

What to Expect

2014 Battle of the Carolinas

Middle School Mock Trial Competition

Parking: There is ample parking available for personal vehicles and buses at the Courthouse. There may be some parking roped off for an event. Please respect any roped off areas and any parking signage.

Teams / Visitor Badges: Note that there are only 24 visitor badges allotted per team. Also note that if there are more than 16 students for a middle school team, each remaining student wears one of the 24 visitor badges. Visitors cannot watch their team perform without a visitor's badge. The team bailiff will be asked to collect VISITOR badges as they depart the courtroom following the last round of each day.

Courthouse Security / Cell Phones:

There are metal detectors and security inspections required to gain access into the courthouse with every entry. The coaches and judges (identified by badges) should be given automatic priority in line when going through security throughout the competition. Next priority in getting through security is given to the students. Parents and visitors should be the last that go through security throughout the entire competition day. Cell phones are permitted in this courthouse. Please keep all phones on silent. Lead teacher coaches should have their cell phones on vibrate for emergencies.

Photography / Videography: Video cameras and non-flash photography are permitted from the seated position with the consent of the opposing team and presiding judge.

Introductions: Once teams are in their respective courtrooms, students will be asked to address the scoring jury and presiding judge and provide their name and role in the competition at the beginning of each round as well as at the end of each round. The re-introduction at the end of each round will assist the scoring jury and the teams in awarding the most effective witness and the most effective attorney from each round.

Recess: During the competition, the competing sides will be given a five minute recess prior to their closing arguments. This is an opportunity for students in front of the bar to make adjustments to their closing argument. Students in front of the bar do not leave the courtroom nor have communication with anyone behind the bar. Only individuals behind the bar may leave the courtroom during the five minute recess. There should be no communication across the bar at any time including the recess unless directed by the presiding judge. Teams in front of the bar are NOT permitted to speak with their timekeepers during the five minute recess.

Rounds / Power Matching: This competition has three rounds for all competing teams over the course of two days followed with a championship round for the top two teams on Saturday. All teams are randomly paired with a South Carolina team versus a North Carolina team. All subsequent rounds are powermatched based on the results of each round performed. LRE incorporates powermatching, which is a form of pairing that mirrors National High School Mock Trial, which cannot take place until all teams have completed a round. Detailed information about powermatching can be found in the South Carolina competition handbook.

Snacks / Meals: Teams are on their own for snacks; which is to be consumed outside of the courthouse or in small waiting rooms on the first and second floors. (Do note that these rooms should not be reserved ahead of time. There are enough waiting rooms between the two floors for all teams to have a waiting room for breaks and snacks.) A catered lunch will be provided for teacher coaches, attorney coaches and students. Guests will be permitted to purchase a catered meal prior to arrival at the competition. Please make sure that all teams and guests clean up any trash inside/outside courthouse.

Closing Assembly: Prior to the closing assembly, scoresheets will be tabulated. Any badges not collected after the third round should be collected at this time. Teacher coaches also need to complete their evaluations. The location of the on-site closing assembly will be noted on the agenda provided at registration.

Championship Round: At the close of the announcements, the top two teams competing in the championship round will be announced. Guests and parents of the two team championship round contestants will have first seating available. The courtroom has ample space available for any teams wanting to view the championship round. No food or beverages permitted. The winner of the 2014 Battle of the Carolinas Middle School Mock Trial Competition will be announced approximately 20 minutes following the close of the championship round.