



# NJC PLANNING GUIDE

## EXERCISE YOUR MIND

NJC is still months away, but planning can start today! This planning guide includes all the information you'll need to prepare for the event.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

NJC is a mix of challenging Trial and Appellate Competition and opportunities to meet participants from across the country who share a passion for Youth and Government and the judicial system. The competitions take place at John Marshall Law School, the Chicago Bar, and the Federal Courthouse. These facilities are about a 25 minute walk from the competition hotel. **Please be sure to bring comfortable shoes for this walk.**

## TRAVEL LOGISTICS

The competition hotel is:

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza 350  
West Mart Center Drive Chicago, IL  
60654

**By Plane:** Chicago is served by two airports, Chicago O'Hare and Midway. The competition hotel is accessible by train (\$5/person one way) or taxi (\$40 one-way) from either airport. Travel time by train is 75 minutes from O'Hare and 45 minutes from Midway including walking. By taxi, the time depends greatly on traffic and can be 25-90 minutes from O'Hare and 15-40 minutes from Midway. **We recommend getting a city pass.**

**From Chicago O'Hare:**

- Take the Blue Line train towards Forest Park.
- Get off at the Clark/Lake stop.
- Walk North on N. Clark St. to the river.
- Walk West on W. Upper Wacker Dr along the river.
- Cross the river on N. Franklin St.
- Turn left into Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza driveway. From

**Midway:** Closest to Hotel

- Take the Orange Line train towards Loop.
- Get off at the Clark/Lake stop.
- Follow directions above from Clark/Lake.

**Alternate Inside Route To Avoid Walking on Street:**

- Follow directions above to the Clark/Lake stop.
- Transfer to the Brown Line towards Kimball.
- Get off after 1 stop at Merchandise Mart, walk to Holiday Inn



## SCHEDULE (Tentative-subject to change)

### Monday, July 29, 2019:

- 3:00pm – 5:00pm Registration
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Dinner and Kick-Off Event
- 9:00pm – 10:00pm Trial & Appellate Training  
Delegation Adult Meeting
- 10:00pm – 11:00pm State Meetings/Team Practice

### Tuesday, July 30, 2019:

- 8:30am – 4:00pm Competition
- 5:00pm – 9:00pm Dinner Boat Cruise

### Wednesday, July 31, 2019:

- 8:30am-5:00pm Competition
- 6:00pm – 10:00pm Delegation Free Time

### Thursday, August 1, 2019:

- 8:00am-10:30am Showcase Trial and Appellate
- 10:30am-11:00am Award and Closing Ceremony
- 11:00am Adjourn

## WEATHER

Expect highs in the mid-80s and lows in the high 60s. Rain showers are common, plan accordingly



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## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Cost is \$475/person

Adults can pay an additional \$225 for a private hotel room.

- Registration opens-May 1 (Case and Rules Released)
- Registration closes – June 8
- FAQ about Case submissions due to Y USA-June 14
- Rooming list/Team listing due to Y USA-June 14
- FAQ about Case released-June 22

If you have an Attorney with you that could judge all rounds, contact NJC Planning Committee for a discounted rate.

## EXTENDED STAY AT HOTEL

Delegations planning on coming in early or staying late beyond the NJC event itself are responsible for arranging their own accommodations.

- Groups are welcome to book an extended stay at the event hotel, the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza or choose from a variety of other affordable Chicago hotels. The Holiday Inn Mart Plaza will honor the current group rate of \$175 (plus tax) for 3 days before/after the event. You can contact our group representative at the Holiday Inn, Samantha Fernandes, at 312-529-1119 or [sfernandes@martplaza.com](mailto:sfernandes@martplaza.com) and indicate you are part of the YMCA NJC group to book your extended stay.

## TEAM PLANNING

### **NEW!! – A maximum 4 Mock Trial Teams and 6 Appellate Teams, in even number increments.**

**Appellate** – Two people on each team, up to 6 teams can participate in Appellate.

**Mock** – 5-8 students on each team, up to 4 teams can participate in Mock Trial.

\*Please try to bring even number teams, for example bring 2 or 4 Mock Trial Teams. If you cannot, we can find you a state to partner with to ensure that we have an equal number. You will not actually partner with them, except in count.

\*Student Judges and Justices will be considered this year. Look for details further in packet.

## DRESS CODE

All participants including adults are expected to wear appropriate attire during the NJC events as follows:

**Monday:** casual clothing is appropriate for all Monday events – we recommend a State Shirt for fun!

**Tuesday & Wednesday:** Business attire is expected from our morning meeting until after the last court session in the afternoon.

**Tuesday Evening:** Business casual attire is appropriate for the dinner cruise but you may want to dress up for the occasion which includes dinner, dessert, and dancing!

**Wednesday Evening:** State Delegations are on your own. Please adhere to the dress code of any restaurants or events you choose to attend.

**Thursday Morning:** Professional business attire is only required on Thursday morning for showcase round participants. For all other participants, business casual dress is suggested for our morning events including the showcase rounds.

\*A detailed description of dress code will be sent in an informational email to the Trip Director as the event gets closer.

## SPENDING MONEY

NJC Planning Committee recommends each participant bring \$200 for meals, sightseeing, souvenirs, taxi, 'L' train fare, and other incidentals. This amount is based on mid-priced food choices. See the meal planning section for more tips.

## WHAT TO BRING

Here a few reminders of important items to bring along with you to NJC:

- copy of health insurance card (front and back)
- a photo identification or student identification card, very helpful for Federal Courtroom access
- prescription medications
- comfortable shoes for walking to venues and exploring the city
- copies of the case, statements and any research you may need. A printer is available in the business center



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of the hotel. However, it will cost and it is difficult to access.

- notepad, pen, paper
- umbrella or rain poncho

## MEAL PLANNING

Competition fee covers dinner on Monday night at the hotel and dinner Tuesday night on the lake cruise.

Participants are responsible for all other meals. Please be aware that coordinating meals for large groups of people in Chicago can be difficult. When possible, it's best to call ahead to make reservations at restaurants.

**Breakfast:** In addition to the hotel restaurant, the Merchandise Mart food court is a five minute walk away including: Au Bon Pain, Dunkin' Donuts, McDonalds, Jamba Juice, Protein Bar, Starbucks.

**Lunch:** There are a large number of inexpensive lunch spots within a few blocks of our courtrooms including: Chipotle, Subway, McDonalds, Burger King, Potbelly Sandwich, Starbucks, Taco Fresco, Cosi, Panera Bread, and so on.

**Dinner:** There are many inexpensive options in the Merchandise Mart or near the hotel but on Wednesday you have an opportunity to explore farther for meals. Here are a couple choices to consider:

Lou Malnati's Pizzeria: Chicago deep dish pizza

## NJC Culture

Each state should plan to bring an item to share with every team they go up against in competition. It could be a State Pin, Ribbon, Trinket (anything you want to be your "State Gift"). We would like for the trading of gifts to only happen amongst competition teams.

Appellate – Should have approx. 6-9 rounds

Mock Trial – Should have approx. 4-5 rounds

If your state does a "Delegation Shirt", we will plan on wearing those on Monday night at the Dinner and Kick-Off Event.

## NEW – Student Judges/Justices

- This year we are implementing Student Judges/Justices for presiding over the court rooms. These judges will come from

recommendations for the State Director. We are looking for incoming or outgoing senior students. We will be taking 12 students in Mock Trial and 10-12 in Appellate. We will send out an email with details about how to apply.

## VISITOR POLICY

Please be advised, to accommodate for teens' safety and space limitations during the YMCA National Judicial Competition, visitors (including family members) will not be allowed in courtrooms or to join the dinner boat cruise during the 2018 NJC competition. Only registered chaperones.

\*For a complete visitor policy and procedure, please see your state director or email [youthgovernment@ymca.net](mailto:youthgovernment@ymca.net).

## DELEGATION FREE TIME

The competition schedule includes plenty of free time to explore Chicago. Here are some ideas for you to consider:

### Buckingham Fountain:

Light and water show every hour on the hour. 301 S Columbus Dr., Consider walking here from the courtrooms at the end of the day on Wednesday.



### Skydeck Chicago:

Spectacular views from the 103rd floor of the former Sears Tower. Purchase tickets online at [theskydeck.com](http://theskydeck.com).

**Millennium Park, Cloud Gate:** Famous stainless steel sculpture reflecting views of the lakeshore and Chicago skyline.



### Chicago Architecture:

Download the Chicago Loop Architecture Guide from the Apple App Store before your trip and learn more about Chicago's famous buildings during your stay.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information for participants and trip directors will be available as the committee continues to plan. Email [youthgovernment@ymca.net](mailto:youthgovernment@ymca.net) for more information.