Holyoke was represented by 17 students at the regional National History Day contest at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley Saturday, March 2.

In total, there were 147 entries from Northeastern Colorado. Participants entered essays, documentaries, performances or websites to be evaluated by professional historians and educators.

Five Holyoke Junior High students will be moving on to the state level of the competition on May 4 as they placed in the top three at the regional event.

Alex Strauss and Logan Osborne entered in the essay division. Strauss nabbed the top placing and Osborne came in third.

Juana Penzing took first place in the website division and Whitney Powell placed first in the individual performance division. Austin Herman placed second in the historical documentary division.

Projects were judged on quality, clarity of presentation, relationship to the theme and compliance to rules. For the best score, judges were looking to make sure the student showed a historical perspective, analyzed and interpreted information presented and investigated a variety of sources.

Five Holyoke eighth graders beat out the other 130 kids in the competition to place in the

top three at the regional National History Day competition and will be moving on to the state competition in May. Those who will be advancing are pictured from left, Austin Herman, Alex Strauss, Whitney Powell, Logan Osborne and Juana Penzing.

Also competing were high schoolers Meg Strauss, Alyssa Cordova, Anastasia Conklin, Taylor Goldenstein and Bianca Rodriguez.

Junior high students who also competed were Dylon Lousberg, Jacklyn Gerk, Kayla Marshall, Brendan Mayden, Tara Krueger, Brook Prottsman and Zach Churchwell.

Students were accompanied by JR/SR high school history teacher Luke Thomas.

The goal of the competition is to teach students 21st century skills, civic engagement, critical thinking, writing and research skill as well as prepare them for college, careers and citizenship.

Annually, 15,000 Colorado students and 700,000 students nationally participate in the competition. The theme for this year's competition was "Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events."

Those who place in the top two spots at the state competition will be qualified to move on to the national competition at the University of Maryland from June 9-13.

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