



The English-Speaking Union
National Shakespeare Competition
2017 BRANCH COMPETITION WINNER'S
INFORMATION SHEET

Congratulations! You are one of approximately sixty English-Speaking Union Branch winners nationwide, who will compete in the 2017 ESU National Shakespeare Competition in New York City.

The 2017 National Competition is scheduled for Sunday, April 30 – Monday, May 1.

You must arrive in New York City by early afternoon on the day before the National Competition (April 30) and leave by the morning after the Competition (May 1). NOTE: You should expect to be absent from school all day on Monday (May 1), and possibly all or part of the day on Tuesday (May 2).

- You will arrive in New York City by Sunday late afternoon, April 30 (at the latest).
Note: If you are traveling alone, you will be met by an ESU representative upon your arrival.
- The semi-finals and finals will be held on Monday, May 1.

Here are some FAQs about the ESU National Shakespeare Competition in New York City:

- **How do I get to New York City?** As soon as your Branch confirms that you are the winner of its local ESU Branch competition, have your parent or guardian contact the Branch Coordinator to discuss your travel arrangements.
- **Can my parents/family attend the competition?** Absolutely! Your parents/family members are guaranteed seats to see your performance at the semi-finals. Parents/family of the finalists are guaranteed seats for the finals (at least 5 seats).
- **What if I want to travel with my parents/family or teacher?** Most contestants do travel with a family member or teacher. If your parent/guardian and/or teacher plan to accompany you to New York, please notify the National Headquarters immediately of this situation; it's essential in our planning of the event.
- **Can I stay with my parents/family or teacher?** While you have the option of traveling with your family or teacher, you are required to stay with the other competitors in accommodations organized by The English-Speaking Union. Required for Sunday night; depending on your travel plans, Monday night is optional.
- **I have friends/relatives who live in New York and/or wish to accompany me to New York. Will I be able to spend time with them?** The competition weekend is both exhilarating and exhausting, filled with events related to the ESU National Shakespeare Competition. There really is no time for activities outside of these events. And, remember, you are required to participate in all ESU organized events.
- **What should I wear?** Spring weather in New York is unpredictable. The days can be quite warm, but the temperature drops as soon as the sun sets, so be sure to bring a jacket. You also will be doing quite a bit of walking during the weekend, so bring both appropriate footwear and an umbrella. Because we will be using public transportation, it is important you bring only what you yourself can carry. Please also keep in mind that most airlines only permit you one free bag (carry on) on domestic flights.
- **Do I need to bring any money?** All of your meals and transportation will be provided by The English-Speaking Union. The only spending most contestants engage in is buying souvenirs of their trip.