



We the People  
THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

## GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS

### NATIONAL FINALS 2013

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> 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. They are designed to maintain a safe and fair environment for all students attending the National Finals. Questions may be directed to a competition volunteer (yellow tag on badge) or a Center staff member (red tag on badge).

#### Information Desk

Visitors must register at the Center's Information Desk each day (see below for location information). Each visitor will be issued a state badge that must be worn at all times during competition events. Any person not wearing a name or state badge will be denied access to hearing rooms.

Information Desk locations:

Saturday and Sunday: George W. Johnson Center ground floor lobby, George Mason University

Monday: Cannon House Office Building, Room 121

#### Hearing Rooms

A competition volunteer will be stationed in the hallways outside the hearing rooms to monitor admittance. Volunteers are instructed to check color-coded name and state badges and, if necessary, provide valid reasons for denying entrance. Admittance to hearing rooms is based on space availability.

1. No one connected with any competing class (competition teachers, coaches, chaperons, 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 members of the media may attend any hearings.
  - b. Classes competing Monday afternoon and people affiliated with those classes may not attend any hearings on Monday. 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 (between units) and after the judges have left the room so that student testimony is not interrupted. On Saturday and Sunday, no one will be admitted once a hearing is underway. On Monday, at the

discretion of the room supervisor, visitors may be admitted after a hearing is underway if the room is designed so that admittance will not distract students.

3. Hearing rooms are limited in size. The number of open seats depends on the class size and number of visitors. 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 hearing.

Do not bring chairs from other rooms. Visitors may stand in the back of the room unless otherwise directed due to fire codes and at the discretion of the teacher, room supervisor, or Center staff.

4. Visitors must realize that comments to students, however well-intended, can be unsettling in the course of a competition. It is important, therefore, that any comments made regarding students, the class, or the teacher, are supportive and positive.

### **Student Briefing Room**

On the Saturday and Sunday of the National Finals, competition volunteers and Center staff will first direct students to a briefing room upon arrival on the George Mason University campus, and from this room to the hearing rooms at the appropriate time. The student briefing will take place in Dewberry Hall, located in the George W. Johnson Center. Visitors will be admitted if there is space available. At the end of the briefing, we request that visitors stand away from the door of the student briefing room until all students have left the room for their hearing rooms. Visitors then will be directed to hearing rooms.

Volunteers and staff will also direct students out of the campus buildings once the hearings are completed. Often one group is departing at the same time another group is arriving. Because of the number of students in motion at any time, and because the competition runs on a very tight schedule, it is important to cooperate with directions from competition volunteers and Center staff about where to wait for the briefing or the hearings.

### **Parking at George Mason University on Saturday and Sunday**

If you are driving to campus, note that most GPS devices only recognize the 4400 University Drive address for George Mason University. Once on campus, you will need to follow the signs or a campus map.

Saturday and Sunday commuters to the competition (George W. Johnson Center on the George Mason University–Fairfax campus) may park for free in Lot K. The walk from Lot K to the Johnson Center is approximately twenty minutes. If closer parking is needed, the Mason Pond Parking Deck will have limited availability for a fee of \$3/hour (\$14/day max) on Saturday and \$7/day on Sunday.

### **Metrorail Information to and from George Mason University**

The closest Metrorail stop to George Mason University is the Vienna Orange Line metro stop. On Saturday and Sunday, hours of operation may vary. For more information on the shuttle service, please visit the George Mason University Shuttle Services [website](#).