



We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

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GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS NATIONAL FINALS 2023

Welcome to the 36th 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. Questions may be directed to a competition volunteer or a Center staff member during the event.

Registration Desk (West Building) and Information Table (North Building)

- On Saturday, visitors not traveling with WorldStrides must register at the Center's Registration Desk near the West Belmont Place entrance of the West Building of the National Conference Center.
- Each visitor will be issued a state badge that must be worn during all competition events.
- On Sunday, visitors may revisit the Registration Desk for a new badge or use their old one, go directly to the North Building, and wait in the Visitors Lounge.
- Guests may request a new badge at the Information Table in the West Building.
- Anyone not wearing a name or state badge will not be allowed in hearing rooms.

Hearing Rooms

Admittance to hearing rooms is sometimes based on space availability. A competition volunteer will be stationed in the hallways outside the hearing rooms to monitor admittance. Volunteers are instructed to check the color-coded name and state badges.

1. No one connected with any competing class (competition teachers, coaches, chaperones, 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 media members may attend any hearings.
 - b. Classes competing on Monday afternoon and those affiliated with those classes may not attend any hearings on Monday morning. 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 so that student testimony is not interrupted. No one will be admitted once a hearing is underway.
3. Hearing rooms are limited in size. 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.
4. Please realize that comments to students, however well-intended, can be unsettling during a competition. It is essential that any statements made regarding students, the class, or the teacher, are supportive and positive.

Student Briefing Room

- On Saturday and Sunday, students will go directly to the Loudoun Room in the West Building of the National Conference Center for a daily briefing.
- Visitors will be admitted as long as there is space available.
- Visitors who do not attend student briefings may wait at the Visitor Lounge in the North Building.
- Students will be dismissed from Loudoun to the hearing rooms at the appropriate times.
- At the end of the briefing, visitors should stand away from the door of the student briefing room until all students have left the room.
- Visitors will then be directed to the hearing rooms in the North Building.
- Volunteers and staff will direct students from the North Building once the hearings are completed. Because the competition runs on a very tight schedule, and one group usually departs at the same time another group arrives, visitors are expected to cooperate with directions from volunteers and staff.

Visitor Lounge

- There will be a Visitor Lounge near the entrance of the North Building for guests who do not attend the Student Orientation or are waiting to hear students testify.
- The NCC will offer coffee in the lounge on a cash-per-cup basis.
- Visitors are asked to stay in the Visitor Lounge until invited to leave for the hearing rooms.

Parking at the National Conference Center on Saturday and Sunday

- A parking garage on site 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.
- To eat lunch in the NCC cafeteria, 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.

Sunday evening Appreciation Reception

- Parents, teachers, visitors, and volunteers are invited to a reception in the Loudoun Room of the NCC during the student dance.
- Complimentary light refreshments and soft drinks will be provided.
- Follow the signs or directions from WorldStrides staff just down the hall from the dance.
- The reception will end in time for the announcement of the Top Ten teams.

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.
- The Awards Ceremony will be live-streamed via The Center for Civic Education Facebook page.