In conjunction with the annual Symposium on 18th Century Life and Customs in Western Pennsylvania, the Bradford House Historical Association is sponsoring a Poster Session Contest for middle and high school students, and is open to any student who resides in Washington and Greene Counties.

- student will create a trifold display on a topic of W PA history (1750-1850)

- 2 judging divisions: middle school (grades 5-8) and high school (grades 9-12)

    - register online between January 2 and February 15 at www.bradfordhouse.org
    - poster must be delivered in early March (details will be sent to registrants)

- top 5 entries in each division will display at the Symposium

    - student should be available to answer questions

    - winners receive free admission to the Symposium for the student & 1 adult

    - prizes: $50 1st place; $25 2nd place; $10 each for 3 Honorable Mention
      (The judges reserve the right to not award all prizes if there are insufficient number and/or quality of entries.)

Poster Session Entry Requirements

A poster board is a visual exhibit that should reflect your research and interpretation of your topic's significance in Western Pennsylvania history during the years 1750 – 1850. It should be at least 60% visual images (portraits, maps, documents, photos, diagrams, illustrations, etc.) with labels, captions, and brief written content (bulleted lists and timelines are appropriate), in your own words and creatively displayed to enhance your presentation.

1. The subject will be a topic of Western Pennsylvania history, 1750 – 1850.

2. The presentation will be constructed on a standard size (36" x 48") trifold display board (foam or corrugated).
    a) All materials (except title page and works cited page) must be attached to the front 3 sections of the display board and within its edges.
    b) Include the title of your project on the display board.

3. Inclusion of media devices, supplemental materials, physical objects, etc. separate from the exhibit board is not permitted.

4. Include a thesis and a conclusion on your exhibit.

5. Inclusion of a few carefully selected quotations, properly attributed, is acceptable.

6. A list of *Works Cited* must accompany the entry, properly formatted and typewritten.
    a) Both primary and secondary sources of information should be used, and should not be limited to online resources.
    b) *Wikipedia*, blogs, and other similar online resources are not acceptable sources.
    c) A minimum of 5 sources must be cited.

7. The following information should be included on a typewritten title page attached to the *Works Cited* page(s): title of project, student's name, grade and school. Paper clip these 2 pages to your exhibit board.
8. Only individual projects permitted; no group projects.

Hints for Developing Your Project

1. Read the rules carefully and be sure to cover all requirements.

2. Do not use Wikipedia or similar wiki sites as a source. Wiki pages can be edited by anyone, so the information included may not be accurate. It's ok to look at such a site as a starting point for names, places, dates, etc. but all information should be verified through other sources.

3. Do not limit your research to Internet sources. Get a book on your topic, visit a local museum or historical site, interview an expert.

4. Try to find primary sources of information. Primary sources are from the time period of the event. These can include documents, letters, diaries, paintings, speeches, film clips, newspapers, government records, and autobiographies by someone who lived in the time period and/or experienced the event.

   A secondary source is a book, magazine article, website, etc. that was produced after the event occurred by someone who was not an eyewitness or participant of the event. An expert on a topic from 1750-1850 is not a primary source because this person did not live in that time period, but instead has studied it in depth using primary sources.

5. Include a thesis (an introductory statement of what you are trying to prove in your presentation about the historical significance of your topic) and a conclusion (a closing statement that summarizes what you have presented to support your thesis). WHAT'S THE POINT of your project?

6. Your project should be more than a presentation of facts (who, what, when, where). The big question to answer is WHY. Your are to interpret and analyze the facts to explain their significance and draw conclusions. You are to show cause and effect sequence – historical events did not happen in isolation.

7. Check your work for spelling, capitalization, grammar and other errors. Have someone look at your work and help you check. These kinds of errors detract from your project.

8. If you use a quote, be sure to put it in italics or quotation marks and identify who said the quote.

9. Do not copy and paste other people's work and present it as your own. This is called plagiarism and is illegal! If you choose to include something that someone else created, give credit to the creator both on the project and in your Works Cited.

10. Choose colors and art papers that are appropriate to your topic and will enhance your project. Generally materials with bright colors or modern prints are not good choices for historical topics.

11. Make your printed information of a large enough font size and a simple enough font style that it can be easily read by someone standing a few feet from your project.

12. Go online to look for a sample Works Cited page. There is specific information required for each type of source. Entries are then listed in alphabetical order. Here is a free, reliable website that can help you create your Works Cited page: www.easybib.com.

13. Do not paste your cover page and works cited page to your project. Staple the two pages together and use a paper clip or binder clip to fasten them to your board.

14. Allow plenty of time to do this project!

Possible Topics

This is **not** an all-inclusive list. Any subject that pertains to Western Pennsylvania history between the years 1750 and 1850 is appropriate.

People

Christopher Gist
Francis LeMoyne
William Crawford
Lewis Wetzel
John Neville
David Bradford
John Holcroft
Hugh Henry Breckenridge
Marquis de LaFayette
George Washington
William Holmes McGuffey
Rev. John McMillan
Cornplanter
Chief Catfish (Tangooqua)
Absalom Baird
General Anthony Wayne
Wayne's Legions
Sieur de Jumonville

Events

Mason-Dixon Survey
Pennamite Wars
Attack on Hannastown 1776
Lewis & Clark Expedition
Braddock's Expedition
Forbes Expedition
Virginia-Pennsylvania Border Dispute
Whiskey Rebellion
Corbly Massacre
Crow Sisters Massacre
Underground Railroad
Battle of Jumonville Glen
French & Indian War
Revolutionary War
Formation of Washington County
Formation of Greene County

Places
Places

Fort Necessity
Fort Pitt
Fort Duquesne
Fort Ligonier
Local frontier forts
Historic towns
Washington College
Jefferson College
Washington & Jefferson College
Braddock's Field
National Road

Culture

Food
Agriculture
Clothing
Medicine/Health
Whiskey Distilling
River Transportation
Education
Taverns
Slavery
Weapons
Life on the W PA Frontier
Architecture
Family Life