



Help Your Local League Make Inroads with Schools

by Sonia Koetting, LWV Larimer County

The vision of bringing young, emerging voters of Colorado to LWV is taking root! The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) has for 5 years offered a special award at [National History Day of Colorado](#), an all-state, public school competition of smart kid projects on many topics of history. It's a "pre-collegiate social studies and literacy program," a multi-media affair that brings families, students and teachers from across our state to the CU Denver campus on a spring weekend. Students win special awards from nonprofits like LWVCO, and the top winners will compete in Washington D.C.

This year's contest theme is "Breaking Barriers." In relation to that, LWVCO's Special Award will be for the "Best Documentary on Women Breaking Barriers for Justice."

Last year we invited our special award winner to LWVCO's Leader of Democracy event,



and we also featured Celeste Archer, Founding Executive Director of National History Day (NHD) in Colorado. Celeste and the winners were honored guests, and the [winning video documentary](#) was inspirational and informative for all the attendees. From that, we've struck a supportive relationship between NHD and LWVCO. The Leader of Democracy Committee has decided to make each year's young winners and their entry a feature of the Leader of Democracy

event. Not only will winners receive a \$200 cash prize, but they are also offered a year's membership in LWV, as well as a moment at the podium.

This is a special opportunity for local Leagues. You might offer to mentor students in local schools who could use ideas, interviews and support with research to enter the contest. You could be a judge at the regional level... colleges like Mesa, UNC and CU host the regionals to decide who moves to state. You might also choose to be a judge for the state contest. Celeste says, "We need helpers for all of the kids who win at regional contests – to get them ready for the State, and then the kids who win at State for Nationals... but, we REALLY need judges for all of the contests. There are also

opportunities for members to work with kids in very rural locations as they work and edit their projects — it would be on-line and/or via Zoom. We do on-line work with the kids in Lake City all of the time — those are the kinds of places that need support.”

If you'd like to dip your toe by helping LWVCO choose the documentary for our special prize, [email Sonia Koetting](#). If you might like to judge the state competition, [click here to apply](#). If you'd like to be of service to local schools for next year's competition, try connecting through [Celeste Archer](#) next fall when she emerges from this year's competition.

Come to LWVCO's Leader of Democracy celebration August 19, 2020, to see the winning entry and meet the young winners!