



# Vermont Treasury Cup Challenge!

May 8, 9 a.m. Montpelier, Pavilion Building Auditorium

## How the competition works

High school teams are comprised of four students in grades 9-12. Teams also are permitted to have as many as two alternates. Alternates may enter a match only once, either between the personal finance and economics rounds or before the lightning round begins. Once a student leaves a competition he/she may not re-enter that specific match. At the start of the Challenge, teams are placed in brackets for preliminary rounds. This is a double elimination tournament. If a team loses a match, their next match is played in the consolation bracket. Once a team loses in the consolation bracket they are eliminated from the competition.

### Each preliminary competition and the championship is organized as follows:

- Round One: **Personal Finance**, each team gets four questions in a round robin format; correct answers-5 pts. each
- Round Two: **Economics**, each gets four questions in a round robin format; correct answers-5 pts. each
- Round Three: **Lightning Round**, open-ended topics that include consumer-related questions, teams compete directly against each other in a timed event, correct answers-10 pts. each, incorrect answers deduct 10 pts.

### Each consolation and semi-final competition is organized as follows:

- Round One: **Personal Finance**, each team gets two open-ended and two multiple-choice question to answer as a team-5 pts. each
- Round Two: **Economics**, each team gets two open-ended and two multiple-choice question to answer as a team- 5 pts. each
- Round Three: **Lightning Round**, open-ended topics that include consumer-related questions, teams compete directly against each other in a timed event, correct answers-10 pts. each, incorrect answers deduct 10 pts.

Throughout the Challenge, students have the opportunity to win prizes through random drawings. Lunch is provided for all competing students and school representatives.

## Preparing for the competition

### It is recommended that:

- Coaches run a practice preliminary competition using the PowerPoint file sent by the Treasurer's office.
- Students read the daily financial/business news to increase their familiarity with financial terms and current events.
- Students review the organization names and basic purposes and functions of major federal financial agencies such as the Federal Reserve System, U.S. Treasury, U.S. Mint, and FDIC.
- Students have an understanding of basic personal finance topics such as credit cards, loans, budgets, debit cards, leases, taxes, and insurance.

### The coach should review with students:

- The basics of a working economy that include concepts such as supply and demand, exports and imports, GNP, and the role of credit in a global economy.
- What is monetary policy and which organizations play leading roles internationally.

*The purpose of the competition is to encourage students to become more knowledgeable about the subject areas of personal finances, economics, and consumer issues. Students do not need to be experts in these fields to compete. The majority of questions are multiple choice.*

## Resources for Team Preparation

Questions will be drawn from the general subject categories of personal finance, economics, and consumer related issues.

**Web Resources:** Below are a list of web sites you might find useful in preparing for the competition.

**Vermont State Treasurer's Office - [www.MoneyEd.Vermont.gov](http://www.MoneyEd.Vermont.gov)**, select the Teaching Resources tab at right. Scroll down the teaching resources page to view resources. At right is a link to the **Financial Football** program. At that site there is also a **Financial Soccer** program. Both games require students to correctly answer personal finance questions in order to move the ball. A great teaching tool.

**Council for Economic Education - [www.econedlink.org](http://www.econedlink.org)**

EconEdLink is a free source of online economic and personal finance lessons and resources for educators, students and after-school providers.

### **Khan Academy**

**Microeconomics at [www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/microeconomics](http://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/microeconomics)**

The Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empowers learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. Have your students focus on supply and demand, elasticity, and scarcity.

**Macroeconomics at [www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/macroeconomics](http://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/macroeconomics)**

Have students focus on GDP, inflation, and the monetary system.

**National Endowment for Financial Education - <http://www.hsfpp.org>**

Carefully designed exercises and activities move the student step-by-step toward each of the six core competencies that the NEFE High School Financial Program teaches. The core competencies are: money management; borrowing; earning power; investing; financial services; and insurance.

**Federal Reserve Teacher Education Resources - <https://federalreserveeducation.org>**

Highlights from this resource link include lesson plans for grades K-12 on personal finance, monetary policy, money, economics, banking, and the Federal Reserve. You can also access online games and simulations that teach economic principles.

**The Investor's Clearinghouse - [www.investoreducation.org](http://www.investoreducation.org)**

The Alliance for Investor Education is dedicated to facilitating greater understanding of investing, investments and the financial markets among current and prospective investors of all ages.

**Investopedia - [www.investopedia.com](http://www.investopedia.com)**

Investopedia provides a wealth of information for beginner, experienced and active traders. A simulated stock trading account can be set up where you can experience stock trading without the risk. The dictionary function on this site is especially helpful for students to quickly find brief descriptions of economic and financial terms.



### **Suggestions for using these resources:**

- **Financial Football and Financial Soccer allow for fun team competition in the classroom.**
- **Investopedia's accessible dictionary lends itself to timed competitions among students to look up concepts and offer answers to definition-specific questions.**
- **The Khan Academy can be your on-line tutor as students may watch a wide-range of videos on key economic topics.**
- **Most schools pull together teams of students for a fun short-term experience of preparing for competition and intensively learning key concepts.**