



We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

Directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the United States Congress.

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EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN NATIONWIDE CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

Washington, D.C.—After three days of simulated congressional hearings, during which students were required to apply constitutional principles and historical facts to contemporary situations, the class from East High School of Denver, Colorado, has emerged as the national champion in the 22nd annual We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals.

Vestavia Hills High School of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, and Amador Valley High School of Pleasanton, California, took second and third place, respectively, in the competition on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

East High School also captured the Lincoln Award for scoring the highest on the question about President Abraham Lincoln and his constitutional legacy. The question was added to this year's competition to commemorate the bicentennial of the 16th president's birth.

The national finals marked the end of months of study and hard-won victories at the congressional district and state levels for more than 1,100 high school students representing 50 states and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The announcement of the top-three classes—as well as the 19 winners in other categories—was made at an awards banquet on Monday evening before an audience of 1,500 students, teachers, coordinators, judges and other program participants. The winning class from Colorado was presented with an engraved plaque of the Constitution, and each student received a gold medallion. Second- and third-place classes were presented with plaques of the Bill of Rights and students were awarded silver and bronze medals. The fourth- through 10th-place classes received engraved plaques.

Awards were also presented to the class with the highest non-finalist score in each of the six units of the text and in each of five geographic regions in the country. Certificates of appreciation were presented to each of the teachers of the 51 classes for their accomplishments in engaging their students in the study of the Constitution.

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The first rounds of the competition took place on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26. Today, the top-10 schools met on Capitol Hill. Students demonstrated their knowledge of the Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and public officials. The panel of judges tested the expertise of the teams on the six units of the “We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution” text: What Are the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System? How Did the Framers Create the Constitution? How Has the Constitution Been Changed to Further the Ideals Contained in the Declaration of Independence? How Have the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices? What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect? What Challenges Might Face American Constitutional Democracy in the Twenty-first Century?

The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program provides an intensive curriculum that offers students comprehensive instruction on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our constitutional democracy. When combined with the companion noncompetitive elementary and middle school programs, more than 30 million students have participated in the program during the past 22 years. Developed and administered by the Los Angeles-based Center for Civic Education, the program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by Congress.

NATIONAL WINNER:
East High School, Denver, Colorado

SECOND PLACE:
Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills, Alabama

THIRD PLACE:
Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton, California

HONORABLE MENTION
(Other top-10 finalists)

Greenwich High School, Greenwich, Connecticut
Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Miami, Florida
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers, Indiana
East Grand Rapids High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan
East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, New Jersey
Grant High School, Portland, Oregon
Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies, Richmond, Virginia

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WINNERS OF UNIT AWARDS

(Best non-finalist team for expertise in each unit of competition)

UNIT 1 (The Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System):
Edward C. Reed High School, Sparks, Nevada

UNIT 2 (How the Framers Created the Constitution): Edward R. Murrow High School,
Brooklyn, New York

UNIT 3 (How Changes in the Constitution Have Furthered the Ideals of the Declaration of
Independence): Milford High School, Milford, New Hampshire

UNIT 4 (How the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American
Institutions and Practices): West Anchorage High School, Anchorage, Alaska

UNIT 5 (The Rights That the Bill of Rights Protects): Wauwatosa West High School,
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

UNIT 6 (Twenty-first Century Challenges to American Constitutional Democracy): Lamar
Academy, McAllen, Texas

WINNERS OF REGIONAL AWARDS

(Best non-finalist team from each region)

Western States: Corona del Sol High School, Tempe, Arizona

Mountain/Plains States: Highland High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Central States: Westminster Christian Academy, St. Louis, Missouri

Southeastern States: Northwest Guilford High School, Greensboro, North Carolina

Northeastern States: Essex High School, Essex Junction, Vermont

LINCOLN AWARD WINNER

(Class with highest score on question about President Abraham Lincoln's constitutional legacy)
East High School, Denver, Colorado

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