

Program Area Descriptions

Legislative Houses (Senate /Assembly) - Delegates debate bills on the floor of the legislature. Great balance of public speaking and discussion of a variety of issues affecting California.

NIC: National Issues Commission - Commissioners each develop and present their own proposal (like a bill) on a national or international issue. Debate begins in smaller commissions and successful proposals move on to larger and larger groups. Good opportunity to ease into a public speaking role. Also attracts passionate debate.

Lobbyist: - Delegates are assigned bills to be for or against and work to persuade Senators and Assemblymembers. Sometimes will speak for bills they may not agree with, which is good practice in public speaking. After presenting to Legislative Committees, Lobbyists work together to write an initiative (like a proposition in real life) and get other delegates across the program to sign it. Can apply to be a Governor's Lobbyist the following year. Great for delegates with a sharp sense of salesmanship.

Board of Education - A smaller group. Great for delegates to collaborate in teams yet not speak in front of large groups. Looks specifically at one current issue within education and comes up with ideas on how to improve it. Can run for State Superintendent of Public Instruction the following year.

Legislative Analysts - Assigned to a Legislative Committee as the impartial expert on a bill. Responsible for figuring and presenting how much money the bill will save or cost the state. Will present analysis to Senate/Assembly body if the bill makes it out of committee. Good intro to public speaking and can potentially have a profound impact on the passage/defeat of a bill. Can run for State Legislative Analyst the following year.

Department of Finance – Spinoff of ALA program. Groups will prepare a state budget. There will be research and debating of issues in a small group setting.

California Investment Bank – offshoot of the Department of Finance. Works similar to Shark Tank in terms of small groups put together a proposal seeking funding for their project. Good for those who like small group work with a focus on money and funding.

Environmental Protection Agency – NEW this year. Another offshoot of the Department of Finance with a focus on the Environment. Delegates have to code in as Department of Finance and then within that group, some will be selected for the EPA.

ConCon: State Constitutional Convention. Tackles the challenge of writing the State Constitution from scratch in three days. Will work in smaller groups and debate in larger discussions. Well run and for those who are motivated. Great for Seniors!

Appellate Court - Try cases based on the way previous cases were settled. Only way to be a judge (very cool!). Great for those more interested in debating matters of law than deciding facts of a case. Less work in some ways than Trial Court since delegates will not have to prep any witnesses.

Bench Trial (Trial Court) - Try a case with a partner. The type of court on TV (e.g. Law & Order). Get to prep a witness and make arguments in front of a judge. Great practice for those who are considering the career of a lawyer. Good route for delegates interested in Jury Trial, the more advanced version of Trial Court.

Media – Combo of Broadcast Media and Press Corps. Focus on written media, social media, and a broadcasted news program. Get a press badge to walk around and check out the different program areas. Great for creative delegates. Can apply to be an editor the following year.

IAC - International Affairs Commission – This is NOT the NIC with an international focus. It is instead a group looking at major international issues facing our planet. The program will focus on small group collaborative work, research, technology based presentations, public speaking, and debate.

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Issues & Activism – New. This will be a program area NOT on the distribution formula. Delegates will hear about it at T&E1 and can sign up there in their specific party. Parties will have about 40 staff of motivated delegates who will work to promote their parties agenda and help get their Governor candidate elected.