

National Civics Bee coming to Michigan in 2024

Michigan Chamber, six local chambers to host community, statewide Bees to encourage informed, active citizens and spur community engagement

[Lansing, MICH]— The Michigan Chamber of Commerce today announced that the [Great Lakes State will host](#) the National Civics Bee in 2024, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

“As our state and country become more divided and too many become disengaged or further removed from civics and democratic processes, this is one essential way to help spark interest and make a positive difference,” said **MI Chamber President & CEO Jim Holcomb**. “Informed, active citizens are the heart of thriving communities and economies. We’re stronger together.”

Organized in partnership with The Civic Trust of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Bees are designed to inspire middle schoolers to become better informed about American democracy, to engage respectfully and constructively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions.

How It Works

Middle school students – those in grades 6 to 8 – from public, private, charter, and home schools are invited to take part in the first-round civics essay competition – slated to open Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, and close Jan. 8, 2024. Students should not worry if there isn’t a chamber in their specific community and just pick the nearest one to them.

Essays are submitted via one of the following participating local chambers:

- [Battle Creek Area Chamber](#)
- [Canton Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Grand Rapids Chamber](#)
- [Jackson County Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber](#)

After a distinguished panel of judges review the 500-word essays, the top 20 students from each competition will be selected to move on to the next round: a live quiz event that will take place between February and April of 2024 to test their civics knowledge.

The finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including \$500 cash for the first-place student. The top three finishers – or 18 total students – will move on to the inaugural statewide Michigan Bee slated for July of 2024 in Michigan’s state capitol.

From there, the first-place winner of the state competition receives a \$1,000 cash prize and advances to the National Championship Bee in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2024.

Key Dates

- Nov. 13, 2023: Essay portal opens
- Jan. 8, 2024: Essay portal closes
- Feb. 20 – April 30, 2024: Local Bees take place
- July 17, 2024: Michigan's Bee takes place in Heritage Hall, Michigan State Capitol, Lansing
- Fall 2024 (exact date TBD): National Championship Bee takes place in Washington, D.C.

For More Information

Visit michamber.com/micivicsbee for more information, and participating local chamber websites for specific essay topics, competition rules and prizes, and to submit essays.

What People Are Saying

"We couldn't be more thrilled to be part of the 2024 National Civics Bee," said **Kara Beer, president & CEO of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce**. "Our communities prosper when our citizens are engaged and participating, especially in an ever-changing economy. We can't wait to see what ideas and solutions our area students share."

"A strong business community and society count on those who care and are engaged," said **Thomas Paden, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce**. "We are excited to be part of the National Civics Bee to help spur civic engagement and inclusivity that is essential to advancing economic prosperity for all."

"We know that being involved and harnessing our individual and shared strengths is what builds diverse, vibrant communities and business climate," said **Martin Manna, president of the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce**. "We encourage all our students across the region to join this year's National Civics Bee."

"Our chamber prides itself on fostering a welcoming, prosperous West Michigan for all, and advancing civic engagement and leadership is one key way to do just that," said **Andy Johnston, senior vice president of advocacy & strategic engagement of the Grand Rapids Chamber**. "We're looking forward to being part of the National Civics Bee and helping spark the creativity and problem solving of our region's middle schoolers."

"The National Civics Bee underscores our mission to create a vibrant, inclusive community and economy," said **Ryan Tarrant, president/CEO of the Jackson County Chamber**. "Engaging our young people in this opportunity to participate in civil discourse will pay dividends for the future."

"There is not a stronger catalyst for bettering our communities and building shared economic prosperity than informed and committed citizens," said **Arthur Havlicek, president & CEO of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber**. "That's why we're honored to be a key part of the 2024 National Civics Bee."

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