



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
23652 Antonio Parkway
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
(949) 888-1990 ~ FAX (949) 888-1994

Junior High Mock Trial Member Guidelines and Participation Agreement

Facilitator: Mrs. Benudiz

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School is proud to announce the continuation of the JSerra Junior High Mock Trial Tournament on campus. This group will be offered to students in grades seven and eight. The goals of this tournament are to introduce the students to many of the aspects and components of a criminal trial. Students will learn about the criminal trial process and the courtroom set up. They will also learn about the elements of a criminal trial and how to present those elements to a presiding judge during a court trial.

As far as personal goals, students will improve their analytical, thinking and reasoning skills, their oral advocacy skills, and develop a personal knowledge of key trial and legal concepts.

Lastly, students will gain experience in working as a team, and an appreciation of the importance of ethical, respectful and polite behavior expected in a courtroom setting. The St. Serra team(s) will meet multiple times leading up to the tournament which will be held in March. The facilitator, Mrs. Benudiz, will be present at all meetings.

Guidelines and Rules of Conduct

- 1) Candidate Requirements and Selection Process:** The Junior High Mock Trial team is open to students in grades seven and eight who are interested and committed.
- 2) Attendance:** Students are expected to attend every meeting during the school year.

If you will be absent, please contact Mrs. Benudiz prior to meetings at mbenudiz@serraschool.org. Illness is considered an excused absence. A note from parent/guardian is required. The Junior High Mock Trial is a 5 month commitment. Attendance will be taken at each meeting. Meetings will be held in PEB227

Meeting Dates :

We will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 2:30pm-3:10pm in PEB227

- 3) Behavior:** Students are expected to follow the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Code of Conduct at all times.

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San Francisco Solano Catholic Church ~ Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church ~ St. Kilian Catholic Church ~ Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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- 4) JSerra Mock Trial Tournament:** JSerra will create seven courtrooms at their campus facility in San Juan Capistrano. Each participating junior high school team will be given the opportunity on **Thursday, March 7th, 2019**, to participate in four (4) mock trials at the JSerra campus. The trials will begin promptly at 8:00am. Teams are advised to arrive at the JSerra campus no later than 7:30am so they can check in teams. Each trial will last approximately 40 minutes. The trials will end at about 11:30am. There will be a luncheon provided by JSerra for all students, teachers, chaperones, coaches and parents. The luncheon will start around noon and end at 1:00pm.

****Students will be expected to wear their formal uniform to the tournament****

**Parents will drive their own children to this event. Carpooling is encouraged! A St. Serra bus will be provided to bring students back to school.*

- 5) Awards:** Trophies will be awarded to the top three (3) teams. At the end of the trials, each team coach will choose their own team MVP. This MVP will receive special awards acknowledging their outstanding performance.

- 6) Junior High Mock Trial Participation Fee:** There is no fee for this program.

- 7) Parent Support:** Volunteer opportunities include: coaches (parents with any legal background) and chaperones.

If interested, please email Mrs. Benudiz at mbenudiz@serraschool.org

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS: All volunteers must be eligible for supervision of students by clearing the **fingerprinting** requirements of the Diocese of Orange and must have successfully completed the **Safe Environment** training. Please see Anna Merrill in Human Resources if you need to determine your eligibility.

- 8) Participation Agreement:** The attached form is a participation agreement that is required by all students who will participate in the 2018-2019 Junior High Mock Trial.

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Please return this form to the School Front Office – Attention Mrs. Benudiz

**Serra Catholic School
Junior High Mock Trial 2018-2019
Student Participation Agreement**

Please detach and complete this form and return to the Serra Catholic School Office by

October 26, 2018

I, _____ **(print student's name)** agree to comply with the guidelines stated in the Guidelines and Junior High Mock Trial Team Expectations. Should I become unable to comply with those guidelines, I will immediately notify the facilitator.

Student Signature:

Student Homeroom:

Parent E-mail Address:

Contact Phone #

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