

# 2024 NHD- Explore Guide

**NHD**  
NATIONAL  
HISTORY DAY



National History Day  
4511 Knox Road, Suite 205  
College Park, MD 20740  
NHD.Org

# NHD-Explore (NHDx)

***Congratulations on qualifying for the NHD National Contest! We are excited to have you join us at the University of Maryland at College Park in June.***

In addition to all the excitement of the National History Day (NHD) National Contest, we hope you will explore the offerings of Washington, D.C. The city offers a unique opportunity to view monuments, memorials, museums, and historical sites. Keep your eyes open—you might see your elected officials or glimpse the presidential motorcade.

This guide is broken into several components, including;

- Pages 2-3: Free passes you can request through NHD-Explore (NHDx)
- Page 3: Documentary Discussion - Speak Truth
- Pages 4-5: NHD Showcases where you can support your fellow students
- Page 6: Museums
- Page 7: The Smithsonian Institution
- Page 11: Outdoor Activities
- Page 12: Concerts
- Page 13: Colleges to Visit
- Page 14: Washington Metro (WMATA) Map

This is not a comprehensive list, but it will give you some ideas on how to spend your time when you are not competing at the University of Maryland.

Have a great experience at the NHD National Contest!

~The NHD National Contest Team

# NHD-Explore Passes

Several of Washington, D.C.'s most popular museums require advanced booking. NHD has secured a limited number of passes to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the National Air and Space Museum, located on the National Mall. You can reserve timed passes beginning on May 15 at 10:00 am ET. Passes will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Submit your request and watch for an email from NHD staff. Passes will be distributed to registered NHD students and/or teachers in their registration envelopes.

Learn more about how to register at [nhd.org/contest/national-contest/](https://nhd.org/contest/national-contest/).

Access the reservation link to submit your request for passes at **10 ET on Wednesday, May 15, 2024** at [nhd.org/contest/national-contest/](https://nhd.org/contest/national-contest/).



## National Air and Space Museum

6th St. & Independence Ave. SW  
[airandspace.si.edu/](https://airandspace.si.edu/)

Launch into the history of flight by surrounding yourself with icons of air and space travel. The flagship building on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., exhibits aircraft, spacecraft, missiles, rockets, and other flight-related artifacts. While the museum undergoes transformation, half of the building is open with eight new and renovated exhibitions.

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily, timed passes are required.

**Metro:** Take the Green line to L'Enfant Plaza.

## National Museum of African American History and Culture

14th St. & Constitution Ave. NW  
[nmaahc.si.edu](https://nmaahc.si.edu)

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a place where visitors can learn about the richness and diversity of the African American experience, what it means to their lives, and how it helped us shape this nation.

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily, timed passes are required

**Transit:** Take the Green and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian.



# NHD-Explore Passes

## United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

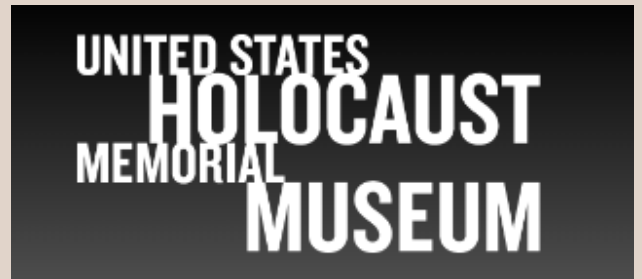
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW

[ushmm.org/](https://ushmm.org/)

The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum teaches millions of people each year about the dangers of unchecked hatred and the need to prevent genocide. Learn more about the Holocaust, antisemitism, and genocide.

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily, timed passes are required.

**Metro:** Take the Green line to L'Enfant Plaza.



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## Documentary Discussion

Senior Division students are invited to join a student-facilitated conversation called Speak Truth. Speak Truth participants learn to productively and respectfully discuss current, controversial topics. At this event, DC high school students will discuss their thoughts and reactions to the film, *The First Step*, which follows progressive activist and political commentator Van Jones as he works across party lines on landmark criminal justice reform and a more humane response to the addiction crisis. Attempting to be bridge builders in a time of extreme polarization, Van and a coalition of unlikely allies travel deep into the inner workings of a divisive administration, internal debates within both parties, and the lives of frontline activists fighting for their communities.

The Center for Inspired Teaching sponsors this event in conjunction with National History Day. Inspired Teaching is a social change nonprofit organization that champions the power of curiosity and is dedicated to transforming the school experience from compliance-based to engagement-based. Speak Truth programs sponsored by the Center are student led, student driven conversations on current events that enable students to defend their stances on issues and help them develop and recognize the power of their voices. Note: Students who register will be sent a link to watch the film for free before June 12; that day will be for discussion (not viewing).

**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 12:30 p.m., George Washington University campus

**Metro:** Take the Green line to Take the Green and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Foggy Bottom / George Washington University.

# NHD Showcases

Come support NHD students selected to share their work at the Smithsonian Institution!

## NHD Exhibit Showcase

Smithsonian's National Museum of American History  
13th St. & Constitution Ave. NW  
[si.edu/museums/american-history-museum](https://si.edu/museums/american-history-museum)

Head to the National Museum of American History for the NHD Exhibit Showcase. Meet fellow students from every affiliate. This is a great chance for last-minute button trading!

**When:** Wednesday, June 12, 10 am–5:30 pm

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian or Federal Triangle.

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## NHD Performance Showcase

Smithsonian's National Museum of American History  
13th St. & Constitution Ave. NW  
[si.edu/museums/american-history-museum](https://si.edu/museums/american-history-museum)

Head to the National Museum of American History for the NHD Performance Showcase featuring untold or under-told stories in American History

**When:** Wednesday, June 12, 1 pm–5 pm

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian or Federal Triangle.



# NHD Showcases

Come support NHD students selected to share their work at the Smithsonian Institution!

## ***In Language There Is Life: I ka 'ōlelo nō ke ola Showcase***

Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian  
4th St. and Independence Ave. SW  
[samericanindian.si.edu/](http://samericanindian.si.edu/)

Come to the Potomac Gallery to see NHD projects completed in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (the native Hawaiian language). The showcase is organized by NHD and the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities and hosted by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

**When:** Wednesday, June 12, 10:30–noon  
**Transit:** Take the Green line to L'Enfant Plaza.



## **NHD Documentary Showcase**

Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture  
14th St. & Constitution Ave. NW  
[nmaahc.si.edu](http://nmaahc.si.edu)

If you get a pass, head to the National Museum of American African American History and Culture for the NHD Documentary Showcase in the Oprah Winfrey Theater.

**When:** Wednesday, June 14, 11 am to 3:00 pm  
**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian.



Passes are required to enter NMAAHC - see page two.

# Museums

Washington, D.C. is full of amazing museums. Some museums require advance reservations. Please review the museum websites for the most up-to-date information.

## National Archives Museum

701 Constitution Ave. NW  
[museum.archives.gov](http://museum.archives.gov)

Check out the National Archives Museum and visit the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom and additional exhibits.

Hours: 10 am–5:30 pm daily  
Transit: Take the Green line to Archives.



Reservations recommended. See the website for more details.

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## International Spy Museum

700 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
[spymuseum.org/visit/](http://spymuseum.org/visit/)

The International Spy Museum documents the tradecraft, history, and contemporary role of espionage. It holds the largest collection of international espionage artifacts on public display.

Hours: 9 am–7 pm daily  
Transit: Take the Green line to L'Enfant Plaza.



Paid tickets are required.

# Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex. They have something for everyone (and offer free admission)!

## Interested in History?

### National Museum of American History

13th St. & Constitution Ave. NW  
[americanhistory.si.edu](http://americanhistory.si.edu)



Devoted to the scientific, cultural, social, technological, and political development of the United States, the museum traces the American experience from colonial times to the present. Its collection contains more than three million historical objects — including the Star-Spangled Banner.

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian or Federal Triangle.

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### National Museum of the American Indian

4th St. and Independence Ave. SW  
[americanindian.si.edu/](http://americanindian.si.edu/)



The National Museum of the American Indian cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of Native objects, photographs, and media, covering the entire Western Hemisphere from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego.

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line to L'Enfant Plaza.

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### National Museum of African American History and Culture

14th St. & Constitution Ave. NW  
[nmaahc.si.edu](http://nmaahc.si.edu)

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a place where visitors can learn about the richness and diversity of the African American experience, what it means to their lives, and how it helped us shape this nation.

**Hours:** 10:00 am to 5:30 pm (Tuesday through Sunday), 12:00 pm–5:30 pm (Mondays)

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian.



Passes required to enter NMAAHC - see page two.





### National Museum of Natural History

10th St. & Constitution Ave. NW  
[naturalhistory.si.edu/](http://naturalhistory.si.edu/)

The world's most popular natural history museum is dedicated to understanding the natural world and our place in it. Delve into the fascinating story of our planet, from its fiery beginnings through billions of years of transformation, and explore life on Earth through exhibitions and activities, collection objects, and research that happens in the lab and in the field. The museum is larger than 18 football fields and is home to the largest natural history collection in the world.

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian.

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### National Air and Space Museum

6th St. & Independence Ave. SW  
[airandspace.si.edu/](http://airandspace.si.edu/)

Launch into the history of flight by surrounding yourself with icons of air and space travel. The flagship building on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., exhibits aircraft, spacecraft, missiles, rockets, and other flight-related artifacts. While the museum undergoes transformation, half of the building is open with eight new and renovated exhibitions.

Hours: 10 am–5:30 pm daily

Metro: Take the Green line to L'Enfant Plaza.

Passes required to enter the National Air & Space Museum on the Mall - see page two for more details.

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### National Air & Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly, VA  
[airandspace.si.edu/](http://airandspace.si.edu/)

The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center near Washington Dulles International Airport is the companion facility to the museum in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of historically significant air- and spacecraft, along with thousands of small artifacts, are on display in an open, hangar-like setting. Other features of the Center include the Donald D. Engen Observation Tower, the Airbus IMAX Theater, and the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar, where visitors can watch museum specialists at work restoring artifacts.

Hours: 10 am–5:30 pm daily

Transit: This museum is most accessible to visitors by car.



## Interested in Art? There are lots of options!

### National Museum of African Art

950 Independence Ave. SW

[africa.si.edu/](http://africa.si.edu/)

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian.

### American Art Museum / National Portrait Gallery

8th & G Streets NW

[americanart.si.edu/](http://americanart.si.edu/)

<https://npg.si.edu/>

**Hours:** 11:30 am–7:00 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line to Gallery Place / Chinatown.

### Freer Gallery of Art / National Museum of Asian Art

Jefferson Drive & 12th St. NW

[asia.si.edu/](http://asia.si.edu/)

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian.

### Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Independence Avenue & 7th St. NW

<https://hirshhorn.si.edu/>

**Hours:** 10 am–5:30 pm daily (Sculpture Garden is open 10 am–5 pm)

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue, Silver, or Orange line. Exit at Smithsonian.



Access more visitor details, maps, floor plans, and tips for visiting the Smithsonian Institution with families at [si.edu/visit](http://si.edu/visit).



# Outdoor Activities



## The National Mall

[nps.gov/nama/index.htm](https://nps.gov/nama/index.htm)

Take a stroll down the National Mall to see landmarks like the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the U.S. Capitol Building. Visit the memorials paying tribute to World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Visit memorials honoring Presidents Thomas Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Dwight Eisenhower, and Dr. Martin Luther King.

**Transit:** Take the Green line to Archives or L'Enfant Plaza.

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## The National Zoo

3001 Connecticut Ave. NW  
[nationalzoo.si.edu](https://nationalzoo.si.edu)

Head to the National Zoo for a scenic stroll in the shade! See giant pandas, sea lions, and Asian elephants.

**Hours:** 8 am–6 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Red line. Exit at Woodley Park–Zoo / Adams Morgan.

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## Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, Virginia  
[arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit](https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit)

Visit the historic cemetery with its 400,000 graves, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and President John F. Kennedy's burial place.

**Hours:** 8 am–5 pm daily

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue line. Exit at Arlington Cemetery.

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# Concerts



## Concerts on the Avenue with the U.S Navy Band

7th & Pennsylvania Ave. NW

[navymemorial.org/programs-concerts-on-the-avenue](http://navymemorial.org/programs-concerts-on-the-avenue)

The Navy Band has mastered a wide range of musical genres, from current radio hits to Brahms and Broadway. This patriotic concert series also pays tribute to the U.S. Navy fleet, our nation's veterans, and our naval history and culture, including current exhibits at the Navy Memorial. Arrive early to get a great seat and wear your dancing shoes!

**When:** Tuesday, June 11 at 6:30 pm (weather permitting)

**Where:** U.S. Navy Memorial.

**Transit:** Take the Green Line to Archives.



## Tuesday Sunset Parade

U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial)

[barracks.marines.mil/Parades/Tuesday-Sunset-Parade-Schedule/](http://barracks.marines.mil/Parades/Tuesday-Sunset-Parade-Schedule/)

Enjoy a concert by "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

**When:** Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 pm (weather permitting)

**Transit:** Take the Green line and transfer to the Blue line. Exit at Arlington Cemetery.

# Visit a College

American University  
[american.edu/](http://american.edu/)

Bowie State University  
[bowiestate.edu/](http://bowiestate.edu/)

Catholic University of America  
[catholic.edu](http://catholic.edu)

Gallaudet University  
[gallaudet.edu/](http://gallaudet.edu/)

George Mason University  
[gmu.edu/](http://gmu.edu/)

George Washington University  
[gwu.edu/](http://gwu.edu/)

Georgetown University  
[georgetown.edu/](http://georgetown.edu/)

Howard University  
[howard.edu/](http://howard.edu/)

Trinity Washington University  
[trinitydc.edu/](http://trinitydc.edu/)

University of the District of Columbia  
[udc.edu/](http://udc.edu/)

University of Maryland  
[umd.edu/](http://umd.edu/)

# To plan your trip on the Washington Metro (WMATA), estimate your fare, or see schedules, visit [wmata.com/](http://wmata.com/).

