

## **CSI Arizona State Competition Guidelines**

The Arizona Bar Foundation is the official sponsor of the **CSI Arizona Competition** with funding by the Arizona Department of Education.

Participating in the CSI Arizona Competition provides students the opportunity to showcase what they have learned in the field of forensic science by applying their knowledge and skills to evidence gathering and crime scene analysis.

To participate in the CSI Arizona State Tournament, teams must qualify through the virtual CSI Arizona Qualification Scenario. Teams will be grouped by region, and the top teams from each region will be invited to compete at State. The regional map can be found at <https://lawforkids.org/programs/csi-arizona/document-center/important-documents/1828-csi-arizona-competition-regional-map/file>.

A total of 10 teams will be invited to the State Tournament—5 from each grade division (middle school and high school). If one division does not fill all 5 spots, the remaining openings will be given to the other division based on overall performance in the Qualification Scenario.

### **GRADE DIVISIONS**

- Middle School Division: Teams comprised of 6-8th grade students
- High School Division: Teams comprised of 9-12th grade students

### **TEAMS**

When a team is invited to State by qualifying from the Qualification Scenario, the same 4-6 students that competed as a team in the Qualification Scenario, must compete at the State Competition. Substitutions cannot be made unless a student is ill or has a family emergency on the day of the State Competition. Notify the Foundation prior to the State Competition.

Schools may have multiple teams compete if more than one team from their school qualified through the virtual Qualification Scenario. In the event of multiple competing teams, each team must be accompanied by a designated coach or chaperone who will provide supervision throughout the entirety of the event.

Each team will use a team code that is randomly assigned and provided by the Foundation. Use of their school's name before and during competition is prohibited.

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## REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is not required as this is an invitation only event. The top 10 teams will be invited via email to the State Competition. Notify the Foundation immediately if you will not compete at the State Competition.

## COMPETING

All teams must compete in the virtual Qualification Scenario to qualify for the in-person State Competition. A total of 10 teams will be invited to the State Competition—5 from each grade division (middle school and high school). The CSI Arizona State Competition rules are as follows:

- Teams will compete in-person at a venue within Maricopa County. Venue information and details will be provided by the Foundation.
- On the day of the State Competition, each team will be presented with a simulated crime scene and will be evaluated on the following 5 areas:
  1. Crime Scene Processing & Documentation
  2. Collection, Preservation & Processing of Physical Evidence
  3. Physical Evidence Examination & Interpretation
  4. Interviewing
  5. Final Presentation
- Teacher coaches, Officer coaches, and spectators CANNOT provide any competition assistance or guidance to the team once the Competition begins. Teams violating this rule will receive point deductions and possible disqualification.
- The use of any form of AI or online research during the competition is strictly prohibited.
- While in round, teams must remain within their designated areas. Failure to do so will result in a score of zero for that round.

## SCORING

- Teams will be scored in each of the five evaluation areas. Scores will be combined to determine an overall total. The team with the highest score in each grade division will be named State Champion.
- In the event of a tie, a pre-determined tiebreaker process will be used.
- A different panel of judges will evaluate each round to ensure fairness and objectivity.

## EQUIPMENT

- Each team will be provided a “crime scene kit” containing all necessary equipment, including a tablet.
- Kits must be returned at a designated time to a specified volunteer. The team coach is responsible for the safe return of the kit/tablet back to Foundation staff.
- A teacher coach or officer must check out and return the kit. A signature will be required for verification.

## OFFICER/TEACHER COACH RESPONSIBILITY

- Coaches are responsible for verifying that all team members are officially enrolled students.

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- Coaches must accompany their team and serve as chaperones throughout the event.
- Coaches may not provide competition assistance to their teams during the competition. Violations will result in penalties. If a medical need and/or student emergency arises, the coach is responsible for assisting the student according to their school's policies.
- If any issue arises, coaches should report it to Foundation Staff or designated contact.

#### DRESS CODE

Each team must adhere to their school policies regarding appropriate dress. Teams must not wear paraphernalia or clothing that provides any identification of their school including school name and/or mascot. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in automatic disqualification.

#### MEDIA RELEASE FORMS

All competing team members and their respective coaches must submit signed media release forms provided by the Foundation two weeks in advance of the State Competition. If there is an issue with completing the media release, please notify Foundation staff at least 1 week prior to the event.

#### AWARDS

The winning and runner-up teams in each grade division will be presented with a trophy to be displayed at their school.

#### SPECTATORS

Spectators are allowed to attend but a guarantee of space to directly observe the competition cannot be guaranteed. It is possible they may not be able to see their team due to space limitation. Priority for space is given to the team, coach, volunteers, and organization staff. Spectators are not allowed in competing team rooms.

#### CODE OF CONDUCT

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.

#### QUESTIONS

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Foundation staff, or as otherwise previously directed.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of a protest, conflict, or dispute during the course of the competition, the final arbitration shall be the responsibility of the Arizona Bar Foundation. Issues must be made in writing to the Senior Director of Education Programs. Any issues that have not been resolved after communication efforts have been exhausted with the Foundation's Senior Director of Education Programs, the complainant may contact the Foundation's Executive Director/CEO in writing to state their concern, attempts made to reach the resolution, and desired resolution not reached.

**Good luck to all CSI Arizona State Competition qualifying teams!!**

Questions or interpretations of these guidelines are within the discretion of the Arizona Bar Foundation Law-Related Education Committee and Board of Directors (the "Foundation"), whose decisions are final.