

CSI Arizona State Competition Frequently Asked Questions

Logistics

Q. Can teams bring backpacks into the competition area?

A. Students may bring a backpack but should not utilize it during the competition and the Foundation is not responsible for any items lost.

Q: Are personal laptops/cellphones allowed?

A: Personal laptops and cellphones will not be utilized during the competition. All photos must be taken using Foundation provided devices. If students choose to bring their own devices for their personal use, they are responsible for the safety and security of their device. They may not use it during the competition.

Q: Is there a dress code?

A: Teams must adhere to their school policies regarding dress code. Additionally, to ensure each team remains anonymous, please make sure you and your students refrain from wearing any articles of clothing with the school's name or identifying paraphernalia.

Q: Can teams conduct online research during the competition?

A: Additional online research is not permitted during the competition. All necessary preparation (i.e., knowing how to lift a fingerprint) should be completed prior to arriving at the competition.

Q: Can teams bring outside notes?

A: Notes brought to the competition will not be allowed during the rounds. Students may review notes prior to the start of the competition but must put them away before the first round begins.

Q: Are notepads allowed for documenting or taking notes?

A: The Foundation will provide all notepads for the competition.

Equipment

Q: Will cameras be used to photograph the mock crime scene?

A: The Foundation will provide 1 tablet per team to take pictures. Only the Foundation's device may be utilized.

Q: Are tools provided or do teams bring their own?

A: The Foundation provides crime scene processing kits, which must be returned at the time designated on the agenda provided by the Foundation. The team coach will sign the equipment in and out and is responsible for its return. Outside tools are not permitted.

Q: What types of microscopes/tools will be provided?

A: Each competition may be different in regard to the mock crime scene and what tools are needed. Teams will determine what is needed when they arrive at the mock crime scene. All necessary tools will be provided at the event by the Foundation.

Team Structure and Judging

Q: Can teams set up their own team structure?

A: Teams are responsible for organizing their own team structure. However, it's important to designate one or two members from each team as the "Crime Lab Runner." This individual will be solely responsible for submitting items to the crime lab and delivering the results back to their team. Crime Lab Runners will have a designated nametag. Any team members that are not Crime Lab Runners are not permitted to take evidence to the crime lab, nor can they accompany the Crime Lab Runner.

Q: Is judging based on a point system or presentation of the hypothesis

A: Each round has its own point system, with all rounds tabulated together for an overall score.

Crime Scene and Evidence

Q: Will the crime scene be in one room or multiple rooms?

A: Each team will have their own crime scene which will be confined to one space.

Q: Will there be a pre-competition case debrief?

A: Teams will receive necessary information from a "responding officer" when they arrive at the mock crime scene.

Q: Will background information on suspects be provided?

A: All necessary and relevant information is accessible. However, each team will receive details individually, depending on the questions they ask witnesses and the evidence they submit or request from the crime lab.

Q: Will teams need to test for fingerprints, blood stains, etc.?

A: Teams will determine what is needed for the mock crime scene when they arrive at the mock crime scene. The competition scenarios will vary year to year.

Q: What lab testing is permitted?

A: Teams will determine what lab testing is needed when they process their mock crime scene. It may vary year to year.

Q: Will white blood cell testing be necessary?

A: No. White blood cell testing is not applicable to the current cases.

Q: Can items be submitted to the Crime Lab after suspect questioning?

A: Teams will have the opportunity to submit and request information from the crime lab during rounds 2 and 3 of the competition. The crime lab hours will be listed on the agenda provided by the Foundation. The Crime Lab is closed during lunch.

Interviewing

Q: Will recording devices be provided when interviewing suspects?

A: The Foundation issued tablets can be utilized as recording devices during suspect interviews.

Q: How will interviews be conducted?

A: A volunteer will serve as a witness and will respond to questions asked.

Q: How many suspects will there be?

A: Mock crime scenes will vary year to year. Teams will determine the number of suspects/witnesses based on their detective work at the competition. This information will not be disclosed prior to arrival.

Q: Can teams choose who interviews suspects, and is there a limit on questioners?

A: Teams may choose who should question the witness(es). The entire team may listen to the conversation and take notes. It is up to the team how they will conduct their interviews. Each team is allotted a certain amount of time with each witness so they should use their time wisely.

Q: Can a suspect be recalled for further questioning?

A: Teams may request to re-interview a witness, but it is not guaranteed and depends on time. Each team can interview a requested witness once per round if the request is made during the round.

Final Presentations

Q: What final presentation format is required?

A: The presentation in the final round will be verbal and students may use notes written on their notepad. Equipment for a power point will not be available. Judges may ask questions during the presentation.

Q: Will presentations be cut off if they exceed the allotted time?

A: Each team is allotted a specific amount of time for their presentation. To maintain fairness, teams will be stopped at the specified time.

Spectators and Coaches

Q: What is my role as a teacher or officer coach?

A: The role of the coach is to help teams prepare prior to the State Competition. Once at the competition their role is to supervise the competing students and ensure their safety. No competition assistance or guidance may be provided once the competition begins. Points may be deducted from their team if they assist them in the competition.

Q: Are spectators allowed?

A: Yes. Spectators are welcome to attend, however, please be aware that space is limited in some rooms, and we cannot guarantee seating in the same room as the competition. Spectators will be responsible for providing their own meals and will not be permitted to join competing teams during the lunch break. If a school brings other students as spectators, the student spectators must have their own chaperone. The team coach must be available at all times for the competition students.

Q. Code of Conduct

A: All team members, coaches, and spectators are expected to compete/observe with the highest standards of respect for other participants, whether they are opponents, volunteers, spectators, teacher coaches, and competition personnel. All competitors and participants will focus on accepting defeat and success with dignity and restraint. The competition and activities will be conducted honestly, fairly, and with the utmost civility.



Members and participants will avoid all tactics they know are wrong or in violation of the rules. Participants will not willfully violate the Rules of the Program in spirit or in practice.