

In this lesson, students will learn about women from North Dakota who left their mark on history and nominate one to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award.

Supplies

- Access to North Dakota’s [“Women of the Century” North Dakota list featuring politicians, teachers, and scientists](#) (*Argus Leader*)
- [“The Suffragists of North Dakota”](#) (North Dakota Studies)
- [“5 Inspirational Women from North Dakota’s Past”](#) (State Historical Society of North Dakota Blog)

Setup

- Print copies of the short biographies of North Dakota women from the sources above. It would be best to print each biography as a separate document. Some of the women are found in more than one source. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of significant women but a small sampling. You will want to omit those women who are already recipients of the Rough Rider Award.

Objectives

- Students will learn about a few women from North Dakota and their major accomplishments or contributions to the state and nation.
- Students will write a paragraph explaining why one of those women should receive the Rough Rider Award.

Background

Women’s history in North Dakota refers to the study and recognition of the contributions, achievements, and experiences of women, starting with Indigenous women, the first to reside here. Women’s history is diverse and encompasses a wide range of experiences. Women in North Dakota have played significant roles in their tribal nations, local communities, the state, and the nation. They have made significant contributions to politics, education,

arts, science, agriculture, technology, and other fields. We encourage you to dig deeper to learn more about North Dakota women in many different fields. It’s important to explore specific events, individuals, and movements to gain a comprehensive understanding of women’s history in North Dakota. Local historical societies, museums, and archives can be valuable resources for more in-depth information.

The Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, established in 1961, “recognizes North Dakotans who have been influenced by this state in achieving national recognition in their fields of endeavor, thereby reflecting credit and honor upon North Dakota and its citizens.” To date, 12 women have received this award. Among them are actresses, educators, and Olympic gold medalists.

Activity

1. Tell students about the [Rough Rider Award](#).
2. Inform them that anyone can nominate an individual for the award.
3. Let the students know that they will be learning about women from North Dakota who have made significant contributions to society.
4. Give each student a biography of one woman. (There are also numerous other women that could be included if you would like to find more.)
5. Have them read the biography and create a social media post highlighting the significance of the woman they were assigned.
6. Have the students present their social media posts to the class. Let the students vote for the woman they feel is most worthy of receiving the next Rough Rider Award.
7. Then as a class you could nominate that woman for the Rough Rider Award, using the directions on the [webpage](#).

Extension

1. Have students find other women they feel might be notable and worthy of the Rough Rider Award.
2. Write a letter to the governor advocating for one of these women to be the Rough Rider Award recipient for the current year.
3. Create an award for people in your community who have made significant contributions.

Reflection questions

1. If you could nominate one member from your community for the Rough Rider Award, who would it be?
2. Do you know of any women who could be nominated whom we did not learn about?
3. Why is it important to have people from many different backgrounds in the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Hall of Fame?