



U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Foundation



2026 National Civics Bee

Volunteer Essay Judge Opportunity

Bee Civically Engaged. Bee an Evaluator. Bee a National Civics Bee Essay Judge.



The National Civics Bee® is an annual competition that encourages young Americans nationwide to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades submit 750-word (max) essays explaining how they could improve their communities using civics.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Essay judges are critical to the National Civics Bee. As an essay judge, you would:

1 Help select finalists for a national youth competition.

Evaluate student essays during the judging window for a total of 1-3 hours of volunteer time. Your scores determine which finalists advance to the live regional competitions.

2 Gain insights from America's next generation of leaders.

Learn about the community issues students care about most and consider their unique solutions.

3 Participate in a virtual community service opportunity.

Complete your 1-3 hours of volunteer time on your own schedule with 24/7 access to the online judging window. Receive training and materials online.

“Now that I’m here and I’m meeting all these other people who are passionate about civics, I’m realizing that it’s not just the study of the people and the government, it’s also a way of bringing people together.”

Emily Brubaker
2024 National Civics Bee Champion



NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

1 Apply

Complete the interest form online:

GO TO FORM

2 Refer

Share this flyer with your friends, family, colleagues, and community.

3 Train

Complete online training.

4 Evaluate

Read and evaluate essays in February 2026.

For additional questions, email civictrust@uschamber.com



“I enjoyed seeing how the students evaluated and solved problems. Their engagement was both heartwarming and showed positivity for our future.”

2025 National Civics Bee Judge