



## 2009 Arizona Forensic Science Competition: Crime Scene Investigation Showcase Guidelines

### I. COMPETITION LOGISTICS

**Date:** May 15, 2009

**Time:** 7:30 – 4:30

**Location:** TBA

**Sponsors:** The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education, with the support of the Phoenix Police Department, is the official host of the 2009 Arizona Forensic Science Competition.

**Transportation:** Transportation must be arranged through your school district. The Foundation will cover the cost of mileage for teams traveling outside of Maricopa County.

**Lodging:** The Foundation will cover the cost of stay rooms for the evening of May 14, 2009 for teams traveling outside of Maricopa County. Foundation staff will be in contact with the officer/teacher coach to confirm reservations.

**Lunch:** Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students, officer/teacher coaches and parents at no cost. Please complete the lunch form to RSVP yourself, your students and guests for this event.

### II. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

On the day of the State Competition, each team will be presented with a simulated crime scene and will be evaluated on the following 5 areas:

1. Crime Scene Processing & Documentation
2. Collection, Preservation & Processing of Physical Evidence
3. Physical Evidence Examination & Interpretation
4. Interviewing
5. Final Presentation

**Evaluation:** The Foundation has implemented several measures to ensure that each team is scored fairly and in an impartial manner:

1. Prior to the competition, each team will be provided with the 5 areas of evaluation.
2. The names of the participating schools will remain anonymous to the evaluators.
3. Experienced and expert evaluators, in the fields of law enforcement and forensic science, will be assessing the teams through each step of the crime scene analysis.
4. The evaluators will be rotating between teams during different stages of the investigation to ensure objectivity and fairness.

**Final Presentation:** Each team will have 30 minutes to present their investigative work (including notes, diagrams, photographs, theories, etc...) to a panel of evaluators. At this time, evaluators will engage students in question and answer. The students should be prepared to answer questions and receive feedback from the evaluators.

**Scoring:** Scores will be tallied for each of the 5 evaluation areas, and compiled to determine a final overall score. The team with the highest score will be deemed the State Champion. There will be a middle school and high school champion. In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker process has been designed.

**Additional Guidance:** There will be 1-3 evaluators assigned to each crime scene, one of which will be designated as the “first responding officer.” The team will be allowed to ask questions of him/her. The first responding officer will have limited information regarding the crime scene.

**Performance Critique:** Copies of the scoring rubric will be made available to the team officer/teacher coach following the completion of the competition.

### **III. FORENSIC TEAMS**

**Class Eligibility:** Classes comprised of students in grades 6-12 are eligible to participate in the Forensic Science Competition under the following criteria:

1. The class must be a regularly rostered class or an administrator approved before or after school program.
2. All students on a team must be officially enrolled at the same school, as evidenced by permanent school records.
3. Class or club size cannot be fewer than 6 students.
4. The class must have participated in the Forensic Science Qualification Scenario Competition and been invited by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education to participate in the Crime Scene Investigation Showcase.

**Student Eligibility:** To compete on a Forensic Science team, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. A student must be an officially enrolled student at the public or private high school which he/she seeks to represent in the Forensic Science program.

2. Dual enrolled students – students officially enrolled at more than one school may only compete for the school at which their official permanent records are located.
3. Officially enrolled students – a student is not considered officially enrolled at a school unless he/she is taking a course at the school for which they will receive a grade, other than a pass/fail, and which is entirely unrelated to Forensic Science or their participation in the Forensic Science program.
4. A home-schooled student will be considered an officially enrolled student at any high school within the school district in which he/she resides for home school.
5. All students on a team must be officially enrolled at the same school.
6. Students engaged in college courses or an internship will be considered officially enrolled provided that the school at which their official records are located still consider them officially enrolled at the school and they are not considered to have graduated or withdrawn from the school.
7. Students must be officially enrolled at the time the team is registered for the Forensic Science Competition. The officer/teacher coach is thereafter responsible for immediately notifying the State Coordinator of any change in a student's status. Any student not officially enrolled on the day of a Competition will not be allowed to participate in any capacity.
8. No regional or consolidate teams will be allowed. If a school is composed of several campuses or affiliated schools, all students on a team must attend classes on the same campus. In the event a student attends classes on more than one campus, each campus will be considered a different school and the limitations set forth for dual enrolled students will be applicable.

### **Team Composition:**

1. A team will include all student members and officer/teacher coaches who participated in the Forensic Science Qualification Scenario Competition.
2. A forensic team may consist of up to 12 members and 3 alternates. The alternates must be used in at least one scoring area of the competition, replacing up to three of the regular team members
3. One to two students must be designated as the Lead Investigator(s) for each area being evaluated. It is recommended that teams larger than 10 members be divided into sub-teams of no more than 5 students and assigned areas of responsibility (documentation, fingerprinting, evidence collection, evidence processing, interviewing, etc...)

### **Lead Investigator Responsibilities:**

1. Provide coordination and direction for teammates throughout the showcase.
2. Present findings to evaluators during the final presentation.
3. Be the spokesperson(s) for the team if questions and/or concerns arise.

**Team Identification:** Prior to the showcase, each team will be assigned a *school identifier (color)*. On the day of the showcase, each team member will be provided with and required to wear a name tag that will include the school identifier. To ensure that the school's name remains anonymous the team members should not wear articles of clothing with the school's name or any other school identifying paraphernalia. Additionally, any school names written on the investigative equipment should be concealed with tape or some other type of covering.

**Officer/Teacher Coach Responsibility:**

1. The officer/teacher coach is deemed to certify that all students meet the criteria as an officially enrolled student when the team is registered.
2. One to two officer/teacher coaches are to accompany the team through the stages of the evaluation.
3. The officer/teacher coaches *will not provide any form of assistance* to the students during the competition.
4. A penalty will be assessed to the team if assistance is provided by the officer/teacher coach.
5. If an issue of need or concern arises, the officer/teacher coach will address one of the event coordinators.

**Dress Code:** Students are assuming the role of a professional and are expected to dress accordingly to maintain a professional appearance. Additionally, students should not wear paraphernalia or clothing that provides any identification of their school including school name and/or mascot.

**Prohibited Activities:**

1. Video/audio taping by competitors during the competition is *prohibited*.
2. Video/audio taping by an officer/teacher coach, observer, or other guest requires the *direct permission* of the competition coordinators.
3. Those individuals wishing to video/audiotape the competition must sign in at the registration desk and provide us with the name of the student they are in attendance with.
4. Any violation of the "Code of Ethics" could result in team disqualification.

**Request for Evidence Analysis:** During the course of the investigation, a team may collect evidence (ex: latent prints, DNA swab, etc...) that will require crime lab analysis. For analysis to be provided, the team must turn in a *processed* piece of evidence with a specific request using a “Lab request Form” that will be provided, to the “Crime Lab” for the information being sought.

Ex: Turning in a wine glass for fingerprint analysis is not appropriate... Turning in a latent print, taken from the wine glass, would be acceptable.

The “Crime Lab” will be designated prior to the start of the competition. The process for submitting your requests will be explained at the competition.

**Fingerprinting:** *Fingerprinting will not be performed at the crime scene*, but rather in the team’s “Evidence Processing Lab.” The teams’ lab assignment will be provided prior to the start of the competition.

1. To avoid the excessive use of fingerprint powder, the teams will be provided with a “Do Not Dust for Fingerprints” list on the day of the competition designating the items that will not be dusted.

#### **IV. REQUIRED SKILLS**

**Crime Scene Processing and Documentation:** Students should be able to:

1. Properly approach & coordinate within a crime scene.
2. Adhere to safety guidelines.
3. Properly document the crime scene.

\*Each team will be required to submit a minimum of 10 crime scene photos for evaluation. Digital Cameras will be provided for each team’s use. Once the photos are taken, the team is required to present the camera to the “Technology Lab” for processing. The “Technology Lab” will be designated prior to the start of the competition.

**Physical Evidence Collection and Preservation:** Students should be able to:

1. Recognize and document physical evidence found at the crime scene.
2. Collect, preserve and protect the evidence from contamination.
3. Evaluate/assess the evidence.
4. Maintain and document the chain of custody for all evidence.

**Physical Evidence Examination and Interpretation:**

Basic skills that students should be prepared to demonstrate include:

1. Fingerprinting
2. Blood Spatter Analysis
3. Lip Printing
4. Shoe Imprint/Impressions
5. Reconstruction of past events based on evidence collection
6. Hair/Fiber Analysis (High School Only)

Students should also be able to:

1. Properly document all evidence
2. Maintain an evidence log
3. Maintain the chain of custody for all evidence
4. Follow procedures to protect contamination and/or loss of evidence
5. Adhere to safety guidelines within the “Evidence Processing Lab”

**Interviewing:** Teams will be permitted to “interview” subjects made available on the day of the competition. Students should be able to utilize appropriate methods of interviewing techniques, including but not limited to:

1. Miranda Warning
2. Appropriate use of Warrants

**Final Presentation:** The purpose of the final presentation is to present and defend the team’s findings. Students should be able to:

1. Organize evidence analysis.
2. Report analysis results in written and oral formats.
3. Report hypothesis as to what occurred.
4. Defend any results obtained and the methods employed.
5. Provide the judges with the specific charge of the suspect, including appropriate Arizona Revised Statute(s).

**Presentation Procedures:**

1. During this time, evaluators will have the ability to question teams for clarification matters.
2. The lead investigator(s) should begin the presentation by providing a synopsis of what occurred.
3. One or two persons should present information on the different areas of evaluation.
4. The lead investigator(s) should complete the presentation by presenting their team's hypothesis.
5. The team will have a maximum of 20 minutes to make their final presentation, and 10 minutes for question and answer. The evaluators will indicate once time has expired and the lead investigator(s) must conclude his/her statement.

## **V. EQUIPMENT**

Each team is responsible for bringing a crime scene investigation kit. Teams will be provided a list of the basic items needed and will need to have approval for items outside the scope of the list.

**The Foundation will supply each team with a digital camera.**

**Work Area Protection:** Teams are required to protect Black Canyon Conference Center's property. The "Evidence Processing Lab" should be left in the same condition it was in at the start of the competition. To fulfill this requirement, teams will be provided with the following items:

1. Disposable tablecloth for your work area(s)
2. Drop clothes for under your work area
3. 1 Roll of paper towels
4. 1 Cleaning agent (Windex, Pine Sol, etc...)
5. 1 Bucket
6. Sponges
7. Broom and dust pan
8. Trash bags

**\*Equipment does not have to be of true forensic quality. If you are unable to obtain any of the equipment, please contact Susan Nusall immediately.\***

## VI. TO BE COMPLETED

**Registration Form:** Upon review of the Competition Guidelines the officer/teacher coach must complete the online Registration Form and forward to Susan Nusall.

**Official Roster:** Prior to the competition, officer/teacher coach will be provided with an Official Roster form. This form must be approved at the registration desk upon arrival at the Competition.

**Permission to Videotape, Photograph and Use of Likeness:** All students, teachers, advisors, observers, guests, and volunteers associated with this competition are hereby notified that the competition coordinators may use video/audiotape, photographs, and likeness for the purpose of:

1. Completing print & electronic publications that may be used for Law-Related Education and development projects of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education.
2. Newspaper/magazine articles and other publications to promote the Middle/High School Forensic Science Competition and/or the Foundation in reference to the students direct involvement in law-related education and related activities.
3. The AZFLSE web site for informational purposes.
4. Public Service Announcements, radio announcements, television commercial or program and any production by and for the Foundation.

By appearing at the competition on May 16, 2008 consent to be video/audio taped and/or photographed for promotional purpose is implied. Members of the media have been invited to cover this event.

Included in the Competition Information package is a form entitled "***AZFLSE.ORG Name/Photo/Video Release Form.***" The officer/teacher coach is responsible for ensuring that each team member arrives at the competition with a completed form. The teacher/advisor is required to deliver the completed forms for each team member to the coordinators at the registration desk upon entering the competition. **If a student fails to complete the form, it is the officer/teacher coach responsibility to ensure that the student is not photographed, video/audio taped, or interviewed.**

**Competition Evaluation:** Officer/teacher coaches will be asked to evaluate the competition and provide feedback, including suggestions for improvement.

**Questions:** Any questions or concerns should be directed to Foundation staff, or as otherwise previously directed.

**Special Accommodations:** If any students have special needs, please speak with Foundation staff directly about your request, so we can make the necessary accommodations.



**Contacts #:**

Susan Nusall, Resource Development Manager

(602) 340-7361

[Susan.Nusall@azflse.org](mailto:Susan.Nusall@azflse.org)

**Emergency Contact #:** For emergencies on the day of the competition, please contact Susan Nusall on her cell phone at (602) 380-3266