

LOUISIANA SOCIAL STUDIES STATE FAIR COUNCIL



LOUISIANA SOCIAL STUDIES FAIRS MANUAL



Issued by the
Louisiana Social Studies State Fair Council

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FOREWORD

Social studies education has traditionally been involved with citizenship education. Students need to acquire the knowledge, develop the skills, and foster the values and beliefs necessary to participate in a democratic society. Students can be educated for a democratic society through activities that promote the improvement of creative thinking and inquiry skills. Social Studies fairs provide an excellent opportunity for involvement in activities which heavily emphasize thinking and inquiry skills and associated values and attitudes.

The local, regional, and state fair programs offer students the means for investigating the problems and issues of society. Students have the opportunity to satisfy their curiosity, to creatively express themselves, and to utilize their talents in mildly competitive situations. The fundamental benefit that students achieve is the life-long learning that results from involvement in social studies fairs.

This publication is a compilation of information concerning the Louisiana Social Studies Fair program gathered during the over thirty years of existence of the social studies fair program. Most of the information in this document was originally contained in *Louisiana Social Studies Fairs, Bulletin 1133*, published by the Louisiana Department of Education. This handbook on the social studies fair program is now a publication of the Louisiana Social Studies Fair Council (LSSFC), an independent organization founded in 1989 to lead, organize, and conduct local and regional state fairs and the Louisiana Social Studies State Fair. Regulations, suggestions, recommendations, and other information within this publication are, therefore, those of the LSSFC. All elements of the social studies fair program are reviewed annually by the membership of the Council to insure the development of an equitable and educationally sound social studies fair program.

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PURPOSE OF SOCIAL STUDIES FAIRS

Annual local, regional, and State Social Studies fairs present exhibitions of projects prepared by elementary, middle/junior high, and high school social studies students. Each presentation is designed to show application of a basic truth or generalization or to show research in a study of people in their relation to physical environments.

1. To give social studies students an opportunity to interpret the multi-cultural, social, political, and economic forces of our time.
2. To recognize and reward outstanding scholarship and achievement by social studies students.
3. To provide students and teachers with an opportunity to examine and to learn the ideas and principles of American democracy and the spirit of patriotism as taught in social studies.
4. To provide students and teachers with an opportunity to relate their daily lives to the ideas and principles taught in social studies.
5. To give students and teachers an opportunity to compare and show what others are doing in social studies throughout the states.
6. To encourage students and teachers to exchange techniques and ideas that have been successful in their classrooms.
7. To encourage students to conduct creative research and discover ways in which they can contribute to the development of society.
8. To lead students to draw heavily on all areas as a means of broadening and deepening social concepts.
9. To arouse public interest in and appreciation for the broad area of content in social studies.
10. To develop an appreciation and understanding among the public for the talent, skill and ability of youth.
11. To encourage parents to become more actively and appropriately involved in the education of their children.