



JHSSC | JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of SOUTH CAROLINA

In Their Own Words: Stories from South Carolina History is this year's youth contest sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC). The contest is an opportunity for youth in grades 8-12 to listen to stories from the past about growing up Jewish in South Carolina, interpret a story in a creative format, and to win cash prizes – up to \$500 for first prize.

The JHSSC Youth Contest opens Monday, January 31 and ends Tuesday, May 31. Submissions will be accepted anytime during that time period.

Contest Entry Guidelines

The contest is open to Jewish youth in grades 8-12 currently living in South Carolina.

There are two parts to creating this year's contest entry:

- Interview a Jewish adult about their experiences growing up Jewish in South Carolina.
- Produce a creative interpretation of a story or incident you heard during the interview.

Process for creating a contest entry

1. Identify a family member or community member you would like to interview, who grew up Jewish in South Carolina (parent's age or older).

- The interview subject is your choice and could be your parent or other family member, a family friend, or someone you know from synagogue or other Jewish activities (such as a religious-school teacher). *Please check with your parents to "okay" the person and to help arrange the interview.*
- ***Alternatively***, you can listen to an oral history through the JHSSC website as your interview, to find a story to work with creatively. *A large and growing number of interviews, both transcript and audio, are online at the [Lowcountry Digital Library](#).*

2. If you choose a live interview, ask your subject about stories from their youth, particularly how being Jewish played a part in their lives. (*Helpful interview guidelines with sample questions start on page 7*)

- We suggest capturing the interview on audio or video, as you may want to listen/watch again while you're working on your contest entry. (Zoom allows you to record meetings, for example.)

3. Choose a story you heard during the interview/oral history that you really feel connected to.

- Maybe you are the same age as they were in one story, or you shared a similar experience or feelings, or you felt happy (or sad) when listening to a story. Whichever story you choose, one big reason should be that it inspires you creatively!

4. Develop your interpretation of your chosen incident/story through words, music, visual arts, media arts, or performance arts to create your contest entry. *Past contest entries have included a graphic novel, an original song, a dance performance, and more.* jhssc.org/contest

Contest entries should express to the viewer/reader:

- A real-life event that you heard from the person you interviewed
- A sense of the past time-period when the event occurred
- An emotional connection to Judaism
- An understanding of and connection to South Carolina Jewish history

Contest Format

Your contest entry may be produced on any of the following media platforms. Choose which one best showcases your creativity. (Examples of essays, podcasts, etc., that you can visit online are in the **Background and Resources** section, page 4.)

- Written short story or poetry
- Drawing or painting
- Visual arts story (e.g., comic book/graphic novel or other artistic representation)
- YouTube video
- Podcast
- Videocast

Only one entry per person. You may include a piece of the actual audio/video interview in your entry if it enriches your creative version.

Contest entries must:

1. Be accompanied by a contest submission form (page 5)
2. Be original
3. Tell a good story within 3-10 minutes (no less than 3 minutes and no more than 10 to read, watch, or listen to your entry)
4. Connect emotionally with readers/viewers/listeners
5. Be portable (We must be able to **either post your entry** on the JHSSC website **or link to your entry** from our JHSSC website.)
6. Include a signed release from the person you interviewed (page 6)

All submission components must be original including music, photos, and artwork. Please be aware that music clips, photos, and images found online might be copyright or trademark protected, and therefore not legally available to appear on the JHSSC website.

Cash Prizes will total \$1000

Cash prizes may be awarded as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes among all entries or as equal prizes to different age categories depending on the actual entries received.

Submissions will be judged on content, creativity, how well the spirit of the contest is conveyed, and adherence to entry guidelines.

Timeline

Contest opens for submissions on January 31. **Final deadline for submissions is May 31.** Contest winners will be announced at the end of June or beginning of July.

Winning entries will be posted on our contest page at <http://jhssc.org/contest>

How to Submit Your Entry

Fill out the entry form on the final page of these guidelines. Send the form with your entry (or with a *link* to your entry) by email to: jhssc2020@gmail.com

We are not accepting mailed entries. If you have any concerns about this, please contact:
Rachel Barnet, JHSSC Executive Director, at jhssc2020@gmail.com

If you have questions or need clarification about contest components, please contact:
Terri Kaufman, JHSSC Board Member and contest designer, at jhssc.contest@gmail.com

Background and Resources for Students

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina: <http://jhssc.org/>

Written Stories about Jewish South Carolinians: <http://jhssc.org/our-stories/>

JHSSC Jewish Merchant Project stories – <https://merchants.jhssc.org/merchant-stories/>

Jewish Heritage Collection Oral Histories: <https://jhc.cofc.edu/oral-history-archives/>

Previous JHSSC Youth Contest Winners: <http://jhssc.org/contest/>

Podcast stories from real life on public radio: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/>

SC Jewish Historical Sites map: <https://jhssc.org/resources/historical-sites/>

Contest Materials

Contest Submission Form: Pages 4-5

Interview Agreement: Page 6

Interview Guidelines with Questions and Prompts: Pages 7-8

CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM

In Their Own Words: Stories from South Carolina Jewish History An Essay/Media Contest for Jewish Youth Grades 8-12

Fill out this entry form and email it with your entry (or include an online link to your entry) to jhssc2020@gmail.com. *Entries must be accompanied by a completed Contest Submission Form and Interview Agreement.*

Name of your contest entry: _____

Format of entry (story, painting, video, etc.): _____

Is your entry: included with this form available to view online (check one)

URL for viewing entry: _____

Your full name: _____

Age: _____

Grade: _____

Home Address: _____
Street number and name; City, State, zip code

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Full Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone number: _____

Where did you hear about the contest? _____

Are you and your family affiliated with any temple, synagogue, JCC, or other Jewish organization? yes no (check one)

If so, please provide the name and address of the organization so we can let them know if you are a contest winner: _____

By signing below, you agree to your work appearing on the JHSSC website and to it being promoted to JHSSC members, affiliates, and members of the press. You also acknowledge by signing that to the best of your knowledge, all components of your entry are original works and produced by you alone.

Contestant Name (please print)

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (print)

Contestant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature
If contestant is less than 18 years of age

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT

I, _____, do hereby give my permission to be interviewed by _____ for the purpose of that person entering the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) Media Youth Contest. I understand that a story or stories that I tell during my interview may be produced creatively as a contest submission. I give my permission for JHSSC to review, award, and/or promote a contest submission as they see fit that contains my personal content and/or my voice or image from the interview.

This agreement may be revised or amended by mutual consent of the parties undersigned.

_____ Signature of Interviewee

_____ Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth

_____ Address of interviewee

_____ Email _____ Phone number

_____ Full Name of Interviewer/Contestant

_____ Date

Interview Guidelines with Questions and Prompts

The interview may take about an hour, depending on how much your interview subject talks. You may want to go through the questions ahead of time to become comfortable with them. If you're interviewing a family member or family friend, you may want to add questions based on history you already know so that you can learn more details.

It's a good idea to take a few notes as you interview, to keep track of what's been asked or answered (people usually don't think in a straight line, so their stories may jump around). Remember that you want to give the person enough time after each question to have a chance to tell their best stories – that will help you create a great contest entry! *Consider making an audio or video recording so you can go back and listen/watch as you think about how to approach your creative project.*

If you've ever conducted an oral interview for school, it could be helpful to review those assignment guidelines. *If you're new to this, one way to prepare ahead of time is by checking out interviewing tips for "Conducting Oral Histories with Family Members" (they apply to friends and acquaintances, too). The overview gives great suggestions for being an active listener!*

<https://www.library.ucla.edu/destination/center-oral-history-research/resources/conducting-oral-histories-family-members>

The following interview guidelines were adapted for youth from the Jewish Heritage Collection oral interview guidelines, College of Charleston.

Interview Questions and Prompts

The following contain a series of main questions and *prompts* to get your interviewee to give more story details. Do give your person time to think and answer before prompting. *As you listen carefully to what your subject says, you may want to ask additional questions to learn more details of interesting stories or to clarify something you don't understand.*

Roots

1. When and where were you born? When did your family arrive in South Carolina?

Prompts: Where did they come from? Why did they choose South Carolina?

2. Was anyone in your family a "pioneer"—that is, the first Jewish person in the community?

3. Who did you live with?

Prompts: Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles? What were their names? What were their professions?

4. What was your home like?

Prompts: Where did you play? What were some of your favorite games?

5. Were both parents Jewish?

Prompts: How did they practice their religion? How did they teach you about Judaism?

Growing up Jewish in South Carolina

6. How many brothers and sisters did you have growing up?

Prompts: Which one were you closest to? Where is he or she now?

7. What relationships from your childhood do you remember best? (family and friends)
Prompts: Who was most supportive of you? Can you tell me a story about that?
8. What stories from your childhood have you passed on to your children (or grandchildren)?
9. Where did you go to grade school? Were there other Jewish kids in your school?
10. What was South Carolina like then? Were people tolerant of each other?
Prompts: Did you talk with your parents about that? What did they say?
11. What childhood memories related to being Jewish stand out in your mind?
Prompt: You can tell me anything pleasant or unpleasant.
12. Did you go to religious school or synagogue? What synagogue/temple did you go to?
Prompt: What are some of your memories from there?
13. Where did you go to high school? What activities did you participate in and which did you like the most?
14. Who were your best high-school friends? Were any of them Jewish?
Prompt: Did it matter to you if they were Jewish or not?
15. Did you have a bar or bat mitzvah or confirmation? Did you belong to any Jewish youth organizations?
Prompt: What memories do you have of those?
16. How did your family celebrate the Sabbath? What religious holidays did your family observe?
Prompt: Was your family concerned about keeping its Jewish identity?
17. Have you lived in South Carolina all your life? (*If they moved away, ask,*) When did you move back, and why?
18. Are you married? How did you meet your spouse and when were you married? Did you have a Jewish wedding? (*If they don't give details, ask,*) What was your wedding like?
19. How many children do you have? Where do they live? (*If they don't live in South Carolina, ask,*) Would you like them to move here?
20. Are there any intermarriages or conversions into or out of the Jewish faith in your family? How do you feel about that?

The Changing Jewish Community

21. How is going to synagogue now different from when you were a kid?
Prompts: What rituals do you like better now, and which do you wish you could bring back?
22. How would you describe the relationship between Jews and gentiles in your community?
Prompts: Have you or your family experienced or been aware of any anti-Semitism nowadays? Do non-Jewish people in your community accept you, or regard you as different?

23. Do you think of yourself as a Jewish southerner or a southern Jew? What's the difference, do you think?

Prompt: In your opinion, are there special challenges to being Jewish in the South?

Final Questions

24. Is there anything you forgot to tell me, about something we talked about today?

25. Is there any other story or insight about growing up Jewish in South Carolina that you'd like to add?

Thank you for the interview!

Please remember to have your interview subject sign the "Interview Agreement" form. You can find that on page 6 of the Contest Entry Guidelines (above or <https://jhssc.org/contest/>)