

This guide is designed for students in grades 6–8 participating in Sevier County Archives and Heritage Services (SCAHS) history projects, including the Virtual History Fair. The steps below can also be reused for other classroom or community oral history projects.

WHAT IS AN ORAL HISTORY?

An oral history is a recorded interview where someone shares memories, stories, and experiences from their life. These recordings help preserve real voices and lived experiences for future generations.

STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR INTERVIEWEE

Select someone who has meaningful stories to share, such as a parent, grandparent, relative, neighbor, or community member.

Interviewee Name: _____

Interviewee Signature: _____

(I give permission for submit this oral history interview for educational and archival purposes to SCAHS.)

Relationship to You: _____

STEP 2: PLAN YOUR QUESTIONS

Write 5–10 open-ended questions.

Example: “Can you describe a memory that is important to you?”

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

STEP 3: PREPARE TO RECORD VIDEO

- Use a phone, tablet, or camera
- Choose a quiet, well-lit space, removing any distractions in the background
- Place the camera at eye level
- Test sound and video before starting

STEP 4: RECORD THE INTERVIEW

At the beginning of the recording, say:

- Your name
- The date
- The interviewee's name

Remember to listen carefully and let the interviewee finish their thoughts.

STEP 5: SAVE YOUR VIDEO

File Name: _____

(Recommended file naming: Intervieweefirstandlastname-year-month-day.filetype)

Where is it saved? _____

Do not delete the original video file.

PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION

I give permission for my child to conduct and submit this oral history interview for educational and archival purposes.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SUBMITTING YOUR PROJECT

Your completed video may be shared as part of a SCAHS program such as the Virtual History Fair or other educational projects.

By submitting your project, you are helping Sevier County Archives and Heritage Services gather, preserve, and share local history through the Sevier County History Hub.

Thank you for being a young historian and helping keep our community's stories alive!