Spring Grove Area School District

Proposal for Major Trip

AP #121 - Attachment

TITLE of TRIP: Mock Trial Competition

PERSON SUBMITTING PROPOSAL: Jason Baker

DESTINATION: The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

PROPOSED TRIP DATES: Saturday, January 16 – Sunday, January 17, 2027

TRIP SUPERVISION:
Who will be in charge? Jason Baker, High School Social Studies Teacher

How many adults will be required to attend this trip to ensure safety and to act as chaperones?
2, Jason Baker, High School Social Studies Teacher, and Justice White, New Salem Elementary School Learning Support Teacher.

If chaperones are part of District faculty/staff, who will require a substitute?
None

BENEFITS of PARTICIPATION / RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM:
Mock Trial participants acquire intellectual and practical skills leading to increased proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking. Participants develop personal, intellectual, and social responsibility and apply knowledge and skills in new settings and situations. Students gain increased confidence, poise, and oral skills. Academically, we will be supporting Learning without Limits. Most of the state standards in Social Studies, including Civics and English.

Mock Trial competitions also enhance student skills in analyzing and reasoning through critical analysis of problems. Competitions have students participate in courtroom procedures that require strategic thinking, questioning skills, and listening skills. Students engage in oral presentations and extemporaneous arguments. Finally, Mock Trial participants prepare and organize trial material and gain exposure to a wide variety of law-related careers.

Who will be eligible to attend this trip?
9th through 12th grade students who are part of the Mock Trial teams.

PERFORMANCES / EXCHANGES / DETAILED ITINERARY:

Saturday, January 16, 2027
5:00 a.m. – Depart from Spring Grove Area High School
9:00 a.m. – Compete at Benjamin Franklin Invitational at the University of Pennsylvania
5:00 p.m. – Depart from University of Pennsylvania to the Homewood Suites and scrimmage for the trials set for Sunday

Sunday, January 17, 2027
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Compete in trials
7:00 p.m. – Depart for Spring Grove
9:30 p.m. – Arrive at Spring Grove Area High School

The Spring Grove Mock Trial team will be heading to the University of Penn Invitational, a premier tournament. We arrive on Saturday and stay at Homewood Suites. Competition trials will take place on Saturday and Sunday. Following the conclusion of the tournament on Sunday, the team will return home to Spring Grove.

HEALTH / SAFETY:
Students will have permission slips from the nurse for any health concerns that need to be addressed. If a student becomes ill, all necessary steps will be taken to ensure that appropriate attention is given to the student to address his/her needs.

COSTS:

***NOTE: It is understood that the Student Activity/Club will be responsible for all costs out of their budget for this trip request.**

Cost to student:

$ Students will pay for their food. Mock Trial will pay $1,000 towards hotel cost.

Cost to finance trip / Methods to assist students:

$ 600 – Transportation
$ 2,886 – Lodging and/or Meals
$ 3,486 – **TOTAL** (Expenses are to be covered using the following budget)

☒ **This trip is being funded through the General Fund Budget.**

- **Budget Account Code:** 10-3210-581-000-30-830-058-000-0000 and 10-3210-582-000-30-830-053-000-0000

☐ **These funds are available and have been verified by the Business Office.**
There is $19,870 remaining from the Mock Trial budget as of 11/13/26

☒ **This trip is being funded through the Mock Trial Student Activity/ Club Account**

- **Student Activity/Club Account Code:** 81 L 0496 000 000 00 000 000 000 351

☐ **These funds are available and have been verified by the Business Office.**
There is a balance of $10,526.31 as of 11/13/26

Will this trip require a substitute for the classroom? NO

- **If YES, how many substitutes?**

Will this trip require a school nurse to participate? NO

Total estimated cost for any / all substitutes @ $184.10 per substitute, per day: 0

Community donations:

Parents and members of the community will pay for the students' food. Donations and Mock Trial Club is paying for a portion of the trip.