



**Natural Resources
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Student Film about Dust Bowl Advances to National Competition

Morrison, Okla., June 9, 2016—A student documentary team from Morrison High School will compete in the National History Day Contest in College Park, Md. for their film about the Dust Bowl and the people who lived through it and worked to stop it. High school juniors Elizabeth Harshbarger, Haley Carr and Sami Simon will compete with teams from around the world in a contest that draws over 3,000 students annually in five categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance and website.

“Time is running out to capture the memories of the generation that lived through the Dust Bowl, and we wanted to be a part of preserving that history,” said Carr. “It’s important that we share the message of how precious our natural resources are, so future generations don’t suffer due to our ignorance.”

This is the team’s fifth year to enter the contest, and their second time to compete at the national level. In all, four Morrison High School teams will advance to the national contest. The teams have been working hard to support their trip to the nation’s capital by operating concession stands at Oklahoma State University baseball games, holding a yard sale and hosting a family movie night. The teams will begin the journey to College Park this weekend for the official contest on June 12-16.

“This contest is important because it gets youth out there to do real research and learn to make connections—these are skills we can apply in other aspects of our lives,” said Carr.

National History Day (NHD), the non-profit which runs the contest, says 600,000 students from around the world submit projects at the local level.

In a [separate June 1 release from NHD](#), Dr. Cathy Gorn, NHD executive director, said “Less than one percent of all entries make it to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest. The level of research and presentation of the students at this level is astounding. They truly represent the best and brightest minds of the next generation.”

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Photo attached. Suggested caption:

From left to right: Elizabeth Harshbarger, Dr. Pauline Hodges, Haley Carr and Sami Simon. Hodges is one of several Dust Bowl survivors the team interviewed for the project.