

What is the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement? **The Georgia Center for Civic Engagement is a statewide non-profit that has been serving Georgia's schools since 1919. Today in Georgia's schools, the GCCE provides educational experiential learning programs for students and educational resources for teachers.**

What are the GCCE Programs offered in our school? **At our local school, the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement offers two primary experiential learning programs for students in the Georgia United Nations Assembly (GUNA) and Junior Youth Assembly (JYA). These programs are tied to educational standards and take the content taught in classrooms and help it come alive for students. For educators, they provide resources to make the organizing of students easier and to support curriculum in classrooms.**

What is Georgia United Nations Assembly? **The annual Georgia United Nations Assembly (GUNA) program is designed to replicate and teach students the processes of global diplomacy through a mock (model United Nations) format. Students will work with teachers to choose one of the 193 nations recognized by the United Nations, work with other classmates/team members to research, prepare informational boards, research and submit a resolution, and attend the regional or state debate competitions.**

What is Junior Youth Assembly? **The annual Junior Youth Assembly (JYA) program is designed to replicate and teach students the processes of Georgia's legislative branch in a model state government format. Students will work with and fellow classmates to think through an idea of a new law that needs to be passed or a law that needs to be changed or removed. Students will then submit bills and begin debate prep sessions with fellow classmates/team members gearing up to regional or state debate competitions.**

What is the price for my students to participate? **The GCCE asks for each school to pay a charter fee to participate in programs and receive educational resources. The individual schools may charge individual student membership fees to cover this cost, as well as conducting a school approved fundraiser. Regional competitions for the fall semester of 2021 will be \$60 due to the GCCE and will include a one-day virtual committee meeting, as well as the one-day in-person debate program. Locally, schools may help offset student costs through organized school fundraisers, collecting support from local community partners, or through school grants or administrative funds (if available). The total fee for the program may be greater than the listed \$60 as schools may add on costs for transportation, materials, etc.**

What is required for my student to participate? **Students participating may need to first pay a fee set by the local sponsor to go towards the club charter. They will also be asked to attend periodic meetings as scheduled by the school sponsor, participate in local community service projects, and be active in preparing for school, regional, and state competitions. They are encouraged to show a good and respectful attitude, as well as applying themselves to maintain good grades and behavior in school.**

How are students chosen to participate? **The local sponsor will set specific requirements regarding how students first qualify as a member. Regional and state competitions will have limited number of spots available so students will need to strive for good behavior, attending scheduled meetings, and seeking to show a can-do attitude so that they show themselves a good choice for a competition spot. Specific qualification requirements will be up to the local sponsor and school administration.**

What will my child get out of this program? **It is our hope that all students learn core fundamentals of leadership and the importance of giving back to local communities through periodic meetings and community service projects. Also, teaching systems of governmental processes will equip students with the skills to learn their voice, and how that can make a difference. Research shows that participation can lead to increased civic knowledge and civic dispositions.**

What do school meetings and preparation for competitions look like? **The exact format may look different for each participating school. Some schools may look more like traditional clubs, meeting monthly and electing officers in preparation for programs. Other schools may take a debate team approach where after selecting team members, they meet as needed in preparing for competitions. Lastly, some schools may imbed these opportunities into classroom structures, teaching the general process to all students and encouraging those who are interested in further participation to compete in regional and state competitions.**

What do virtual committee meetings look like? **As we find ourselves still navigating the world of COVID, we are attempting to still offer impactful programming for students, while adhering to government recommendations and ultimately putting the safety of our students and educators at the front of everything we do. For the fall of 2021, our first day of regional programming will have students logging on via a virtual platform like Zoom and participating in committee style debate. We will be respectful of time constraints and try our best to keep the timing of this online day as short as possible.**

What do the one day in-person programs look like? **First, we will be keeping a close eye on the status of schools, levels concerning infection rates, as well recommendations from government agencies and the medical community. These in-person one day programs (typically 9:00am-4:00pm) will allow schools the opportunity to drive into a close regional location and return home the same day.**

What will the spring semester look like? **We are currently watching to see how the fall goes in terms of schools staying opening and the spread of the infections and how they impact local communities. Our current plan is to go back to traditional in-person competitions both regional (one day) and state (three day), but we will make final determination before Christmas break or in early January 2022.**

What if we have additional questions? **Please make sure to reach out to your local school sponsor for any additional questions.**

*We hope this information gives you a better idea of the programs and offerings the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement will offer to your students' local school for the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited for the great things this year will bring and we know your student will be a key part of that success!*  
**Thank you! - GCCE Staff Team**

**The Georgia Center for Civic Engagement exists to**  
**EDUCATE AND EQUIP**  
**students to become informed and active citizens**