

## Minnesota State Competition and Showcase Rules

The We the People Minnesota Program offers two ways in which students may participate in the *We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution Minnesota State Competition and Showcase*. Teachers indicate the category of participation on the registration form.

### Constitutional Scholars

- The students in your class will study all six units.
- The students will divide into six teams with each team answering questions from one of the six units.
- Each team will prepare answers for both unit questions but will be asked by the judges to respond to only one question.
- Students may participate at the high school or junior high/middle school level.
- The team that will be selected to represent Minnesota in the National We the People Competition must compete in all six units at the high school level.

### Constitutional Fellows

- Students will study one to five units.
- They will study some but not all of the We the People materials and will show what they know by dividing into teams, answering questions from as many units as desired (but less than all six).
- The teacher and students select the units. In addition, the teacher may select one of the two questions from each unit. This limits the amount of time students will need to prepare and makes it possible for students to participate when the course curriculum does not include all content of the We the People textbook.
- Constitutional Fellows are not eligible to represent Minnesota in the National We the People Competition.
- Constitutional Fellows preparing for both unit questions can compete for unit awards.

### Class Requirements

Classes that compete as Constitutional Scholars must:

- must include all members of the class and have at least 9 students
- be constituted according to the school's normal policies and procedures
- be designated on the school's schedule of class offerings as a required or elective course
- be in session during official school hours
- have all students officially registered for the class
- provide credits for graduation to students for satisfactory course completion
- if the course ends before the state competition, students from the course may continue to meet and participate in the state competition. All students in the course must be given the opportunity to participate. If all students from the course do not participate, the school principal must submit a letter explaining that students have chosen not to participate.

In addition to meeting during regularly scheduled class periods, students may meet outside of school hours.

Each group of students testifying on their unit must have at least three students. Students may be in a maximum of two groups.

When a class has fewer than 18 students, teachers may allow some students to participate in two groups but not more than two. The number of students allowed to participate in more than one group is determined by the total number of students in the class.

| Number of students in the class | Number of different students participating in two groups |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 17                              | 1  |
| 16                              | 2  |
| 15                              | 3  |
| 14                              | 4  |
| 13                              | 5  |
| 12                              | 6  |
| 11                              | 7  |
| 10                              | 8  |
| 9                               | 9  |

Two high school classes may be combined to compete if the total number of students does not exceed 35 students. Both classes must meet the definition of a class and all students must participate in the hearing competition. Students in both classes must be listed on the class roster. The combining of two classes must have the approval of the We the People Minnesota State Director.

Teachers must provide a copy of their **official class roster**, signed by the appropriate school administrator. The class roster shall identify the unit to which each student is assigned. Teachers may change unit assignments up to the date of the competition. However, a revised class roster with new unit assignments must be submitted. The revised class roster need not be signed by the school administrator.

When too many classes competing as Constitutional Scholars enter from any one Congressional District, a runoff competitive hearing may be required by the State We the People Director. This will only happen when the number of competitive teams exceeds the time spaces available.

## **Behavior Guidelines**

Teachers will inform their students that the Minnesota State Competition and Showcase desires diversity and involves students of different ages and abilities.

Students must behave in a respectful manner, adhering to rules of decorum including no name calling, rude interrupting, ignoring adult instructions and competition rules. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in removal from the competition.

No unauthorized phones, audio or video recording during the competition hearings.

Parents, chaperones, and other special guests are welcome to watch their classes. They may not observe other classes. They must wear a nametag that identifies their school.

Once a simulated hearing begins, no one may enter or leave the room.

Students are not permitted to watch other classes participate in the simulated hearings.

### **Bad Weather Policy**

To maintain the safety, integrity, quality and fairness of the program, the We the People Minnesota State Director reserves the right to cancel the state event. This will happen only in extraordinary circumstances, e.g. shutdown of state government. However because the safety of students participating in the Minnesota State Competition and Showcase is of extreme concern, classes coming from schools that are closed or prohibited from traveling due to bad weather will have the opportunity to compete at a rescheduled event to take place as soon as possible. In this situation, the teacher must contact the We the People State Director immediately to reserve the right to participate in the rescheduled event.

For more information or clarification, contact Jennifer Bloom, We the People Minnesota Director ([jbloom@civicallyspeaking.org](mailto:jbloom@civicallyspeaking.org)) or 651-772-4276.