



**Empowering our youth to raise their voices, show off their civics skills and be informed, involved citizens**



## About the Bee:

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and local chambers of commerce across Illinois to host a first-of-its-kind statewide civics competition. The 2023-24 National Civics Bee encourages middle school students in grades 6-8 to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

The competition, modeled on traditional spelling and geography bees, gives students the chance to win recognition and earn cash prizes by sharing ideas for improving their communities and showing their enthusiasm for civics. The winner of the National Civics Bee Illinois State Finals will be invited to Washington, D.C. to compete in the inaugural National Civics Bee national championship in Fall 2024.

## Why Civics?

We are hosting the **National Civics Bee** Illinois State Finals because we believe that informed and active citizens make for a strong country, a strong economy, and a strong workforce, and that our continued prosperity depends on the strength of all three.

Through the Bee, we are promoting greater civic knowledge throughout Illinois and celebrating our civic pride.

## Who is Eligible + How to Enter

Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student residing in [insert State name] with an idea about using civics to improve their community may submit their essay to participate in one of the local competitions linked below. Students should review the Contest Rules and Essay Guide below, and then apply using the following link:

## RESOURCES/ADDITIONAL INFO:

- [Essay Guide](#)
- [National Civics Bee® Highlights Video](#)
- [National Civics Bee® Website](#)

## National Civics Bee Competition Dates in your area:

### Champaign County Chamber of Commerce

April 5, 2025, at Parkland Student Union

<https://www.champaigncounty.org/advocacy/national-civics-bee/>

**Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce**

March 13, 2025, at Lake Zurich High School Performing Arts Center

<https://lzacc.com/national-civics-bee/>

**O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce**

March 13, 2025, at The Hett at McKendree University

<https://ofallonchamber.com/civicsbee/>

**Orland Park**

**Date/Location TBD**

<https://orlandparkchamber.org/nationalcivicsbee/>

**The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce**

April 22, 2025, at Lanphier High School Auditorium

<https://www.gsccl.org/national-civics-bee/>

**CONTACT US:**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jill Vancil at: [jvancil@ilchamber.org](mailto:jvancil@ilchamber.org).