



# Heritage Explorers Fest 2025

## History Fair Information Sheet

**Theme:** *The Wild West – Westward Expansion Era*

Bring history to life with your creativity! This year's **History Fair** will celebrate the **Wild West and Westward Expansion**. Children will create **dioramas** that showcase life, people, and events from this exciting time in American history.

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### Who Can Participate?

- **Solo Projects** – Individual children may create their own diorama.
  - **Family Projects** – Families may work together on one large project. These will be judged in a separate category.
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### Project Guidelines

- **Diorama Theme:** Must depict the Wild West/Westward Expansion Era.
  - Choices may include:
    - A **scene** from pioneer life or the Oregon Trail
    - A **famous person** like Annie Oakley, Buffalo Bill Cody, or Wyatt Earp
    - A **historic event** such as a wagon train journey, a gold rush camp, or a frontier town
- **Diorama Container:**
  - Shoebox
  - Amazon/Walmart shipping box

- Or a box-style frame made from any material of your choice
  - **Identification Note:** Every project must include a note card with:
    - **Project Title**
    - **Child's Name(s)**
    - **Age(s)**
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## Judging & Awards

- **Age Group Categories:**
  - Early Elementary (ages 5–8)
  - Upper Elementary (ages 9–11)
  - Middle School (ages 12–14)
  - High School (ages 15–18)
  - Family Projects (separate category)
- **How Judging Works:**
  - Each child (or family team) will spend **3–5 minutes** with the judging panel.
  - Children will **explain their diorama** and answer a few questions.
  - Projects will be scored using a **rubric** that measures both the **creativity of the diorama** and the **child's knowledge**.
  - This means projects are **not competing against each other**—awards are based on how each project meets the rubric.
- **Awards:**
  - Every project will receive a **placement ribbon** (1st, 2nd, or 3rd place based on rubric scoring).

- One **Overall Winner** will be chosen in each age group and in the family category.
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### **Check-In & Location**

- Upon arrival at **Heritage Explorers Fest**, bring your diorama to the **Fern Kruger Building**.
  - Place it on the table marked for your age group or for family projects.
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### **Participation Fee**

- **\$2 per child or family project**
  - This fee helps cover the cost of awards and ribbons.
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### **Interview & Awards Schedule**

- **Check-in & Interview Times:** Assigned at morning project drop-off.
  - **Interviews:** 4:00 – 4:45 pm
  - **Awards Ceremony:** Immediately after the Wild West Play.
    - The play will be hosted adjacent to the judging area, so children can quickly step out for their interviews and return to enjoy the performance.
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### **How to Register**

- When signing up for **Heritage Explorers Fest classes**, simply **click the box to register for the History Fair**.
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✨ We can't wait to see your creativity shine as you bring the Wild West to life! ✨