

VOLUNTEER WITH



DISCOVERING JUSTICE



DISCOVERING THE BILL OF RIGHTS (FIELD TRIP)



Discovering the Bill of Rights (DBR) draws middle school students into the midst of the judicial process. In a real courtroom, students learn about the Bill of Rights and U.S. Supreme Court cases. They then develop and present an appellate argument based on a landmark Supreme Court case before a lawyer presiding as a judge.

WHEN AND HOW LONG ARE DBR FIELD TRIPS?

Field trips are typically held Monday through Friday mornings from November to June. Each field trip is 90 minutes.

WHERE ARE DBR FIELD TRIPS HELD?

Field trips take place in courtrooms in the Moakley U.S. Courthouse and John Adams Courthouse.

HOW IS THE DBR FIELD TRIP STRUCTURED?

Students arrive at the Courthouse and are given a brief tour by a Discovering Justice staff member, followed by a courtroom simulation that introduces the facts of the case. The volunteer attorney then reviews the Bill of Rights with the students, looking closely at the text of the First or Fourth Amendment. Students are divided into legal teams, provided workbooks with guiding questions, and given 20-25 minutes to develop their arguments. The volunteer attorney then takes the bench and presides over the appellate arguments, asking questions to help clarify each student's analysis. We leave time at the end for student questions and conversation with the volunteer attorney.

IS THERE TRAINING FOR THE VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS?

Volunteer attorneys receive the case, a script, and preparatory materials prior to the field trip. Discovering Justice staff co-facilitates the field trips and is always available to answer questions or provide assistance.



For more information about **Discovering the Bill of Rights**, contact MJ Bastien at 617.748.9641 or mjbastien@discoveringjustice.org.