



MIDDLE SCHOOL 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
or call (317) 229-3711



U.S. DISTRICT COURT
Southern District of Indiana

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 session (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!

Activity choices include:

Finding a Fair & Impartial Jury (45 min.)

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

Objects & Images of Federal Court (45 min.)

Students examine objects and images related to federal court and work together to determine the purpose of each object.

Observe a Naturalization Ceremony (1.5 hours)

Students will witness a naturalization ceremony and learn the power behind the words spoken in the Oath of Allegiance. A short discussion about citizenship & naturalization will follow. Ceremonies take place at the Indiana World War Memorial. Allow 1.5 hours for the ceremony and discussion.

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.

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.

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Visiting Federal Court



Questions?

Contact Mary Giorgio
(317) 229-3711
mary_giorgio@insd.uscourts.gov

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>



HOW SOON SHOULD WE RESERVE A DATE?

It's never too early to reserve your 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 whenever 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?

Unfortunately, there is no parking available at the courthouse. For passenger vehicles, there are a number of 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.

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>.