

Heritage Fairs: How to Support Your Learner

Hello Parents & Caregivers-

We are so excited for your learner to participate in the [Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair](#) (EHRF)! Your involvement could help your learner avoid a stressful experience and have an exciting learning adventure. Remember: A Heritage Fair is like a Science Fair but for Social Studies! We hope the following information will help you make the experience easier and more enjoyable for you and your learner.

The Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair is for students in grades 4 to 9 in the greater Edmonton Area. The EHRF works with Edmonton area schools to register students for the fair. Your school will have a teacher leading the project who you can work with and who will work with us to ensure your learner is registered. Students do not have to participate in an in-school fair to participate in the EHRF. The fair is open to homeschooled students.

This year's fair will be on May 3, 2025. The fair will run from 9 a.m. to noon. Students can bring their completed submissions to the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, located at 10440-108 Ave, Edmonton starting at 9 a.m. A table will be reserved for each project. Wi-fi is available, but power outlets are unavailable. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. and each project will be adjudicated by at least three judges who will provide written feedback to the students on the day of the fair.

How can you help? If your learner needs help to find a project, explore the [ERHF Student Research Digital Resource List](#), or search the internet. Searching for such terms as "heritage fair project ideas" is a great way to start. Your learner can also search for project ideas using areas of personal interest, family history, or what they are learning in school, or current events that have links to events in the past.

Once your learner has a project:

- **DO** ensure that the project is achievable and engaging.
- **DO** make sure that your learner follows the "historical inquiry method." This will include:
 - choosing a topic,
 - generating questions,
 - investigating sources,
 - reflecting on the research,
 - reaching a conclusion,
 - telling the story visually,
 - presenting the project, and
 - [creating a bibliography](#).

- **DON'T** do the research for your learner. Let them find a project they are genuinely interested in, but **DO** give them encouragement, guidance and support.
- **DO** know all the *requirements* for the project, *timelines*, and what work is being done at school versus work to be done at home.
- **DO** be familiar with how their project will be evaluated. Take a few minutes to look at the judge's marking rubric.
- **DO** make certain that your learner allows enough time for the project from start to finish. Six weeks is a good idea. Some projects take much longer.
- **DO** help your learner put the research into their own words—avoid plagiarism and the use of AI like ChatGPT.
- **DO** help your learner build any models, dioramas or timelines that are needed.
- **DO** review your learner's project, encourage them to practice their presentation and give your learner constructive criticism.
- **DO** check to ensure your learner has completed all parts of the project.
- **DO** instill a sense of pride and accomplishment in your learner for their efforts.
- **DON'T** stress the award/score factor. The most important aspects of the entire ERHF are discovery, excitement and learning.

**If you have any questions, please contact ERHF Coordinator at
coordinator@edmontonheritagefair.org**