person or organization clearly identifiable in a presentation must have given permission to the presenter.
- As much as possible, teachers should ensure that projects are historically correct.
- The OHFA encourages cooperative learning and the development of group projects at the classroom, school, community, and regional levels. **However, only one student from each project may attend the Provincial Fair.**
- Projects eligible for presentation at the Provincial Fair must be produced by students in Grades 4 to 9. Students must be at least 10 years old by the time of the Fair.

- Student participants at the Fair must be able to discuss their work and provide a summary of their project in either French or English.
- 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.
- Students participating in the Provincial Fair will be responsible for meeting their own computer software and hardware needs.
- During the Fairs, projects are the responsibility of the participants. The Heritage Fairs Program is not responsible for any projects lost, stolen or damaged while unattended.
- Because of space limitations in certain areas, the Fair organizers reserve the right to register participants on a first come/first served basis.

By entering projects in the Fairs Program, students and parents/guardians are considered to have provided consent for:

- Their projects and materials to be photographed and referred to in any Heritage Fairs promotions. *(Parents not wishing to have their children photographed or have their projects used in such promotions must make their request in writing to local Fair organizers.)*
- Possible participation at the Provincial Fair. *(Students not wishing to participate should advise their teachers at the time of registration.)*



Inspiration and Ideas for Student Projects

A Fair project is a chance for students to integrate the study of curriculum and at the same time learn more about themselves and their community. It authenticates the learning, improves literacy, and encourages investigation into personal and local history. Above all the Fairs Program helps Canadian students find their place in history.

Here are some ideas:

eg. **for grade 4** -

- Create a chart that demonstrates and compares the life in **medieval society** to life in Canada today, and to life in your community.
- Create a photo essay of a journey through all of the **Canadian** provinces and territories. Give special attention to the significant features that make each area unique and especially to your province and community.

eg. **for grade 6** -

- Create a documentary about an **important person** from your community. Share the story of how they have contributed to society and Canada.

eg. **for grade 7** -

- Write a script that tells the story of the expulsion of the **Acadians** from the eyes of the French and the English.