

"The New Jersey Amistad Commission's
African American History Day Contest 2027" (Revised 9/30/26)

The New Jersey Amistad Commission is introducing an event for elementary students to display their academic skills in Social Studies and History. This contest will highlight African American History within the context of New Jersey. This contest is designed specifically for students in **fourth and fifth grades** and will be held in February 2027.

The purpose of this contest is to develop elementary students' historian skills as they connect to New Jersey's African American History. Additionally, this will serve to prepare New Jersey's elementary students for the National History Day Competitions while engaging in the implementation of the New Jersey Amistad Legislation.

The goal of this contest is to align the learning journey and student projects with the New Jersey Standards, while empowering students to successfully develop confidence, pride, research, writing, public speaking and critical thinking skills. Additionally, the program will encourage educators to explore a new avenue to meet the mandate of the Amistad Legislation.

The contest will have the following categories: Exhibit Poster, Essay (Paper), and Performance (poetry, dance, singing, skit or play). Students will be permitted to enter as a solo participant or in groups of two to four maximum. Each project will require a research paper of a minimum of 100 words, maximum of 300, listing all research, including interviews or other resources.

There will be two regional locations, **Camden County Technical School** in the southern part of the state. Students from the following counties will participate **(Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Burlington, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem) on January 30, 2027, with a snow date of February 13, 2027.**

William Paterson University will host the northern part of the state. Students from the following counties will participate at William Paterson University **(Bergen, Essex, Hunterdon, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren) on January 23, 2027, with a snow date of February 6, 2027.**

NOTE: ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

There is no cost to enter this contest. The Commission will only accept the first 100 projects for the northern region and the first 100 projects for the southern region.

If you are interested in participating in the competition, please complete the link below:
2026-2027 African American History Day Contest Grades 4 & 5 – Fill out form **before December 18, 2026.**
Please feel free to email us at: Amistadspecialprojects@doe.nj.gov if you have further questions.

The Amistad Commission

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