



# MIDDLE SCHOOL FEDERAL COURT FIELD TRIPS

United States District Court for the  
Southern District of Indiana  
Indianapolis, IN

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
TEACHERS,  
FEDERAL COURT IS  
FOR YOU!**

**Schedule Your FREE Field  
Trip Today!**

To get started planning your trip,  
contact [tours@insd.uscourts.gov](mailto:tours@insd.uscourts.gov)  
or call (317) 229-3711

**Looking for Virtual  
Options?**

Virtual field trips to federal court are a great alternative for classes that can't visit in-person. To view a list of options, please visit our website.

46 E. Ohio St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

## **WHAT CAN WE DO ON OUR VISIT TO FEDERAL COURT?**

All trips are customized based on teacher input! Visits begin with a short orientation (15 min), followed by a combination of building tour (30-60 min) and activity. All field trips meet Indiana Department of Education standards in social studies and language arts! Applicable standards are listed on our website.

### Activity choices include:

#### **Finding a Fair & Impartial Jury (45 min.)**

Students will learn about jury service and then participate in a jury selection simulation.

#### **Meet a Judge (30 min.)**

\*Subject to availability. Have you ever wondered what a federal judge does all day long? Learn what it takes to be a federal judge in this 30-min. visit.

#### **Observe Court (30+ minutes)**

Watch a courtroom proceeding in action! Please note that this option is subject to availability. It may be necessary to substitute a different activity.

#### **Scripted Mock Trial (45-60 min.)**

Put a fairy tale character on trial in a scripted mock trial designed for middle-school participants! Students will be assigned roles such as judge, attorney, witness, and jury in a fun simulation of a federal court proceeding.

#### **What Does it Mean to be a Citizen? (45 min.)**

Students will discuss citizenship and the different ways a person can become a citizen of the United States. Students will then create lists of rights guaranteed to American citizens, followed by a group conversation about which rights students think are most important.

#### **You be the Judge (30-45 min.)**

Students learn how judges select appropriate criminal sentences then participate in a mock sentencing activity.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Visiting Federal Court



### Educator Updates Distribution List

Teachers, stay informed about the court's latest offerings, special events, and new resources! Sign up at the court's website!

<https://www.insd.uscourts.gov/educational-resources>



### CONTACT US!

[tours@insd.uscourts.gov](mailto:tours@insd.uscourts.gov)

### HOW SOON SHOULD WE RESERVE A DATE?

Federal court is a busy place, so the earlier you contact us to schedule a visit, the more likely the court will be able to accommodate your preferred day and time. However, we're happy to take last-minute reservations when possible.

### HOW LONG CAN WE STAY?

The average visit lasts 2 hours, but each trip is different, depending on the activities selected! Court staff will help you determine the length of your visit when scheduling. If you wish to spend your entire day downtown, there are a number of venues within walking distance to the courthouse that provide fun field trips for middle school students. We will be happy to make recommendations and assist with planning!

### WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED?

The U.S. District Court is located in downtown Indianapolis at 46 E. Ohio St., about a block from Monument Circle. The building's public entrance is located at the corner of Pennsylvania & Ohio Streets. Buses may drop students off on Ohio St.

### IS THERE PARKING NEARBY?

There is no parking available at the courthouse. For passenger vehicles, there are parking garages and metered spaces located in short walking distance from the courthouse. Bus drop offs can be accommodated on Ohio St. Buses can park at the zoo and return to pick up students upon completion of the field trip.

### ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL COVID RESTRICTIONS?

Group sizes may be limited and masks may be required. Visit our website or contact court staff for the latest information.

### WHAT OTHER RESOURCES DO YOU OFFER TEACHERS?

Teacher lesson plans and a student activity book offering a basic introduction to the federal court system are available on our website. Download these valuable resources at <https://www.insd.uscourts.gov/educational-resources>.