



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 Competition, teams must qualify through the virtual CSI Arizona Qualification Scenario. Invitations to the State Competition will be extended to qualifying teams based on final rankings, regional representation, and the overall competition structure for that year. Teams will be grouped by region, and selected qualifying 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>.

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, only students who participated in and completed the advancing Qualification Scenario are eligible to compete at the State Competition. Teams may not add new students after qualifying. Substitutions may only be made if an original team member is unable to attend the State Competition; however, substitutions may not be used to increase the number of students competing at State beyond the number who participated in the Qualification Scenario. 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 their own designated coach or chaperone who will provide supervision throughout the entirety of the event.

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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.

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is not required as this is an invitation only event. The top 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. 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 evaluated through a series of competition rounds. High school teams will participate in four rounds. The competition will focus on:
 1. Scene preservation, documentation, and evidence collection
 2. Evidence processing and physical examination
 3. Investigative interviewing (high school only)
 4. Final presentation of hypothesis
- Teacher coaches, Officer coaches, and spectators CANNOT provide any competition assistance or guidance to the team once the Competition begins. Communication with teams is only permitted during designated times listed on the official Foundation agenda. 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. The State Competition should reflect the knowledge and skill of the students without the use of artificial intelligence or online research.
- 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 according to the evaluation areas outlined in the scoring rubric for each round in which they participate. High school teams will complete four rounds, and middle school teams will complete three rounds. All round scores will be combined to determine each team's 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

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- 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 must accompany their team and serve as chaperones throughout the entire duration of the event. If a team does not have a school approved coach present, the team is ineligible to participate in competition.
- The Foundation provides student lunches based on the completion of the Dietary Needs Form by the coach by the deadline designated by the Foundation. If the form is not completed or if accurate information is not provided regarding dietary needs, coaches are responsible for ensuring their students have an appropriate lunch.
- Coaches may not provide competition assistance to their teams during the competition except during times designated on the Foundation provided agenda. Scores can be impacted if coaches or spectators try to assist the team.
- 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.

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.

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,

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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 Chief Learning Officer. Any issues that have not been resolved after communication efforts have been exhausted with the Foundation's Chief Learning Officer, 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.