



National Civic Bee – Pearland Chamber of Commerce

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation hosted a civics competition that encouraged local students in greater Pearland to engage in civics and contribute to their community. Participating 6th, 7th and 8th graders flexed their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes.

The National Civics Bee® is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics. In the first round of the contest, students wrote an essay covering an idea about using civics to solve a problem in their community. Each Entry was evaluated by a group of judges from the Chamber of Commerce through Leadership Pearland. Each judge used a set of criteria to evaluate the entries, that included:

- “Demonstrate an Understanding of Civic Principles,”
- “Acknowledge and Address Opposing Points of View,”
- “Acknowledge and Address at Least One Founding Principle and One Civic Virtue,”
- “Use Supporting Evidence and Primary Sources,” and
- “Clearly Describe an Idea that is Innovative or New to Them.”

Judges then selected the top 20 finalists to participate in the local competition: a live quiz event testing civics knowledge.

The twenty (20) highest scoring Entries were selected as the local finalists and invited to participate in the live National Civics Bee® Local Competition. The live competition consisted of 20 multiple choice questions covering anything from amendments to the Constitution to roles of members of the US Cabinet.

The top five contestants were asked to discuss their topic of civic importance that they wrote about. Those students covered the following topics: Taashvi Wadhwa – transportation options, DeAngelo Primero – public transportation, Tristan Royer – immigration and assimilation, Chiamaka Chioma – justice for the disabled, and Chyna Cain – human trafficking. The judges; Dr. Debbi Fontenot – Alvin Community College, Dr. Beth Lewis – University of Houston Clear Lake, and Dr. Kira Beal – San Jacinto College, asked questions of each contestant about their essay and how their issue could be solved.

The top three winners were: 1) Chiamaka Chioma, 2) Tristan Royer, and 3) DeAngelo Primero. They will have an opportunity to travel to Dallas to compete at the state level in June. The winners of state competition will be invited to Washington, DC to compete in the National Civics Bee national championship in Fall 2024.

For more information, please contact Leslie.Esqueda@pearlandchamber.org. Let's all be civic minded and congratulate these students on their achievement!