GCS Guidelines for Participation
Middle School Battle of the Books
(Based on NCSLMA Guidelines)

The North Carolina School Library Media Association is an affiliate of the American Library Association. As such, we seek to further the mission of promoting the highest quality of library and information services and public access to information to school library media professionals in the state of North Carolina. In this role, we sponsor programs such as the Battle of the Books as a service to our constituents: school library media coordinators and the students in their individual school districts. The promotion of this program serves our goals to encourage reading by all of our students and the development of exemplary school libraries.

Eligibility Guidelines for Participation

All guidelines must be met to participate in GCS Battle of the Books program. The participants must be:

- A public or independent school recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction with students in grades 6, 7, and 8 for the current year of participation.
- A school with a cataloged collection of information resources, a designated space as the media center on the site of the school, a materials budget and open a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- A school employing a licensed on-site School Library Media Coordinator.
- The school Library Media Coordinator is a NCSLMA member.

General Guidelines

1. All students participating must be enrolled in the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade at the participating school for the current school year.
2. All sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in participating schools must be given the opportunity to participate in the Battle of the Books.
3. Each team must have at least one on-site Battle of the Books (BOB) coach who is a licensed school Library Media Coordinator. Other coaches may include teachers, other staff, and volunteers.
4. Teams must not exceed the maximum number of 12 members. There is no minimum number. No substitutions will be accepted once the team roster has been submitted to the district coordinator.
5. Each school may send only one team to the district competition.
6. Attendance at the district competition(s) will be limited to no more than 12 team members and 2 coaches.
7. Alternates or substitutes may not attend the district competition(s) unless there is an emergency of a team member.
8. BOB judges and/or Library Media Services have the authority to refuse to allow a **team**** to participate in the event of un-sportsmanlike behavior or other extenuating circumstances.
9. In the event of a situation that is not specifically addressed in the BOB rules, THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.
10. The use of any device (e. g. cell phones, videocameras, electronic devices) to record any part of the competition is not allowed. Photography is permitted before and after the competition only.
11. All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off during the competition.
12. Media specialists and/or coaches will be available to serve as officials, if needed, for the Elementary Battle of the Books competition.
13. **Teams**** not adhering to these guidelines are subject to disqualification.

    **refers to students, coaches, and anyone affiliated with the team