



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 2, 2026**

**O'Fallon-Shiloh IL Chamber of Commerce to Host National Civics Bee® Regional Competition for Middle Schoolers**  
*Middle school students to showcase civic knowledge and compete for a national title*

O'Fallon, IL — The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with local educators, will host the 2026 National Civics Bee Regional Competition, an event designed to inspire young Americans to engage in civics and make a difference in their communities.

The journey to this competition began with 557 students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades from area schools submitting essays identifying a community issue and proposing thoughtful solutions. After a thorough review process, the top 20 students were selected as finalists.

These finalists will now take the stage in a live quiz-style competition, testing their knowledge of government, history, and civic engagement while sharing their ideas for strengthening their community.

Finalists represent five area schools:

- Edward Fulton Junior High
- Amelia Carriel Junior High
- Shiloh Middle School
- St. Clare Catholic School
- Joseph Arthur Middle School

The competition will take place on Wednesday, May 6 at 6 p.m. at The Hett at McKendree University (400 North Alton Street, Lebanon) and is open to the public. Winners from the local event will advance to the state competition for a chance to move on to the national level.

More than just a competition, the National Civics Bee highlights the importance of civic engagement and encourages students to take an active role in shaping their communities.

"I can tell you firsthand, these students will impress you. The ideas they've come up with and the way they think about our community is pretty incredible. We'd love to have a great crowd there to support them and celebrate what they've accomplished," says O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Debbie Arell-Martinez.

Community members are encouraged to attend and cheer on these students. Seating is limited, so we ask that you register in advance at [National Civics Bee -Please join us! - May 6, 2026 - -- O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce](#) to help us plan for a great event.

**For additional information, please contact Debbie Arell-Martinez, [director@ofallonchamber.com](mailto:director@ofallonchamber.com).**

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### **About National Civics Bee®**

The National Civics Bee®, a program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's The Civic Trust®, is an annual nonpartisan competition aimed at improving civics education and literacy among middle school students, their families, and communities. The National Civics Bee® helps elevate civics as a national priority through a network of state and local chambers across the country. The National Civics Bee® is made possible through the generous support of its founding partner, the Daniels Fund, Citizen Travelers, and other funders.