



## **SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR MOCK TRIAL PARTICIPATION**

### **AUGUST:**

- Call a meeting of the mock trial team from the previous season during the first week of school (unless there was not team at that school during the last season), or call a meeting of all students interested in being a part of a new mock trial team.
- Talk to the students about the Colorado Mock Trial Program and about the deadlines for registering a team. Pass out Colorado Mock Trial Program brochures to interested students.

### **SEPTEMBER:**

- Put out posters in prominent places, such as in the school hallways (with the permission of your administration, of course!), announcing an informational meeting about Mock Trial. Also use school intercom and teacher peers to make these announcements.
- Hold an informational meeting around the middle to end of the month to tell interested (new and veteran) students about the program. Contact your attorney coaches and invite them to join you, or call the State Mock Trial Coordinator to visit your school to speak about mock trial.
- Have students fill out an application form at this time.
- Announce tryout or audition date(s) (if you plan on holding them) or dates of the first practice.
- Consult with teachers of the interested students and their sponsors in other extra-curricular activities to determine whether they will be a good addition to your team.
- Remind interested students of the deadline for turning in student applications for participation.

### **OCTOBER:**

- Hold tryouts (if applicable and/or necessary) late in the month. In Colorado, a mock trial team consists of a maximum 12 members (at minimum, 6–8); if you have more students interested, consider developing additional teams.
- Contact your attorney coaches to assist in tryouts or your first practice, if you'd like, or when the final team is set.
- Begin holding weekly meetings (before, during a class, or after school) to go over the basics, especially with new students (the rules; how to do an opening, closing, direct, and

cross; and about objections and entering evidence). Practice these skills with past mock trial cases and use this teaching packet.

- Contact the State Mock Trial Coordinator if you are not successful in finding your own attorney coach.

### **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:**

- Teams receive their case materials for the competition season at the beginning November.
- Begin applying lessons learned about openings, closings, directs, and crosses to the current competition case.
- Give any assignments for students to work on over holiday break.

### **JANUARY:**

- Continue with weekly practices. Many teams hold 2 or 3 practices per week during this month and as tournaments near.
- Attempt to get into a courtroom to practice. Your attorney coach can assist in accessing a courtroom. Contact the State Mock Trial Coordinator for information about other teams within or outside your region with whom to scrimmage.
- If you haven't already, begin assigning attorney, witness, and timekeeper roles.
- Meet separately with Plaintiff/Prosecution and Defense squads.
- Discuss dress for the competition with your team. You may find you'll need to make arrangements for some of your team members. Also, this is a good time to begin discussing code of ethical conduct and courtroom decorum, if you haven't already.

### **FEBRUARY:**

- Increase the number of practices per week, as needed.
- Begin run-through practices of the current mock trial case from start to finish, with objections. (Many attorney coaches may "bench" or preside over these rehearsals.)
- Try to practice in a courtroom, if one is available to you, for your dress rehearsal (again, your attorney coach can help in setting up access to a courtroom). Contact the State Mock Trial Coordinator for information about other teams within or outside your region with whom to scrimmage.
- Ask your attorney coach if he or she knows someone (an attorney or judge) in your community (who will not be serving as a judge or evaluator at your regional competition) who would be willing to "bench" a rehearsal session (or several) for your team. Exposing your team to different judges will prepare them for the different rulings a presiding judge may make on tournament day.
- Before competition day, make sure your team members understand what they are expected to wear.
- Finalize all tournament details your team needs before entering competition (see "Preparing You and Your Teams for Tournament").
- Hold a dress rehearsal the week before your competition with a guest "judge." Require your team to dress appropriately. Let them know this rehearsal will be straight run-through, just like at tournament.
- **GOOD LUCK AT YOUR REGIONAL TOURNAMENT!**

## **MARCH**

- For regional advancing teams, make sure you meet all deadlines for state tournament, including hotel reservations, transportation, etc.
- Step up the intensity of your rehearsals in the 2–3 weeks before state tournament.
- Consult with your administration about transportation to the state tournament.
- Participate in State Mock Trial Tournament.
- GOOD LUCK AT STATE TOURNAMENT!

## **APRIL**

- State Championship team receives the national case on April 1 and begins preparing for National Mock Trial Tournament.
- Work with State Mock Trial Coordinator on all details for registration, etc. for national tournament.
- Work with State Mock Trial Coordinator on scheduling Wyoming scrimmage before national tournament.
- Schedule scrimmages with other states participating in the national tournament.

## **MAY:**

- State Championship Team attends National Mock Trial Tournament.