

We the People

more domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense and our Liberty, do ordain and establish this Constitution

Section 1. All legislative Powers hereby

Section 2. The House of Representatives

in which shall have Jurisdiction res.

No Person shall be a Representative

and who shall not, when elected, be an

Representative and above

Section 3. No Person shall be a Senator

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NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The National High School Mock Trial Championship is the ultimate law-related education experience for the best and brightest high school students in the United States and around the globe. The program is dedicated to promoting an understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system through an academic competition. The NHSMTC provides a challenging opportunity for personal growth and student achievement, while promoting critical thinking and teamwork skills, as well as basic life skills.

Benefits of Participation

The National High School Mock Trial Championship benefits both local mock trial programs and high school teams by providing a ready-made opportunity for students to become more engaged participants in our democratic society.

State Mock Trial Programs

Benefits of your state mock trial program being a member of the NHSMTC, Inc., include:

- The opportunity to send your state champion team to participate in the NHSMTC
- Access to the state coordinator list serve maintained by the NHSMTC
- Access to the online case library
- A subscription to the semi-annual newsletter, *Mock Trial Matters*
- Access to contact information for other state coordinators
- The opportunity to enhance your program's profile in your home state through the accomplishments of your state champion team during the tournament



Participating Teams

Benefits to state champion teams participating in the tournament each year include:

- The opportunity to test their mock trial abilities against the best teams in the world
- The opportunity to gain a more in-depth understanding of the American judicial system
- The opportunity to hone their critical thinking, written and oral advocacy and other basic academic skills
- The opportunity to learn about the legal system in a new state each year
- The opportunity to experience a different American city each year from a unique perspective
- The opportunity to interact with other students of diverse backgrounds

Competition Information

State champion high school mock trial teams from NHSMTC member organizations (one per U.S. state, U.S. territory or foreign country) are eligible to compete in the tournament. Students in grades 9 through 12 (ages 14-19) make up the membership. Teams at nationals are comprised of eight competing student team members plus one student timekeeper. Students work with teacher and attorney coaches to prepare to play the roles of attorneys, witnesses and timekeepers in a court case. Teams have approximately five to six weeks to prepare a new case for the national tournament. The case release date each year is April 1 and the NHSMTC is usually held the second weekend in May.



The competition is made up of four preliminary rounds in which all teams participate. Teams will play either the “P” (Prosecution or Plaintiff) or the “D” (Defense) side of the competition case in each round. Teams are guaranteed to play the P and D side at least one time during the four preliminary rounds. The first round is a random match and all subsequent preliminary round matches are made through a “power-match” scoring system. At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, the two teams with the best records advance to the fifth round: the “National Championship” round.

During each round, a judge presides over the trial, while a panel of attorney evaluators act as the jury and score student performances. Students are scored on their analysis and presentation skills, not on the legal merits of the case.

National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc., Support

Participating teams have the full support of the NHSMTC, Inc., during the tournament each year. Partnering with a local host committee in most years, the NHSMTC provides critical elements of the program:

Case Material—Each year a new and original case is written by the local host committee in collaboration with the NHSMTC Case Committee and released by April 1. These materials are self-contained, meaning no outside or additional research is required to prepare a case using them, and include the facts of the case, the law, witness statements, exhibits, competition and evidentiary rules and procedures, and competition forms.

Competition Rules—Reviewed annually, the NHSMTC Rules of the Competition govern team participation in the tournament and the NHSMTC Rules of Evidence, which are modified from the U.S. Federal Rules of Evidence, govern evidentiary issues that might arise during a trial round.

Competition Scheduling—Working with the local host committee to meet local facility requirements and the specific scheduling needs of participating teams, the NHSMTC provides a competition schedule that allows teams to conduct trial rounds in real-life courtrooms in a different American city each year. Teams are also provided the opportunity to conduct informal scrimmage matches against other participating teams in the days leading up to the first round of competition.

Competition Judging Panels—In conjunction with the local host committee, the NHSMTC provides orientation materials for all judging panel volunteers. Additionally, the NHSMTC supplements local volunteer recruitment efforts by encouraging out-of-state volunteers and members of the NHSMTC Board of Directors to serve on panels. It is the goal of the NHSMTC to provide teams with well-trained, enthusiastic and diverse judging panels in each courtroom each year.

Social Activities—One of the key components of a successful tournament is providing students and adult volunteers with the opportunity to interact with one another in a safe and fun social setting. Team social activities may include a pin exchange reception on Thursday evening, a Friday evening activity and/or an awards presentation on Saturday evening. For adult participants, the host committee may host a reception for judging panel volunteers or offer a hospitality suite during the evening. These activities may be big or small, but at the heart of all planning for social activities during the tournament is the desire to ensure that students and adult volunteers, alike, fully enjoy the tournament experience.



Team/Local Mock Trial Program Responsibilities

Local host committees and the NHSMTC may provide some funding for team participation in the national tournament in the form of complimentary event tickets for competing teams, complimentary tournament souvenirs for competition team members, subsidized event ticket prices for non-competing participants and access to court facilities. State Coordinators receive complimentary event tickets, as well. However, it is the responsibility of the individual team and/or state mock trial program to provide funding in the following areas:

- **Team Registration Fee:** \$500/team, non-refundable
- **NHSMTC Membership Fee** (for the state mock trial program): \$250, beginning with the 2012 tournament, non-refundable
- **Lodging & Transportation Costs:** variable depending on tournament location
- **Meals:** variable depending on tournament location for those meals not covered by complimentary event tickets

All teams are required to travel with adult chaperones, including the primary teacher and attorney coaches. All teams, coaches and spectators are bound by the NHSMTC Code of Ethical Conduct while on site for the tournament weekend.

Contact Us

If you would like more information on entering your state champion team in an upcoming NHSMTC tournament, visit the “Contact Us” section of our website at: www.nationalmocktrial.org.



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP



“Overall, [the NHSMTC was] one of the most amazing experiences of my life.”

NHSMTC Student Participant

“[The national case was the] best case I’ve had in four years of high school mock trial because of its consequence [and] its legal complexity...”

NHSMTC Student Participant

“The [national] tournament was a fantastic experience. I would like to congratulate and commend everyone that worked so hard to bring this wonderful experience to the students...”

Teacher Coach

The NHSMTC has been hosted in cities around the United States including: Albuquerque (NM), Atlanta (GA), Charlotte (NC), Chicago (IL), Columbia (SC), Dallas (TX), Denver (CO), Des Moines (IA), Lincoln (NE), Louisville (KY), Madison (WI), Nashville (TN), New Orleans (LA), Oklahoma City (OK), Omaha (NE), Orlando (FL), Philadelphia (PA), Phoenix (AZ), Pittsburgh (PA), Portland (OR), St. Louis (MO), St. Paul (MN), Washington, D.C., and Wilmington (DE).

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