

# About the 2025 National Civics Bee®



## Background for Educators & Parents

The National Civics Bee® is a national nonpartisan competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Participating 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students flex their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes, and there is no cost to participate.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation created the National Civics Bee® because we believe informed and active citizens make for a strong country, a strong economy, and a strong workforce, and that our continued prosperity depends on the strength of all three.

For the 2025 National Civics Bee®, middle school students will submit answers in response to the following prompts:

- Identify a specific problem, challenge, or opportunity in your community. What can you do to contribute to its improvement? (200 words minimum - 250 words maximum)
- What individuals or organizations would you work with to accomplish your solution? Examples include elected officials, business leaders, and nonprofits. (200 words minimum - 250 words maximum)
- How does your solution include [Founding Principles and Civic Virtues](#)? (200 words minimum - 250 words maximum)

Visit our website at [www.nationalcivicsbee.org](http://www.nationalcivicsbee.org) to learn more! Email us at [civictrust@uschamber.com](mailto:civictrust@uschamber.com) to get involved.



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## What is the Structure of the Competition?

The National Civics Bee® is hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in partnership with state and local chambers of commerce from across the country.

The contest contains four phases:

- **Phase 1 - Essay Round:** Students submit essays in response to the 2025 National Civics Bee® Essay Prompt.
- **Phase 2 - Local Competitions:** Essay winners compete in a 90-minute, in-person event featuring two rounds of civics questions followed by a Q&A round. The top three winners receive cash prizes and advance to the State Finals.
- **Phase 3 - State Finals:** Local winners compete in their State Finals, another 90-minute live event featuring three rounds. The top three finalists receive cash prizes, and the winner advances to the national competition.
- **Final Round - National Competition:** State champions receive a trip to Washington, DC to compete in the national-level competition hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

## Who is Eligible to Apply?

The National Civics Bee® is open to middle school students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. To be eligible to participate in the National Civics Bee®, an applicant (“Entrant”) must:

- Be a student in grades six through eight at the time of entry;
- Enter only one local chamber competition, which must be in their state of residence;
- Be the sole author of their entry – no group entries or entries written by parents will be accepted;
- Submit their entry in the English language;
- Submit a new, unique entry, if they’ve participated in any past National Civics Bee® contests;
- Agree to all National Civics Bee® Rules, including potentially attending the local, state, and national competitions.

*Immediate family members of Co-Sponsors and individuals residing in their households are not eligible entrants. **There is no cost to enter the competition.***

## How to Apply?

Students submit their essays online. Students may use the [2025 Essay Guide](#) to help prepare their essays. The online essay portal opens in Fall 2024 and closes in Winter 2025. Visit [www.nationalcivicsbee.org](http://www.nationalcivicsbee.org) for the latest news on the application process, deadlines, and resources.

