Pod Room
Description for State CE Teams

Background
Pod rooms were used at ILC to:
- maximize space potential: we don’t always have multiple small individual rooms to use for one event at a time. But in larger convention centers and hotel spaces, we typically have access to large ballrooms. The POD concept converts one large ballroom into multiple smaller rooms that are better suited for competition.
- maximize the use of event personnel: in one large ballroom, many of the staff can be shared and help each other more than if they are all in individual separate room

Select Events for the Pod Rooms
At ILC 2022, the events conducted in the Pod rooms were:
- Presentations by teams – Creative Problem Solving Round 2; Public Heath Round 2, Community Awareness, and Dynamic Decisions
- Skills – CPR/First Aid, CERT Skills, Life Support Skills (2 skills in same pod but not combined), and Personal Care (2 skills in same pod but not combined)

Initially there was uncertainty about how skill events would run in the Pods. We were concerned about hearing the skills and seeing something through the Pod drapes that gave away the skill. We had very quiet white noise piped in through the ballroom speakers to help address the noise. It gave a low hum in the whole room that muffled specific sounds.

In the future, we will rent thicker drapes for the Pods, as there was slight visibility through the material we used. This was eliminated by not using the two Pods that were located closest to where competitors checked in.

Staff Needed to Run Events in Pod Rooms
ILC 2022 used the following personnel:
- Event Manager (1)
- Judge Manager (1)
- Section Leader/Timer both roles (1 per section)
- Check-in (2)
- Runners (2)
- Line Monitor (1)
- Event Assistants (2)

Staff Pre-Planning
Details prior to the event included:
- Flow of competitors.
  - Visualizing where competitors check in, where they wait, when they go back to the assigned Pod.
- Method for determining when to send next team/competitor
  - Some events could have competitors staged in a chair right outside of the Pod. (Leadership and Teamwork events)
  - Skill events need the competitor waiting in a separate waiting area (so they don't hear the skill)
- Judge Orientation was held in front of the Pod room (at round tables) and then those tables converted to evaluation area
- Supplies /Setup
  - Clipboards for judges
  - Inside each Pod had the same furniture setup as outlined in the HOSA Room Set Diagram. Each Pod was treated as an individual judging room.
  - In some events / timeframes, not all 12 Pods were used at once. Event personnel determined the best placement of the sections, so they weren’t right next to each other.
    - For example, Community Awareness may have only had 8 sections and used 8 of the 12 Pods in the room. Other times we combined events and had Dynamic Decisions and Creative Problem Solving running at the same time.