

# National Civics Bee®

## State Finals Competition Round Rules ("State Rules") Template

### COVER PAGE

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (the "Foundation") provides the following rules to State Finals Hosts as a template for National Civics Bee® State Finals Competitions ("State Competition"). The Foundation defines a "State Competition" as a National Civics Bee-sanctioned live competition hosted by an official State Finals Competition Host ("State Host" or "Sponsor") after the completion of the National Civics Bee Essay Round and any Local Competitions in their state.

Individuals with concerns related to a State Competition should register their concerns with the applicable State Host. State Hosts are listed at [nationalcivicsbee.org](http://nationalcivicsbee.org) and searchable by zip code.

The State Rules are not in effect for the Essay Round, Local Competitions, Statewide Competitions, or the National Competition. All participants must comply with the applicable rules for each round of the National Civics Bee which may include an Essay Round, a Local Competition, a State or Statewide Competition, and a National Competition.

The operation of each State Competition is the responsibility of the State Host and the Foundation takes no responsibility for running the State Competition. Please note that there may be laws applicable to running the State Competition (e.g. laws on entry into competitions where there is a cash prize) and it is the sole responsibility of the State Host to comply with these laws or any other regulations. While the Foundation has drafted this template to comply with general best practices in competitions like this one, the Foundation makes no representation or warranty as to how the template complies or does not comply with laws applicable to the State Competition.

# National Civics Bee®

## State Finals Competition Round Rules ("State Rules")

**NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS APPLY.**

### SPONSOR AND OTHER PARTIES

The sponsor of this contest is The Business Council of New York State, Inc. (the "Sponsor" or the "State Host"), which will host the National Civics Bee State Finals Competition (the "State Competition"). Entities that support the State Competition through a qualified corporate sponsorship payment or other contribution are not considered "Sponsors" for the purposes of these rules. The term "Foundation" shall refer to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which organizes and helps facilitate the National Civics Bee. The term "Essay Round" refers to the National Civics Bee Essay Round. The term "Local Round" refers to the National Civics Bee Local Round. Collectively all rounds of the National Civics Bee may be referred to herein as the "NCB Contest."

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the State Competition, a participant must be a resident of New York and selected as one of the winners of a Local Competition in New York.

The following persons are not eligible to participate: (1) employees, officers, and directors of the Sponsor ("Sponsor Persons"); (2) employees, officers, and directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation ("Foundation Persons"); (3) employees, officers and directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America ("Chamber Persons"); and (4) members of the immediate families (parents, spouses, children, siblings) or individuals residing in their household (whether or not related) of Sponsor Persons, Foundation Persons and/or Chamber Persons.

The following persons are also not eligible to participate: (1) immediate family members (parents, spouses, children, siblings) of judges; and (2) any individuals residing in the household of a judge (whether or not related to the judge) of any round of the National Civics Bee.

### TERM

The State Competition will take place on 30, May 2025 at 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Albany Capital Center located at 55 Eagle Street Albany, NY 12207. By participating, each participant agrees to the State Rules and warrants their compliance with all requirements set forth in the Essay Round Rules, Local Rules, and State Rules. This is a skills-based contest and chance plays no part in the determination of winners.

### ENTRY PROCEDURE

The National Civics Bee Contest is made up of several rounds, each of which is governed by its own set of rules. The first round, the Essay Round, is a prerequisite to entrance into a Local Competition and the

State Competition. State Competition participants must first be selected as one of the winners of the Local Round to advance to the State Finals.

### **FORMAT OF COMPETITION**

Top-scoring entrants to the Essay Round of the National Civics Bee are invited to advance to the Local Round. Winners of the Local Round are invited to advance to the State Competition (each being a "State Finalist"). The parent or legal guardian of each State Finalist must execute and return any required consent and publicity release to the State Host within ten (10) days of invitation, or the State Finalist will be disqualified, and alternate finalist(s) will be chosen. State Finalists must appear in person for the State Competition which will be held on May 30, 2025. The State Finalists will compete in the live State Competition, which will determine the first, second, and third-place winners.

The State Competition will be made up of three rounds, including two rounds of civics-based quiz questions. Each correct answer will receive one point, and each incorrect answer or unanswered question will receive zero points. The five highest-scoring State Finalists from the first two rounds will participate in a third round of the State Competition which will include questions from a panel of judges regarding the State Finalists' essay submissions. The State Finalist with the highest cumulative score at the end of the third round will be determined as the First Place Winner of the State Competition. Second and Third Place winners will also be announced based on the highest cumulative scores from all three rounds.

In participating states with three or more Local Competitions, the top three winners from each Local Competition will advance to compete in the State Competition. After which, the First-Place winners from each State Competition will compete in the National Championship. In participating states with only two Local Competitions, five finalists will advance from each competition for a total of 10 students at the State Competition. In participating states with only one Local Competition, 10 finalists from the Local Competition will advance to the State Competition. In states with only a Statewide Competition, 20 essay finalists will be invited to compete. After which, the First-Place winner from the Statewide Competition will compete in the National Championship.

Each round of the NCB Contest is governed by its own set of rules. Local, State, Statewide, and National Competitions are subject to separate rules, terms, and conditions, and prizes may be won in each round. Participants should consult the applicable rules for specific details on each round.

### **STATE COMPETITION PRIZES**

Each State Finalist that participates in the State Competition will receive a certificate commemorating their participation.

There will be one (1) third-place winner of each National Civics Bee State Competition ("Third Place Winner"). The Third-Place Winner will receive a separate trophy and a cash prize of \$[250].

There will be one (1) second-place winner of each National Civics Bee State Competition ("Second-Place Winner"). The Second-Place Winner will receive a separate trophy and a cash prize of \$[500].

There will be one (1) first-place winner of each National Civics Bee State Competition ("First-Place

Winner"). The First-Place Winner will receive a separate trophy and a cash prize of \$[1,000].

In some cases, the State Host may be able to provide financial support to allow participants to travel to the State Competition, however such support is not guaranteed, and participants should contact the State Host for more details. Prizes may not be transferred or assigned by the winner. No cash equivalent will be provided in lieu of non-cash prizes. The Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prizes in the event of unavailability.

To claim a cash prize, the parent or legal guardian of the winner must provide a valid taxpayer identification number to the Sponsor. Payment of all federal, state, and local taxes are solely the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian of the winner(s).

### **ODDS OF WINNING**

Odds of being selected as a State Finalist or being selected as one of the top three winners of the State Competition depends on the number of entries received and the skill of the entrants.

### **PUBLICITY RELEASE**

You, as parent or legal guardian, hereby grant the Foundation, the Sponsor, and any Local, State, or Statewide Hosts of any round of the National Civics Bee, and any corporate or individual benefactors of Local, State, Statewide, and National Competition, a non-exclusive, perpetual, worldwide, transferable license to edit, telecast, exhibit, rerun, reproduce, use, syndicate, license, print, distribute, and otherwise exploit any photos, videos, or audio taken at the State Competition, or any portion thereof, in any manner, and in any and all formats and media now known or hereafter devised, without payment to you or any third party. You represent and warrant that you are the parent or legal guardian of the minor and provide your express consent for your child and information about your child to appear in any materials submitted with respect to the NCB Contest or related event or ceremony, and you have the full legal right, power, and authority to grant this license. Information about your child may include his/her name, address (city and state), likeness, photograph, voice, biographical information, and/or any statements made by him/her regarding the NCB Contest, the Sponsor, or any other person or entity related to the National Civics Bee. The licenses and releases described above in this paragraph do not provide any license or other rights with respect to the essay written and submitted in the Essay Round.

### **GENERAL RULES**

Neither the Sponsor, the Foundation, nor any affiliated entities or agents are responsible for any illegible, lost, stolen, late, damaged, incomplete, mutilated, or misdirected Entries or other documents. Entrants are responsible for ensuring proper contact information has been submitted and is maintained throughout the National Civics Bee to allow communications about the National Civics Bee.

Erroneous or false information provided during the State Competition will result in immediate disqualification of the participants. During the State Competition, the Sponsor otherwise retains the right to disqualify any participant in their sole discretion. Entries that indicate you or others could be in danger may be reported to the appropriate authorities.

If, for any reason, the State Competition is not capable of running as planned, the Sponsor reserves

the right in their sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the State Competition at any time. The Sponsor reserves the right to amend the rules of the State Competition at any time.

By participating in a State Competition, you understand that there is no joint venture, partnership, employment, or agency relation between you and the Sponsor or the Foundation arising from your participation.

The decisions of the judges are final, and participants specifically agree that the decision of the judges and any decision of the Sponsor or the Foundation is not subject to review or appeal in any forum whatsoever, including courts of law.

The State Host will strive to provide accommodations for participants who have diagnosed and documented conditions. All requests to provide accommodations should be directed to the State Host at least ten business days in advance of the State Competition date.

Entrants agree that personal data, especially name and address, may be processed, shared, and otherwise used for the purposes and within the context of the State Competition and any other purposes outlined in these State Rules. The data may also be used by the Sponsor in order to verify the participant's First Name, Last Name, School Name, ZIP Code, Parent/Guardian's Phone Number/Email, or to otherwise verify the participant's eligibility to participate in the State Competition. Participants have the right to access, review, rectify, or cancel any personal data held by the Sponsor by writing to the Sponsor at [Danielle.gormley@ppinys.org](mailto:Danielle.gormley@ppinys.org).

#### **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

By entering the State Competition, the participant agrees that (1) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or in connection with the State Competition, or any prizes awarded, shall be resolved individually without resort to any form of class action; (2) any claims, judgment, and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering the State Competition, but in no event attorney's fees; and (3) under no circumstances, will any participant be permitted to obtain any award for, and participant hereby waives all rights to claim punitive, incidental, or consequential damages, and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased and any other damages, other than damages for actual out-of-pocket expenses. But in no event shall the liability of the Sponsor exceed \$100.

The participants and their parents/guardians acknowledge that the State Competition is conducted by the Sponsor and not the Foundation. As such, the participants and their parents/guardians will hold harmless, release, and discharge, on behalf of themselves, and their heirs, executors, and assigns, the Foundation and any affiliated entities, and their respective officers, directors, members, employees, agents, affiliates, successors, and assigns, from any and all claims, demands, lawsuits, expenses, injuries, losses, damages, and any other liability of any kind, of or to participant/parents/guardians and any other person or property, or claims based upon directly or indirectly arising out of or in connection with the State Competition, even if due to the negligence, omission, or other fault of the Foundation and any affiliated entities, and their respective officers, directors, members, employees, agents, affiliates, successors, and assigns.

#### **WINNERS LIST**

To request a list of the names of the top three winners of the State Competition, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Business Council of New York State, Inc., 111 Washington Ave. Suite 400, Albany, NY 12210.