



Strengthening America Together



U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Foundation

THE NEED

70%

of adults fail a basic civics quiz

79%

of 8th graders are below proficient in civics

26%

of adults can't name a single 1st Amendment right

52%

of young people think democracy has failed or is in trouble

58%

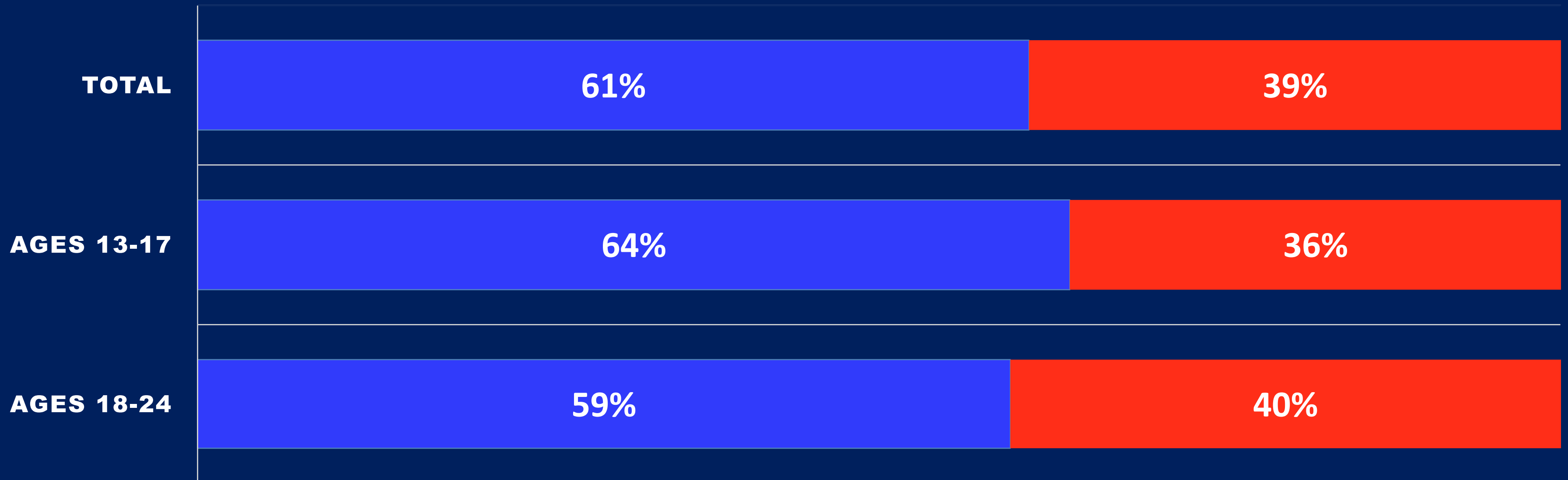
of Americans think we're on the wrong track as a country

85%

of adults agree our country is divided

TikTok or the right to vote?

■ Give up right to vote for one year ■ Give up social media accounts for one year



Source: ReBoot Foundation with YouGov and Survey Monkey
Spring 2023

Vision

Our vision is that every American has the knowledge, skills, and disposition to exercise their rights and fulfill their responsibilities in our democracy.

Mission

Increase civic knowledge and educate Americans about the link between democracy and capitalism.



About the National Civics Bee®

- The National Civics Bee® is a national competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.
- Participating 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students flex their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes.
- In 2024, finalists who advance to the national competition will compete for prizes worth more than \$50,000.
- In under two years, the competition has grown significantly from five to 28 states with plans to expand to all 50 states by “America’s 250th birthday” in 2026.
- Visit www.nationalcivicsbee.org to learn more and to test your civic knowledge!



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Competition Structure

The National Civics Bee® is hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in partnership with state and local chambers of commerce from across the country.

The contest contains four phases:

- **Phase 1 - Essay Round:** To enter the National Civics Bee®, the first step is to submit a maximum 500-word essay regarding a problem facing their community and ideas for solving it using civics. These essays are evaluated by community leaders across the country to determine the top 20 finalists for each local competition.
- **Phase 2 - Local Competition:** The Local Competition is a 90-minute, in-person live event featuring two rounds of civics questions followed by a Q&A round with a live panel of judges. The top three winners win cash prizes and advance to the State Finals.
- **Phase 3 - State Competition:** The top three winners from each local competition advance to compete in their state's competition, which is another 90-minute live event featuring three rounds. The top three finalists with the highest cumulative scores win cash prizes, and the winner advances to the national competition.
- **Final Round - National Competition:** The winner from each state will advance to the National Competition to compete for the national title in Washington, D.C.! *Save the Date:* November 12, 2024, Washington, D.C.

2025 National Civics Bee® Timeline:

- **Summer – Early Fall 2024:** Chamber Partner Onboarding; Begin engaging partners, including educators & youth organizations.
- **Fall 2024 – Winter 2025:** Essay Submission Portal open.
- **Late February – April 2025:** Local Bees take place.
- **Mid-May – August 2025:** State Bees take place.
- **Fall 2025:** National Championship takes place in D.C.

Local Chamber Key Responsibilities

Chambers chosen as local partners may apply for grant funding to support their participation. Local Partners commit to the following:

- Promote the competition to educators, schools, homeschool networks, and youth organizations with a goal of securing 100+ essay applications.
- Host a nonpartisan civics competition in spring of 2025 for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.
- Recruit essay judges, event judges, an emcee, and live event speakers.
- Secure 20 wi-fi enabled tablets for student finalists' use during the live quiz event.
- Engage local media and other partners to promote the National Civics Bee®.
- Engage business leaders as sponsors, speakers, and/or judges.
- Secure trophies for the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners and provide all finalists with certificates.
- Use official National Civics Bee® materials, resources, and guidance.
- Participate in regular meetings and communications with U.S. Chamber Foundation staff.
- Complete required surveys and reports.



Chamber Testimonials

- This initiative not only enriches the minds of our youth but also strengthens the fabric of our community, empowering future leaders and fostering a deeper understanding of civic responsibility.
— **Jennifer Holloway, Executive Director, Craig Chamber of Commerce (Colorado)**
- By strengthening American civic life, we are supporting a healthy democracy, vibrant communities, and a healthy economic future.
— **Whitney Harmel, Executive Director, Maryland Chamber Foundation (Maryland)**
- Participation in the National Civics Bee® has been transformative for our chamber, fostering deeper connections with our community's educational institutions. It's not just about knowledge; it's about empowerment and engagement, forging stronger bonds between our chamber, city, region, schools, and families.
• — **Esmeralda Villarreal, President & CEO, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce (Texas)**
- "This competition not only promotes civic education but also instills in our youth the values of citizenship, responsibility, and active engagement. We believe that by supporting initiatives like the National Civics Bee®, we are investing in the prosperity and vitality of our community for generations to come."
— **Tiffany Coleman, Director of Accounting & Special Events, Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce (Kentucky)**
- The National Civics Bee® has been a powerful tool to light a fire for civic engagement and problem solving in a healthy way in many of the youth that participated.
— **Curtis Jones, Director of Government Affairs, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership (Pennsylvania)**

Resources & Support Examples



 **National Civics Bee**

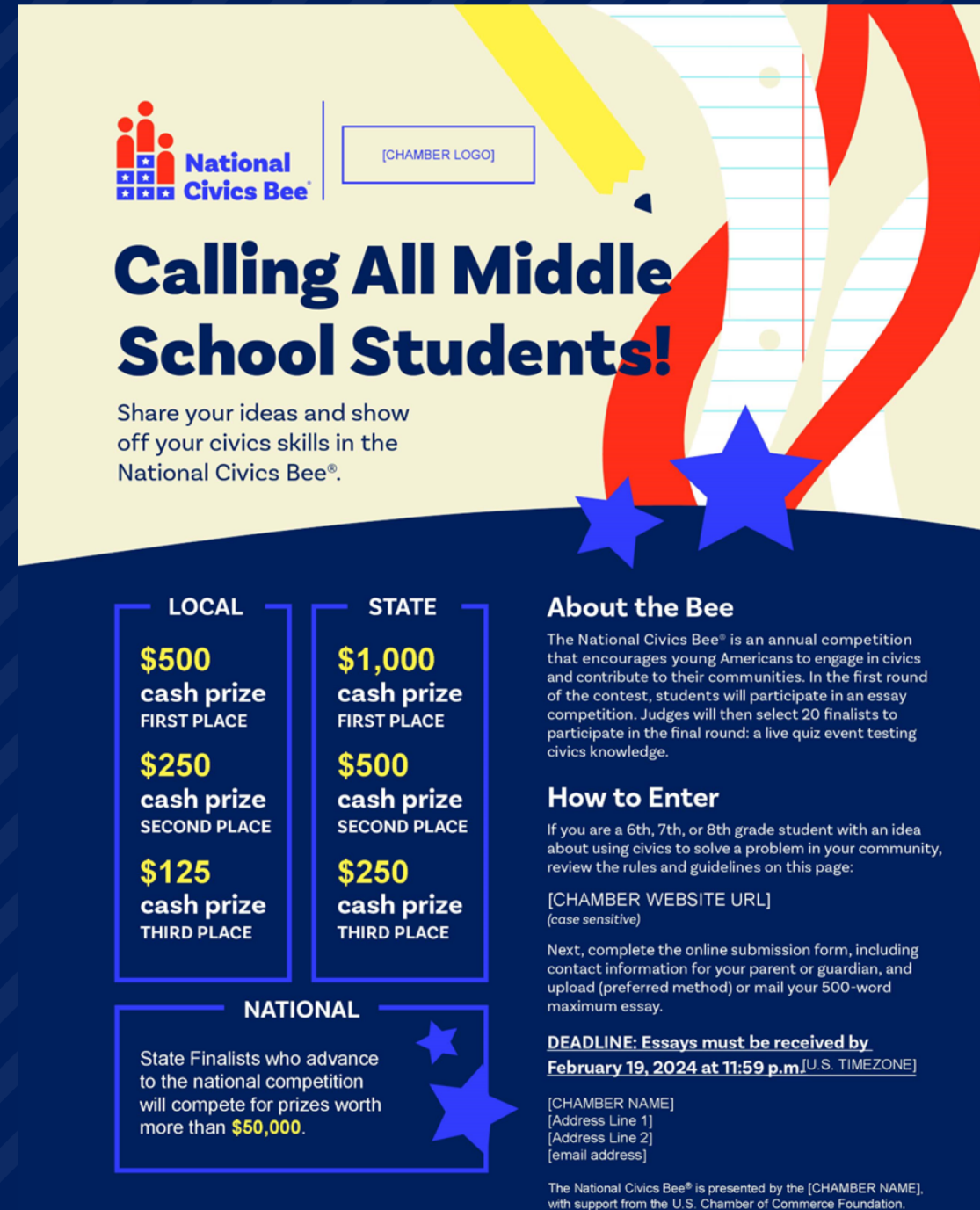
Playbook


for Local Competition Partners
2023-2024

[Go to FAQs](#)

 **THE CIVIC TRUST**

Email: civictrust@uschamber.com



 **National Civics Bee** [CHAMBER LOGO]

Calling All Middle School Students!

Share your ideas and show off your civics skills in the National Civics Bee®.

LOCAL	STATE
\$500 cash prize FIRST PLACE	\$1,000 cash prize FIRST PLACE
\$250 cash prize SECOND PLACE	\$500 cash prize SECOND PLACE
\$125 cash prize THIRD PLACE	\$250 cash prize THIRD PLACE

NATIONAL

State Finalists who advance to the national competition will compete for prizes worth more than **\$50,000**.

About the Bee

The National Civics Bee® is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. In the first round of the contest, students will participate in an essay competition. Judges will then select 20 finalists to participate in the final round: a live quiz event testing civics knowledge.

How to Enter

If you are a 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student with an idea about using civics to solve a problem in your community, review the rules and guidelines on this page:

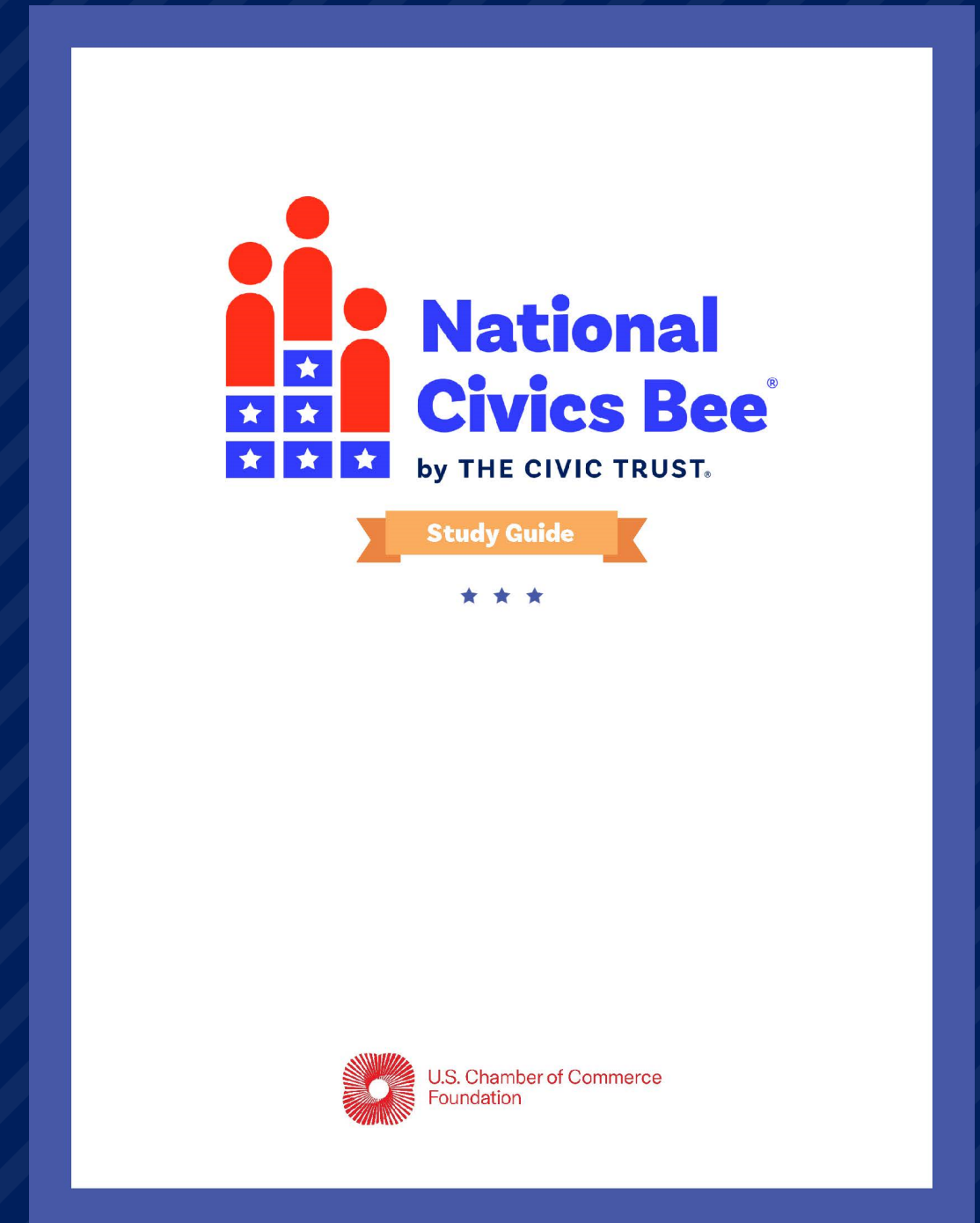
[CHAMBER WEBSITE URL]
(case sensitive)


Next, complete the online submission form, including contact information for your parent or guardian, and upload (preferred method) or mail your 500-word maximum essay.

DEADLINE: Essays must be received by February 19, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.[U.S. TIMEZONE]

[CHAMBER NAME]
[Address Line 1]
[Address Line 2]
[email address]


The National Civics Bee® is presented by the [CHAMBER NAME], with support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.



 **National Civics Bee**
by THE CIVIC TRUST.

Study Guide

★ ★ ★

 U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

America's
NEXT TOP CITIZEN



Contact Us

Sarah Schmidt

Manager, Civic Partnerships
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
sschmidt@uschamber.com

National Civics Bee® Webpage:

www.nationalcivicsbee.com