



We the People
THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS

NATIONAL FINALS 2017

Welcome to the 30th Annual We the People National Finals. We hope you enjoy your experience and thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in observing the following guidelines. They are designed to maintain a safe and fair environment for all students attending the National Finals. Questions may be directed to a competition volunteer (yellow tag on badge) or a Center staff member (red tag on badge).

Information Table

On Saturday and Sunday, visitors must register at the Center's Information Table located near West Belmont Place entrance of the West Building of the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. Each visitor will be issued a state badge that must be worn at all times during competition events. Any person not wearing a name or state badge will be denied access to hearing rooms.

Hearing Rooms

A competition volunteer will be stationed in the hallways outside the hearing rooms to monitor admittance. Volunteers are instructed to check color-coded name and state badges and, if necessary, provide valid reasons for denying entrance. Admittance to hearing rooms is based on space availability.

1. No one connected with any competing class (competition teachers, coaches, chaperons, parents, friends, relatives, etc.) may enter the hearing room of any other competing class. Exceptions to this rule are as follows:
 - a. State coordinators, judges, international visitors, members of the Center's board of directors, visitors not affiliated with a specific class, people with guest name badges, and members of the media may attend any hearings.
 - b. Classes competing Monday afternoon and people affiliated with those classes may not attend any hearings on Monday. Classes competing Monday morning and people affiliated with those classes may not attend any other Monday morning hearings but may attend Monday afternoon hearings. All others are welcome to attend any of the Monday hearings.
2. Visitors will be admitted only at appropriate break times (between units) and after the judges have left the room so that student testimony is not interrupted. On Saturday and Sunday, no one will be admitted once a hearing is underway. On Monday, at the discretion of the room supervisor, visitors may be admitted after a hearing is underway if the room is designed so that admittance will not distract students.
3. Hearing rooms are limited in size. The number of open seats depends on the class size and number of visitors. Every effort will be made to ensure that a visitor who has come to

see a particular student testify will be seated in the room during that student's unit hearing.

Do not bring chairs from other rooms. Visitors may stand in the back of the room unless otherwise directed due to fire codes and at the discretion of the teacher, room supervisor, or Center staff.

4. Visitors must realize that comments to students, however well-intended, can be unsettling in the course of a competition. It is important, therefore, that any comments made regarding students, the class, or the teacher, are supportive and positive.

Student Briefing Room

On the Saturday and Sunday of the National Finals, competition volunteers and Center staff will first direct students to a briefing room upon arrival at the National Conference Center, and from this room to the hearing rooms at the appropriate time. The student briefing will take place in the Loudoun Room in the West Building. Visitors will be admitted if there is space available. At the end of the briefing, we request that visitors stand away from the door of the student briefing room until all students have left the room for their hearing rooms. Visitors then will be directed to hearing rooms in the North Building, third floor.

Volunteers and staff will also direct students out of North Building once the hearings are completed. Often one group is departing at the same time another group is arriving. Because of the number of students in motion at any time, and because the competition runs on a very tight schedule, it is important to cooperate with directions from competition volunteers and Center staff about where to wait for the briefing or the hearings.

Parking at the National Conference Center on Saturday and Sunday

There is a parking garage on site that is free to participants and guests. Follow the signs to the garage. From the garage, cross the drive and follow the signs to the West Belmont Place entrance. Registration is inside on the right,

Food and beverages on site

There is limited access to food on site. There is a coffee kiosk in the dining area of the North Building where coffee can be purchased. To eat lunch in the dining room, guests must purchase a meal card in the West Building at the hotel check-in desk. Pre-packaged snacks and beverages are available in the shop near the hotel check-in desk.

The nearest restaurants are in Lansdowne Town Center and the Village of Leesburg just a few miles away.

Monday evening Awards Ceremony

Guests may attend the Awards Ceremony in the Ballroom in the West Building of the National Conference Center. There will be designated seating for students and separate seating for guests. Seats for guests are available on a first come basis. The Ballroom doors will open for guests at 8:00. The ceremony officially begins at 8:30.