



Junior State of America

Founded in 1934, sponsored by The Junior Statesmen Foundation

The Mid-Atlantic Junior State of America
presents

Spring State 2017

*Millennial Momentum:
Turning the Tide of American Politics*

April 22-23, 2017
Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel
Iselin, New Jersey

Registration Packet

Early Registration Deadline: March 20, 2017

Standard Registration Deadline: April 7, 2017

2001 S St. NW Suite 510 Washington DC 20009



JSA. BE THE PEOPLE

Spring State 2017

Millennial Momentum: Turning the Tide of America Politics

On April 22-23, the Mid-Atlantic Junior State of America will hold its annual Spring State Convention at the Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel in Iselin, NJ. The Mid-Atlantic student leaders hope you can join hundreds of other students and teachers from across the Mid-Atlantic for an exciting educational experience at this weekend-long examination of the promises and divisive rhetoric we heard throughout this critical election cycle and how those promises might translate into policies that can unify the country.

Spring State is the final convention of the school year and is the highlight of the Spring semester. Through engaging in spirited debates, thought talks, simulations, and other activities, Spring State will give students the unique opportunity to think critically, express their opinions, and challenge the opinions of others in a tolerant, supportive atmosphere. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet students from other schools throughout the region through a variety of other events, including nighttime activities and a dance on Saturday night.

At a time when party polarization continues to increase, the development of a new generation of active citizens who can debate, compromise, and think critically about controversial economic, social, domestic, and international policies that divide the American public, elected representatives, and presidential candidates alike is more important than ever. We hope you leave Spring State 2017 with a broader perspective and deeper understanding of how our country plans to move forward in the wake of one of the most consequential elections of our lifetime.

This registration packet has everything you need to register and prepare for Spring State:

If you have any questions or encounter any problems, please do not hesitate to call or email the Mid-Atlantic Program Director Elizabeth Ventura at (202) 591-3734 or at eventura@jsa.org. See you in April at Spring State!



2017 MID-ATLANTIC SPRING STATE INFORMATION

Location: Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel
515 US Highway 1 South
Iselin, NJ 08830
(732) 634-3600

Check-In: Registration will be from 8:00am – 10:00am on Saturday, April 22, 2017.
- Room keys will be available during key distribution at 5:30p.m.
- Storage for luggage will be provided.

Check-Out: The convention will end at approximately 3:30pm on Sunday, April 23, 2017.
- Students must be out of their room by 9:00am. Storage for luggage will be provided.

Student Rates:

Registration Deadline	Early <u>Mar. 20</u>	Standard <u>April 7</u>	Late <u>After April 7</u>
JSA Members	\$150.00	\$195.00	\$215.00
Extra Night	\$50.00		

- **Chapter Taxes:** Every student attending must be a dues-paid member of JSA. \$5.00 membership dues will be added to your chapter’s Spring State invoice for all non-members. **Chapters will not be able to vote in JSA elections unless they are tax-paid.**

Teacher Rates:

Shared Double Room: Free
Private Room: \$110.00 per room, per night

- **Teacher/Advisors:** JSA will provide free accommodations for Teacher/Advisors willing to share a room (two Teachers/Advisors of the same gender housed in a room with two double beds). Although not guaranteed, we will also try to arrange early check-ins and late check-outs.

Every school MUST bring at least one (1) Teacher/Advisor for every nineteen (19) students. (i.e. One teacher/advisor for 1-19 students; two for 20-38 students, three for 39-57 students, etc.)

- **Chapter Presidents:** Your school district may require a higher ratio of teachers to students or teachers of both genders. Please check with your administration and comply with these policies.
- If your chapter is taking a bus to the convention, bus driver rooms are \$110 per driver, per night.

Cost Covers: Your registration covers one night's lodging at the hotel, all educational materials, two days of exciting educational programs, and the Saturday evening activities.

- We are happy to organize accommodations for any students or Teacher/Advisors needing special arrangements due to a physical disability or handicap. Please call or email the Mid-Atlantic Program Director before the standard registration deadline to make these accommodations.

Refunds:

Because JSA must make guarantees to the hotel far in advance of the convention, **we are unable to give refunds after your chapter finalizes the registration.** If a student is unable to attend after the chapter finalizes their registration, try to find another student from your school to go in his/her place. Each replacement student MUST submit a permission form.

- **Chapter Presidents and Teacher/Advisors:** Once you finalize your chapter’s registration with the Mid-Atlantic Program Director, the chapter must pay for the total number of students registered. Notify the Mid-Atlantic Program Director as soon as possible if you switch delegates.

Meals:

Meals are not included; students should be prepared to purchase your own meals during the convention. There are low cost options in and around the hotel venue.

- Transit:** No student may travel to the convention in a student-driven car. Student drivers will be reported to their schools and parents and sent home immediately. Chapters are encouraged to form carpools with parents and/or Teacher/Advisors. Bus and car parking is available at the hotel at no charge.
- Conduct:** Rules of conduct and dress code for the convention are listed on the **Student Participation and Parental Permission Form** that both students and parents or guardians must read and sign. The Junior State staff or your Teacher/Advisor(s) may announce additional rules. JSA reserves the right to send home, without refund, any individual student, or even an entire chapter, for violating these rules.
- Debates:** Debate and Moderator sign-ups can be done at jsa.org/debate. If you want to debate or moderate at Spring State, you will need your own account in the online debate system, as this is a separate database than the MyJSA Portal. Debater/Moderator selections will be made and notifications sent out in advance of the convention. More information about debates is included later in this registration packet.
- Elections:** The feature event of Spring State is the election of next year's Junior State officers. Students are encouraged to participate in the election not only by voting, but also by working for a candidate for governor, lieutenant governor, mayor, or vice mayor or by running your own campaign. Don't miss out on this opportunity to get involved and have a lot of fun!
- Scholarships:** The Mid-Atlantic Junior State is pleased to offer scholarships to help students in need attend conventions. If you would like to apply for a Spring State scholarship, please fill out the application at the back of this packet, and submit it by **March 6, 2017**. Here is the link to the online scholarship form: <https://goo.gl/forms/0ItqOSPuB8qGCIUw2>
- Fundraising:** JSA encourages every chapter to fundraise to lower convention prices for their members. Many chapters sponsor fundraisers like car washes, food sales, and garage or yard sales, while others write local businesses and service organizations. For more fundraising ideas, contact any elected officials or student leaders, the Mid-Atlantic Program Director, or download the Fundraising Manual at www.jsa.org/downloads. The key to any successful fundraising campaign is starting early, so discuss fundraising plans right away!



STUDENT PERMISSION & REGISTRATION FORM

Mid-Atlantic Spring State
Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin NJ
April 22-23, 2017

Please turn in this Student Permission & Registration Form in to your JSA Chapter Teacher Advisor

Student Name: _____ Student Email: _____

High School: _____ Grad Year: _____ Female [] Male []

Home Phone: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian Permission

(This is the only JSA form that needs to be signed by student & parent and collected. The guidelines in the following pages are for student/parent reference)

My child and I have read over the JSA Convention Rules, Code of Ethics, and Dress Code. We agree to abide by said policies and allow our daughter/son to attend the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Spring State Convention.

I agree to pay \$_____ to _____ for my daughter/son to attend the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Spring State convention.

Please accept my additional tax-deductible donation of \$_____ included in daughter/son's Spring State payment to go to the Mid-Atlantic JSA Scholarship Fund to help a Mid-Atlantic student in need attend Spring State. (JSA will send a donation receipt upon receiving the chapter's Spring State payment.)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone Number: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____



STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND PARENTAL PERMISSION GUIDELINES

Parents: Please read this information carefully and review it with your daughter or son before signing.

The Junior State of America takes great pride in our students showing leadership, statesmanship, and leading by example. However, these ideals go beyond the debates, thought talks, and other activities that take place during our events. Students participating in JSA events are expected to speak, act, behave, and dress like the leaders they strive to be.

By signing the permission form, **you agree to pick up or arrange transportation for your daughter or son at your own expense if they violate a rule.** Since JSA must pay and make guarantees far in advance, by signing below, **you also agree to ensure payment to JSA for all registration costs if your daughter or son cancels after the JSA registration deadline.** If your daughter or son can no longer attend, try to find a replacement and have that student reimburse the cost. If you have any questions, please call the JSA office at (800) 334-5353.

JSA CONVENTION RULES

1. **All rules for school field trips prevail. Possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited.** JSA has a "no tolerance" policy. All students found in a room with alcohol and/or illegal drugs will be sent home immediately. The use of tobacco products is prohibited.
2. Teacher/Advisor(s) and The Junior State of America must approve the attendance of each student and reserves the right to deny any student the privilege of attending the event.
3. **At no time during the weekend convention are students of different sexes allowed in each other's rooms.** In other words, no young men in young women's rooms and no young women in young men's rooms. Violations of this rule will likely result in dismissal of both students and a report made to their school(s).
4. **Students are required to abstain from any activity of a sexual nature.** In accordance with our role as mandatory reporters, JSA Staff and/or Teacher/Advisors will contact local law enforcement for a violation of this nature, if required.
5. **Students may not leave the hotel without the express permission of their Teachers/Advisor(s) and must meet with their Teachers/Advisor(s) at designated times, including all mandatory chapter caucuses.** Delegates must keep their Teacher/Advisor(s) informed of their activities and location throughout the convention. **Under no circumstances may students leave the hotel after 9:00 p.m.** At the end of the convention, students may not leave without the permission of their Teacher/Advisor(s).
6. At curfew, the Teacher/Advisor(s) will check that all students in their chapter are in their assigned rooms. Students must remain quietly in their own rooms after curfew. **Room service and pizza deliveries are not permitted after curfew.** Curfew lasts until 6:00 a.m.
7. All students assigned to a room are responsible for the condition of their room at check out and for all charges made to the room. Room service, in-room movies, outside phone calls, and other items may not be charged to a student's room and must be paid for at the front desk before the convention ends. JSA Staff will notify Teacher/Advisors of charges. Students must have all belongings out of their rooms by 9:00 a.m. Sunday.
8. Students **must** attend all convention activities, **dress appropriately and professionally** as defined by the JSA Dress Code, and wear their official name tag visibly above the waist at all times. No student may go onto guest floors or attend nighttime activities without their name tag. If a student loses their name tag, they must go to the JSA registration table with a photo ID to obtain a replacement.
9. Students must always conduct themselves according to the highest standards of behavior. Students must be considerate of, and respect the rights of, other students, staff, Teachers/Advisors, and hotel guests and use appropriate and respectful language at all times. Hazing or any action that creates physical discomfort or intends to embarrass or harass another student will not be tolerated. Music must be played through headphones. Students may not open, throw anything out of, or shout out of windows. Students must stay off roofs and all other restricted areas. Students must follow all public laws. Reasonable and due care shall be exercised by all students to ensure safety and good order as well as preserve the good reputation of their high school and the Junior State of America.
10. **Use of electronic devices during keynote speeches and inside debate rooms, unless the user is a main speaker, is prohibited except in emergencies.**
11. No student may drive a car to the convention or ride in a student-driven car during the convention.
12. **Unregistered students may not attend any convention activities.** If any unregistered students from a school arrive at the hotel during the convention, the entire chapter may be sent home.
13. Students may not associate with any visitor who is not an official guest of the Junior State program unless the student has received prior express permission from their Teacher/Advisor(s), parent(s), and Junior State Staff.
14. The Junior State/The Junior Statesmen Foundation are not responsible for items stored in a luggage storage area. JSA/JSF is not responsible for valuable items brought by students to the event.
15. **Students who cancel after the JSA registration deadline or are sent home for rule violations will not receive a refund.**
16. Students and their parents agree that The Junior State may use any photographs taken during the convention for promotional purposes.
17. For the safety of the students, JSA Staff reserve the right to enter and search any room should we suspect a student is in danger, in position of drugs or alcohol, or is in violation of the rules.

Rule violations will result in expulsion from the convention, notification of parents and school, and other appropriate measures.

JSA CODE OF ETHICS

Students participating in Junior State of America events must:

1. Take pride in the organization, activities, leadership training exercises, and other educational and civic opportunities provided to them.
2. Respect the opinions of other students.
3. Conduct themselves in the manner of a **Statesperson at all times (See Rule #9)**, treating other students with respect and actively engaging them in educated and principled discussions of government affairs and policies.

JSA DRESS CODE

All students and Teacher/Advisors participating in JSA overnight conventions must abide by the JSA dress code and dress modestly and professionally. Students found in violation of the dress code, as determined by a JSA Staff member, will be asked to change into more appropriate clothing. Multiple violations may result in termination of attendance privileges.

The following are a series of guidelines that will be enforced during "business hours" in JSA (i.e. from Opening Session to key distribution on Saturday, and morning until Closing Session on Sunday). There may be additional times that students will be asked to remain in this attire. **While the dress code will be relaxed during evening hours, JSA Staff and Teacher/Advisors retain the right to ask a student to change into more appropriate attire at any time.**

Women:

What is appropriate?

- Dress shirt with a collar, blouse, or sleeveless top with cap shoulders.
- Sweaters, coats, or suit jacket.
- Dresses or skirts reaching two inches above the knee.
- Dress pants or dress capris.
- Flats, three inch (or less) heels, dress slip-ons.
- Nylons, tights, or other solid colored hosiery.

What will cause you to be asked to change?

- Inappropriately short dresses or skirts.
- Jeans
- Revealing, strapless, spaghetti strap, or backless tops.
- T-Shirts, buttons, or jewelry with offensive and/or inappropriate messages.
- Tennis shoes, sandals, flip flops, or winter boots.
- Fishnet or patterned hosiery.

Men:

What is appropriate?

- Dress shirts with collars and ties.
- Shirts must be tucked into pants and worn with dress belt/suspenders.
- Blazer, suit jacket, or sweater over dress shirt and tie.
- Dress pants, dress chinos, or khakis.
- Dark tennis shoes
- Dress shoes. Loafers are acceptable.

What will cause you to be asked to change?

- Jeans, corduroys, or cargo pants.
- Polo shirts, rugby shirts, or other collared shirts.
- Athletic sneakers, sandals, flip-flops, Birkenstocks, or work boots.
- Hooded sweatshirts in lieu of a sweater.
- Pants worn without sufficient support, such as a belt or suspenders causing waist bands to Spring past the waist.

Teacher/Advisors:

Teacher/Advisors, student leaders, and JSA Staff all set examples for students. JSA asks Teacher/Advisors to please follow the dress guidelines below:

- Please dress professionally during business hours
- Jeans/corduroys are acceptable with a button-down shirt, sweater, or nice top
- Exercise clothes should not be worn unless immediately going to/from the gym.



TEACHER/ADVISOR CONVENTION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Junior State of America sincerely thank you for accompanying your chapter to the upcoming convention. We appreciate your dedication to furthering the goals of JSA and to increasing the political awareness of today's youth. Without your help, students would not be able to attend conventions like these and would miss an opportunity to debate and discuss controversial issues, learn more about the democratic process, and develop leadership skills.

Outlined below are mandatory responsibilities of Teacher/Advisors at a Junior State convention. Please review them and send in this form, signed, with your chapter's registration materials. Ultimately, you are responsible for the students in your chapter so please check with your administration regarding rules pertaining to school trips.

1. **BE PRESENT.** In compliance with school or school district rules, Teacher/Advisors must be present onsite and readily available throughout the entirety of the convention to accompany students and keep students on track and motivated. Please make sure to bring contact information for all students and establish a way students can get in touch during the convention by cell phone and/or at specified locations and times.
2. **CHECK-IN.** Teacher/Advisors must be present with the student chapter leader at registration to check in the chapter. Teacher/Advisors will receive their students' guest room keys for distribution in the afternoon.
3. **TEACHER/ADVISOR MEETING.** All adult chaperones MUST attend the mandatory Teacher/Advisor meeting with the Junior State staff to review convention logistics, convention and hotel rules, and receive important announcements for the weekend.
4. **CHAPTER CAUCUS.** After dinner, all students must check in with their Teacher/Advisor(s). Teacher/Advisors must take roll at the caucus and report any missing students to the Junior State staff. Teacher/Advisors should review the convention rules, curfew time, and morning checkout time with the students. All students must remain inside the hotel after the chapter caucus.
5. **NIGHTTIME ACTIVITIES SUPERVISION.** Teacher/Advisors must sign up for shifts in the evening to monitor hotel hallways, common areas, or nighttime activities including chaperoning the dance. Teacher/Advisors will receive instructions for signing up to supervise these areas and activities at the mandatory Teacher/Advisor meeting.
 - a. JSA has adult supervisors on the floors in the evening to keep noise levels down and to discourage misconduct. Most Teacher/Advisors volunteer to patrol the floor that houses their own students. If witnessing students involved in any inappropriate conduct, do not hesitate to intervene. If uncomfortable dealing with students from other high schools, feel free to notify the Teacher/Advisor from that school or Junior State staff to take care of the situation. During the dance, Teacher/Advisors monitor the doors and check name tags to ensure ONLY JUNIOR STATE STUDENTS attend the dance.
6. **CURFEW -- ROOM CHECKS.** Teacher/Advisors must go to all of their students' rooms at curfew and check that all their students are present. Students missing curfew may be sent home. Please pass along any announcements for the next day at this time.
7. **CHECKOUT.** All students must check out of their rooms by 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning. Luggage storage has been arranged. Teacher/Advisors should meet their students in the morning at 9:00 a.m. to collect their room keys and make sure that all students have checked out of their rooms. Teacher/Advisors may turn keys in at the Junior State registration table.
8. **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES/DISCIPLINARY ISSUES.** The Junior State staff at the convention will contact Teacher/Advisors if a member of their chapter has a serious medical issue or violates major convention rules. Teacher/Advisors will coordinate with the Junior State staff to arrange medical attention for students, notify parents/guardians and school officials if necessary, and send students home for serious rules violations. PLEASE REVIEW ALL THE CONVENTION RULES IN THIS PACKET AND DISCUSS THEM WITH STUDENTS BEFORE THE CONVENTION.
9. **MORAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT.** Teacher/Advisors can provide valuable moral support to students. If a student is a main participant of a debate, or is planning to make a subsequent speech, Teacher/Advisors can give them a boost just by attending their debate. Since many students use the time just prior to their debate to refine their argument, Teacher/Advisors can also provide educational assistance through providing advice or answering questions before a debate. Discussing a debate and their student's performance after it is over can also help students understand any points they missed or clarify any misinformation.
10. **Because Teachers/Advsiors are required to chaperon students and respond to emergencies at any/all times, consumption of alcohol or use of any illegal drugs by Teacher/Advisors during the convention is strictly prohibited.**

I have reviewed the above responsibilities and agree to faithfully execute the duties required of me as a Teacher/Advisor at a Junior State Convention.

_____ Signature	_____ Date	_____ School
_____ Print Name	_____ Cell Phone	_____ Email



SAMPLE SPRING STATE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Saturday, April 22

Registration: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Opening Session & Keynote Speaker: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Organizational Block: 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

- Teacher Advisor Meeting
- Beginner Debate Workshop
- Intermediate Debate Workshop
- Advance Debate Workshop
- Moderating Workshop
- Resolved, that America employ a policy of imperialism.

Lunch: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Block I: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

- Resolved, that the Federal Government establish a national \$15 minimum wage.
- Resolved, that feminism is no longer necessary.
- Resolved, that capitalism is no longer in the best interests of the American people.
- Thought Talk: Is marriage necessary to achieve the American Dream?

Block II: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

- Assembly Meeting
- Resolved, that charter schools raise the quality of education in America.
- Novice Debate: Resolved, that physician-assisted suicide be legalized nationwide.
- Thought Talk: What should the government do to bridge the black-white education gap?

Block III: 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

- Teacher Advisor Reception
- Resolved, that all schools be required to provide gender neutral bathrooms.
- Resolved, that the death penalty is an appropriate response to premeditated murder.
- Thought Talk: Is isolationism a pragmatic solution to the economic situation?

Candidate Q&A Session: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Key Distribution: 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Dinner: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Chapter Caucus: 8:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Regional Candidate Elections: 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Nighttime Activities: 10:00 PM – 12:00 AM

- Dance
- Karaoke
- Impromptu Debates

Sunday, April 23

Breakfast & Checkout: 7:45 AM – 8:45 AM

Block IV: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

- Resolved, that the American Dream is no longer attainable.
- Resolved, that Congress adopts a policy of amnesty for all illegal immigrants.
- Thought Talk: Does China pose an imminent threat to the United States?

Block V: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

- Summer School Information Session
- Resolved, that standardized tests do not accurately measure student achievement.
- Resolved, that cable news is detrimental to the American people's perception of politics.
- Thought Talk: What characteristics make up an ideal politician?

Block VI (Activism Block): 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Political Fair
- Reach Out and Read

Lunch: 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

State Elections: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Closing Session: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM



JSA ACTIVITIES

Debates

Debates serve as the cornerstone of the Junior State by giving delegates a forum to express their views in an orderly fashion, while promoting a clash of ideas that leads to deeper understanding of controversial issues. Using parliamentary debate style, delegates develop political awareness, attitudes and public speaking skills through participation.

JSA debates center around “resolutions” that outline the issue being discussed. For example, “Resolved, Social Security should be privatized.” Debates begin with six-minute opening speeches by the main affirmative and negative speakers. These two debaters are selected prior to the convention; they research and prepare their arguments beforehand. A pre-selected student moderator guides the action following the opening speeches, where any student in the audience may volunteer for three minute subsequent speeches in support of either side.

Students vote for a “Best Speaker” at the end of each debate. The main focus of JSA debate is, however, on persuading the audience and imparting a greater understanding of the issues involved, rather than competition between speakers.

Debate Procedure

1. Pro Opening Speech, 6 minutes
2. Con Opening Speech, 6 minutes
3. Subsequent Pro Speech, 3 minutes
4. Subsequent Con Speech, 3 minutes
5. (More Subsequent Pro and Con Cycles)
6. Move to Previous Question
7. Con Closing Speech, 3 minutes
8. Pro Closing Speech, 3 minutes
9. Vote on Resolution
10. Best Speaker Ballots

Debate Motions:

Move to...

- Previous question
- Extend speaker’s time
- Ask a two-part question
- Suspend the rules and have another pro/con speaker
- Caucus

Purpose

- Ends subsequent speech cycle and returns to main speakers for closing
- Allows the speaker to speak for 30 seconds or 1 minute longer
- Allows questioner to ask a speaker two questions in a row
- If nobody wants to speak subsequently for a certain side, you can skip and move to the other side. Try to avoid this though!
- This opens the debate to a thought talk

Thought Talks

Thought talks are student-led discussions on pressing issues or questions. These activities don’t have the formal structure of a debate and allow students to explore issues in-depth, in a less confrontational setting. A moderator guides the participants by posing questions and offering facts about the topic; however, students will have an open opportunity to express their thoughts and let their comments take the discussion in many different directions. No main speakers are chosen for Thought Talks, and no awards are given. This pressure-free atmosphere engages students very differently than debates and helps students gain confidence with their public speaking skills.

Keynote Speakers and Political Fairs

Distinguished politicians, statespersons, journalists, and public policy experts across the political spectrum are invited to address JSA conventions. Delegates gather for opening and closing sessions where these high profile speakers address the students and answer their questions. JSA members have met and posed questions to key personalities from across the entire political spectrum.

In addition, some conventions feature Political Fairs that enable students to meet representatives of lobbying and political groups and get to ask questions regarding their policies and views. In recent years, our Political Fairs have included groups like the National Rifle Association & Handgun Control Inc., NARAL Pro-Choice America & the National Right to Life Organization, the Republican, Democratic, Green, Libertarian and other political parties.

Social Activities

JSA conventions combine the intellectual stimulation of intense political dialogue with some activities in the evenings after dinner time that are just plain fun. Students get a chance to relax in less formal settings including dances, quiz bowl, impromptu debates, and relax with their friends at a JSA Lounge among others. JSA conventions let students meet others with similar interests and diverse talents which helps them build a life-long network of friends.

Other Activities

In addition to debates and thought talks, JSA conventions include a variety of other activities. Spring State conventions feature dramatic and exciting “political convention style” elections for Junior State offices. Mock trials allow delegates to explore our nation’s judicial system and examine how legal and constitutional controversies are resolved in the United States. Simulations of city council and school board meetings help students grapple with local governance issues. These and various other political seminars give students a wide-range of ways to get involved.



CONVENTION CHECKLIST

Use this convention checklist to help plan and get your chapter to Spring State. Remember, many of these steps take time so start planning early!

1. Get School Approval

- Give a copy of the convention flyer to the Student Activities Director.
- Find out and follow the procedure for obtaining school approval for the trip.

2. Publicize

- Pass out flyers to interested students. Tell everyone to take the flyer home and show their parents.
- Distribute flyers to teachers who may know of other interested students.
- Post flyers around campus. Write a contact and email for interested students.

3. Register

- Find out the procedure for obtaining a school check or purchase order for the entire chapter's registration cost. If the school cannot do this, a Teacher/Advisor or parent can write the check. If this occurs, tell chapter members to whom they should make their checks payable. **JSA cannot accept individual checks from every student.**
- Pass out registration packets to all interested students.
- Set a deadline for returning registration checks and permission forms. This deadline should be before the registration deadlines.
- Collect checks, process them with the school, Teacher/Advisor, or parent, and obtain one inclusive check for all registration costs and membership dues (for students who have not already paid dues for the 2017-2017 school year).
- Collect registration and permission forms. Make sure every student has gone over the permission form with their parents and has returned a signed permission form.
- Fill out the Chapter Registration Form and Hotel Rooming List. Make sure all names are spelled correctly. The Teacher/Advisor must sign off on the Hotel Rooming List. Scan and send, or make copies and mail, the chapter registration form, hotel rooming list, payment check, and permission forms to the JSA DC office. Make a copy of each and keep one for the Chapter President and one for the Teacher-Advisor. Double-check all registration materials for accuracy. Make sure registration materials are submitted by then registration deadline.

4. Arrange Transportation

- Determine how the chapter will travel to the hotel.
- If the chapter is large enough, arranging a bus through the school district or an outside bus company may be necessary. If doing this, **START EARLY**. The process could take a few weeks.
- If the chapter decides to carpool, make sure to find enough Teacher/Advisor or parent drivers to accommodate the entire chapter. **Remember: No students may drive cars to a JSA conventions.**
- Set a time and place for everyone to meet before the convention and the estimated time of arrival for drop off after the convention.

5. Have Pre-Convention Meetings

- Invite all students, their parents, and Teacher/Advisors to a pre-convention meeting (scheduled during the late afternoon or evening if possible). Go over transportation, what to bring, the format of the convention, and the convention rules.
- Discuss appropriate behavior and expectations during the convention.
- Have another meeting for the chapter to debate or discuss one or more of the debate topics for the convention.

6. What to Bring With You to the Convention

- A cell phone list of all students and a list of emergency telephone numbers for parents.
- All balances must be paid **before** the convention, but in the event the chapter has any outstanding convention charges, contact the Mid-Atlantic Program Director Elizabeth Ventura at (202) 591-3734 and make arrangements to pay the outstanding balance.

Make copies of all registration materials including permission forms and convention rules.



ONLINE CHAPTER REGISTRATION GUIDE

The following step-by-step guide walks you through the online registration process. If you run into any problems, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Mid-Atlantic Program Director Elizabeth Ventura at (202) 591-3734.

- Step 1:** *Log into MyJSA. Go to the My Events tab, and under "Register for a New Event" select "Spring State" and then click "Start registration."* This will create a new event on the My Events page. Click on the link, and select the student chapter leader and primary attending Teacher/Advisor. Please do this as soon as the chapter has permission to attend (even before knowing how many students will attend), as this allows JSA to plan for attendance. If you have a My Chapter tab but you do not see a registration option under My Events, contact your program director at eventura@jsa.org and a staff member will add this option to your account.
- Step 2:** *Update the chapter roster.* Make sure new and returning chapter members are listed under the chapter's membership roster in the JSA database. Ask all new and returning members to create or update their MyJSA account at jsa.org/myjsa. Bring a computer with an internet connection to the first few meetings and have members create or update their accounts. **All MyJSA information should be complete and accurate.**
- Step 3:** *Collect permission & registration form and payment* from all members who will attend the convention. Keep track of who has paid and who has submitted registration and permission forms using a spreadsheet.
- Step 4:** *Create a rooming list.* Once a list of members attending is finalized, create a rooming list and fill these rooms in online.
- Step 5:** *Log in and complete the chapter registration.* The online registration form will ask for the information that has been assembled above, namely, the students and Teacher/Advisors for your group, the convention pricing packages for each, and your rooming list. The students and Teacher/Advisors are selected from the chapter roster, so make sure the roster is complete as described in Step 3. Once all the information is entered correctly, click "Submit."
- Step 6:** *After submitting registration online, a preliminary invoice will be created showing the total amount due and the chapter list.* Elizabeth Ventura, the Mid-Atlantic Program Director, will review and confirm registration details and then send a final invoice. Review the payment options and arrange to pay before the convention.
- Step 7:** *Send in the payment, membership dues (if applicable), signed student permission & registration and form, and signed Teacher/Advisor Responsibility form to the Junior State of America office.* These can be scanned copies.

Payment Options

- School Check:** ONE inclusive check payable to The Junior State of America from the school. If the school cannot process the check request before the registration deadline, send a copy of the documentation showing you have arranged with the school to send the check, **plus** a guarantee from the school that payment will be received **before** the start of the convention.
- Personal Check:** ONE inclusive check payable to The Junior State of America from a parent or Teacher/Advisor (students must pay that individual).
- Purchase Order:** A school purchase order (must be payable within 30 days of the registration deadline).
- Credit Card:** JSA will accept credit card payments for registration by phone or online. If you would like to pay by credit card online, please contact Elizabeth Ventura, the Mid-Atlantic Program Director, and she will walk you through the process.

DO NOT SEND CASH OR INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL CHECKS.



CHAPTER REGISTRATION FORM

**Mid-Atlantic Spring State
Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin NJ
April 22-23**

HIGH SCHOOL _____

STUDENT CHAPTER LEADER

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ GRAD YEAR _____

CELL PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

TEACHER/ADVISOR

NAME _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

FAX NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Our chapter at Spring State will consist of _____ people (_____ students + _____ Teacher/Advisors)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ Student(s) – EARLY Registration	\$150.00 per student	\$ _____
_____ Student(s) – STANDARD Registration	\$195.00 per student	\$ _____
_____ Student(s) – LATE Registration	\$210.00 per student	\$ _____
_____ Student(s) – Additional Night (Friday)	\$50.00 per student	\$ _____
_____ Teacher-Advisor(s) – Shared Room	\$0.00	\$ _____
_____ Teacher-Advisor(s) – Private Room (per night)	\$110.00 per T/A	\$ _____
Grand Total		\$ _____

Payment Method (Please mark one)

- _____ Credit Card
- _____ School Check
- _____ Personal Check
- _____ Purchase Order

Make Checks Payable to and Mail to:

**The Junior State of America
2001 S St. NW Suite 510
Washington, DC 20009**



JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP DUES

SCHOOL: _____ **DATE:** _____

Check below if you have completed the following steps to start a JSA chapter at your school:

- School approval
- Teacher/Advisor from your school
- Minimum of eight (8) student members verified as dues-paid in MyJSA (my.jsa.org)
- Chapter constitution (see example in "Starting a JSA Chapter")

Membership dues are paid to join a JSA chapter at a rate of \$5.00 per member/ per year.

Please mail taxes and completed tax form to:

For the West Coast, Mid-Atlantic, and Arizona:
 THE JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA
 111 ANZA BLVD, STE 109
 BURLINGAME, CA 94010-1932

For the East Coast and Midwest:
 THE JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA
 2001 S St. NW, STE 510
 WASHINGTON, DC 20009

CHAPTER PRESIDENT

TEACHER/ADVISOR

Name

Name

Email

Email

Home Address

School Address

City State Zip

City State Zip

Home Phone Grad Year

School Phone

Cell Phone

Cell Phone

_____ **(Number of Dues-Paid Members) x \$5.00 per member = \$** _____ **Total**

_____ Check enclosed (one check)

_____ Please charge the credit card below

Name on Credit Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____



THE ERNEST A. ROGERS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year at Spring State conventions across the nation, the Junior Statesmen Foundation recognizes the most outstanding chapters in each of its jurisdictions. The award is named in honor of JSA's founder, Professor Ernest Andrew Rogers, who is more commonly referred to as "Prof. Rogers." The idea for what is now known as the Junior State was first conceived by Prof. Rogers, headmaster of the Montezuma School in California's Santa Cruz Mountains in the early 1930s. Rogers had long maintained that one of the primary needs of a democracy was to train its youth in the essentials of good government. Rogers believed that without an informed populace, a democracy is worthless.

On an autumn evening in 1934, Prof. Rogers put the question before his students. Someone suggested a junior government -- an educational project to help create the statesmen and citizens of the future. Excited by the idea, the students began to set out the goals for their junior government. Non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-secret, and non-profit, the organization would rise above the evils of propaganda and dirty politics. Students would not just learn about democracy, but would practice it among themselves. The Chapter of the Year Award is given to schools that fulfill the ideals envisioned by Prof. Rogers.

Rewards for Winning Chapter of the Year

1. An engraved plaque honoring the chapter.
2. A \$1,000 scholarship to a Junior Statesmen Summer School
3. A full scholarship to a Junior Statesmen Symposium for one (1) chapter member.
4. One free private room to the chapter's Teacher/Advisor to all conventions the following year.
5. Become eligible for the Junior State of America's National Civic Impact Award.

The National Civic Impact Award

The Junior State of America annually recognizes the chapter that has had the biggest impact on increasing the level of civic awareness and engagement at their school with the National Civic Impact Award. The award goes to one of the 10 chapters chosen as their state's Chapter of the Year. The winning chapter receives:

1. An engraved plaque honoring the chapter.
2. A \$500 stipend reward given to the chapter's Teacher/Advisor.
3. A \$2,000 grant to the chapter to continue their civic impact and engagement projects.

How to be Recognized as the "Chapter of the Year"

The Chapter of the Year is chosen at each state's Spring State Convention. Chapter Presidents and Teacher/Advisors submit an essay and make a 6-8 minute presentation during a special activity block at Spring State to promote their chapter's candidacy for the Chapter of the Year Award.

Chapter of the Year Application Process

1. Review the "Criteria for Judging the Most Outstanding Chapter" listed below.
2. Submit a complete Chapter of the Year application and essay written by the Chapter President and Teacher/Advisor describing ways in which the chapter has been extraordinary through their activities, events, and participation in the community to your state's Program Director at least one week prior to Spring State.
3. At Spring State, the Teacher/Advisor and the Chapter President or her/his designee will give a 6-8 minute presentation to a panel of Teacher/Advisors and Junior State staff who will decide which chapter will be the Chapter of the Year.
4. Presentation Requirements
 - a. Chapters should prepare and submit a PowerPoint slideshow or video and have it ready in CD, DVD, or USB memory device.
 - b. The presentation should describe your chapter's achievements and include photos, videos, press clippings, text, charts, and any other audio/visual aids that help to convey the chapter's achievements;
 - c. The student should be able to operate all equipment. Junior State will provide an LCD projector and laptop PC computer. Students should contact their state's program director to ensure that the equipment is compatible for your presentation.
 - d. Videos should not last more than five minutes so that there is time for questions and answers.

Description of the Ideal Junior State Chapter.

The ideal JSA chapter is the center of nonpartisan political activity and awareness on campus. A chapter that is doing the best possible job of educating, involving, and representing the youth of their school and community is living up fully to the goals of the Junior State of America. Outstanding JSA chapters have members who diligently plan, regularly attend, and actively participate in chapter, regional, and state activities such as: chapter conferences, regional one-day conferences, and JSA overnight conventions. Typical chapter activities include student debates of controversial issues, guest speakers, mock trials, candidate debates, and voter education and registration drives. Outstanding JSA chapters go out of their way to encourage involvement in, and understanding of, the democratic process, and participation in programs sponsored by the Junior State of America and the Junior Statesmen Foundation.

Criteria for Judging the Most Outstanding Chapter

1. *Political Awareness*

- Chapter hosts events such as debates, thought-talks, guest speakers, simulations such as mock trials and mock elections, and mini-conventions that are politically relevant and raise the level of engagement of chapter members and school.

2. *Civic Engagement/Activism –*

- Participation in school governance, school board, and city council meetings.
- Conducts voter registration drives and letter writing campaigns to local, state, or federal representatives.
- Works with elected officials to raise awareness of student concerns and offer action plans, or policy recommendations.

3. *Leadership –*

- Chapter members exemplify leadership qualities in their school, community, and at JSA events through active participation as speakers/moderators in debates, and thought talks.

4. *Community Service –*

- Chapter contributes to the betterment of their city by participating and volunteering at charitable organizations such as food banks, care facilities, and community centers.

5. *JSA Participation –*

- Regularly attends JSA conventions, regional one-day conferences, and chapter conferences.



THE ERNEST A. ROGERS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATION FORM

Chapters interested in competing for the Chapter of the Year Award should complete and submit this application form at least one week prior to Spring State Convention to their state's program director.

Name of Chapter:		Date:	
School Address:			
City		State	Zip
Chapter President:			
CP Phone:		CP Email:	
Teacher Advisor:			
TA Cell Phone:		TA Email:	
Description of Presentation:			
Audio/Visual Requirements (Please contact the program director to ensure compatibility)			

JSA Mid-Atlantic Program Director Contact Information:

Elizabeth Ventura
The Junior State of America
2001 S St. NW Suite 510
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 591-3734
eventura@jsa.org