



Calling All Middle School Students!

Share your ideas and show off your civics skills in the National Civics Bee.

LOCAL

\$500
cash prize
FIRST PLACE

\$250
cash prize
SECOND PLACE

\$125
cash prize
THIRD PLACE

STATE

\$1,000
cash prize
FIRST PLACE

\$500
cash prize
SECOND PLACE

\$250
cash prize
THIRD PLACE

NATIONAL

State Finalists who advance to the national competition will compete for prizes worth more than **\$50,000**.

About the Bee

The National Civics Bee is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. In the first round of the contest, students will participate in an essay competition. Judges will then select 20 finalists to participate in the final round: a live quiz event testing civics knowledge.

How to Enter

If you are a 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student with an idea about using civics to solve a problem in your community, review the rules and guidelines on this page:

[Civics Bee Students – St. Marys Chamber \(smcchamber.com\)](https://www.smcchamber.com/civics-bee-students)

(case sensitive)

Next, complete the online submission form, including contact information for your parent or guardian, and upload (preferred method) or mail your 500-word essay.

DEADLINE: Essays must be received by January 8, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. [U.S. TIMEZONE]

St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce
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Lexington Park, MD 20653
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The National Civics Bee is presented by the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce, with support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Essay Topic

Identify a problem facing your community. How might a citizen solve the problem?

Write a 500-word essay, two pages, double-spaced, that includes the following:

- What is the problem, and how do different members in your community or neighborhood view it?
- What civic principles or systems could help to address the problem?
- What is your idea or recommendation for solving the problem?
- What primary sources, such as the Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution, provide supporting evidence or examples for your idea or recommendation?
- How might members of your community or neighborhood bring your idea or recommendation to life?

Judging Criteria

Your essay will be evaluated based on how well you:

- Demonstrate an understanding of civics
- Acknowledge and address opposing points of view
- Use primary sources
- Clearly describe an idea innovative or new to you

Best of Luck!

