

December, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had a well deserved break! I want to thank you for taking the time to read this invitation and consider joining the Oakland/Bay Area league of the National Catholic Forensic League. This league hosts a tournament which serves as the qualifying tournament to the Grand National Tournament. This year the National Tournament will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this year. The national tournament takes place over Memorial Day Weekend, specifically May 24-26th, 2019.

The Oakland Catholic Forensic League and St. Joseph Notre Dame High School cordially invite all members of the SF Bay Area and Northern California to attend the National Qualifying Speech and Debate Tournament at St. Joseph Notre Dame High School on Saturday, **March 9, 2019**. Please read through all the information in the invitation carefully to facilitate a competitive and speedy tournament.

Any questions should be directed to Dan Leahy at: dleahy@sjnd.org

National Qualifiers

The league will offer qualifier slots based on the total membership of the league. This will be explained later in the letter. The events with qualifiers are listed below.

There will be qualifiers in the following events:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Congressional Debate● Lincoln Douglas Debate● Public Forum Debate● Policy Debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extemporaneous Speaking● Oral Interpretation of Literature (Prose/Poetry)● Dramatic Performance (DI/HI)● Duo Interpretation of Literature● Original Oratory (OO, OA, EXPOS)● Oratorical Declamation (OI)
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Every attempt will be made to run every event, but if an event is not full, the students who are entered, are the national qualifiers by default. However, all students should be prepared to compete during the tournament. In other words, a student must be entered and present in order to obtain their spot to nationals.

Limits

Member schools will be allowed to have entries in every event equal to the number of qualifiers held by the league. For example, if the league will send 4 qualifiers in each event, then each school is allowed 4 entries in each debate and speech event (maximum of 40 entries total). Additionally, schools will not be allowed to have more than 50% of the total entries in any one event. **Once the deadline to join has passed I will inform members of the limits.**

Updated 1/9/19

Events

There are **no novice** levels at this tournament. Also, while we will allow double entering in Speech and cross entering in debate, understand that a student may only qualify in **ONE** event. The NCFL recognizes slightly different event categories, please review the event descriptions and critique/ballot sheets at <http://ncfl.org/competition-events>

Of note:

- Oratorical Declamation is limited to freshmen and sophomore students and is essentially the same as Oratorical Interpretation in CA.
- Dramatic Performance consolidates genres from Dramatic Interpretation and Humorous Interpretation.
- Extemporaneous Speaking consolidates both domestic and foreign subjects.
- Student Congress debates in a single chamber (i.e. there is no Senate or House).
- Oral Interpretation of Literature is presented using a black book (like Thematic) and should be treated as two separate selections of prose and poetry that do not have to be linked or themed. Round 1 will be Prose, Round 2 will be Poetry, Round 3 will be Prose, Round 4 will be Poetry.
- Original Oratory consolidates all speeches that would normally be entered in Original Oratory, Advocacy, and Expository.

Coaches: It is the coach's responsibility to bring copies of all competitive material used by the students to the tournament in case of a challenge.

Topics

We will use the following topics at the tournament;

Policy Debate: **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States.**

Mar-Apr Lincoln-Douglas Debate: **Topic to be announced Feb 1.**

March Public Forum Debate: **Topic to be announced Feb 1.**

Congressional Debate: Will use Congress Bills released on Feb 1. Bills can be found on the registration website.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Will use combined Foreign and Domestic topics. Student will get to choose for either category each round.

Registration

Registration must be complete by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1st, 2017 via tabroom.com

No adds will be accepted after this time. When entering judges' names and please indicate area of expertise in the notes section.

Drops may be done via the registration website until 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 8th without fee or penalty. Send drops made after Wednesday at 5 p.m via email to Dan Leahy at dleahy@sjnd.org.

Judges

Schools are required to bring a certain number of judges based on entries:

Policy/Public Forum Debate: One judge for two entries (a team equals on entry) or any fraction thereof*

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: One judge for every two entries or any fraction thereof*.

Student Congress: One judge per five entries or fraction thereof*.

Speech: One judge for every four entries (Duo counts as one entry) or any fraction thereof*.

*Round up to the number of required judges. That is, if you enter three debate entries, or seven speech entries, you must provide two judges.

Fees

NCFL Membership/ School fee: \$55, fee will be rolled into Tournament fee total.

All entries: \$25 per entry

Hired judge: \$60 per judge (if available-please contact to confirm availability)

Uncovered judging \$30 per entry that is uncovered.

Awards

We will award qualifiers in every event (based on qualifiers determined by membership) with nice qualifier trophies and will award up to two alternate entries in each event as well. Every entry will be ranked in the tournament and coaches will be notified if a qualifying spot opens up as individuals elect to accept or decline their spot to nationals.

Number of Member Schools	Number of Qualifiers (in each event)
5	1
6-10	2
11-15	3
16-20	4
21-25	5
26+	6