



Dear Speech and Debate Coach,

You and your team are invited to the 57th annual Hilltalkers/Hawktalkers Peak Debate Scrimmage to be held at Los Alamos High School on Saturday, September 28, 2019. As part of our annual tournament, we are holding a special Angel Tournament for novice debaters.

This competition will be governed by the New Mexico Speech and Debate Association Pilot Tournament manual voted on at the August Coaches meeting. Copies of the manual may be found in the Coach folder shared with all NMSDA coaches.

We are offering the following events: Policy Debate (varsity and novice), Lincoln-Douglas Debate (varsity, and novice), Public Forum (novice and varsity), and Big Questions Debate (Varsity and Novice will compete together)

Angel Tournament for Novice Debaters

This year, all novices will be part of a special "Angel Tournament." Each novice debate room will be assigned an "Angel Guide" who is an experienced varsity debater. The Angel Guide will be available to guide the novice teams and answer questions. The Angel Guide in the room will not adjudicate the round. They will answer procedural questions and help to keep track of speaking times and order. The Angel Guides will be readily identifiable with name tags and angel pins. They are a resource for your novice debaters and they are available to help our New Mexico novices "earn their wings."

Awards

This tournament is a scrimmage. All varsity and novice rounds will be pre-set before we begin the tournament. At the end of the tournament, awards will be given to the top three in each event. Los Alamos High School and Los Alamos Middle School novices will compete but they will not win awards.

We will be using the following debate topics:

Policy debate resolution (both Novice and Varsity)

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.

Varsity Lincoln Douglas resolution for September/October (Varsity)

Resolved: In the United States, colleges and universities ought not consider standardized tests in undergraduate admissions decisions.

Novice Lincoln Douglas resolution for September/October (Novice)

Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.

Public Forum (both Novice and Varsity) resolution for September/October

Resolved: The European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative.

Big Questions resolution (both Novice and Varsity)

Resolved: Objective morality exists.

Registration

Registration will take place on tabroom.com starting Friday, September 13 at 8:00 am.

Entries will be limited to:

Students entered in Public Forum or Lincoln Douglas debate may double enter in Big Questions debate. Policy debate teams may **NOT** double enter in Big Questions due to time constraints.

Deadlines

Registration closes on Wednesday, September 25 at 3:00 pm. Drop fees of \$25.00 will be assessed starting on Thursday, September 26 at 9:00 am.

Fees

Entry fees will be \$8.00 per person per event. That means one Lincoln Douglas debater will pay \$8.00 but a Policy or Public Forum team of two will pay \$16.00. A debater who enters Big Questions and another debate event will pay \$16.00.

Judges

Competing schools are required to bring judges to help facilitate a tournament that runs smoothly and on time. With the Angel Tournament structure, please bring your novice judges. We will place them in an "Angel Room" so that our new judges gain confidence in their ability to judge debate.

Judging requirements

1-8 entries=1 judge

9-16 entries=2 judges

17-24 entries=3 judges

25 entries plus=4 judges

Tournament Schedule

7:45 am	Registration
8:30 am	Round 1
10:30 am	Round 2
12-12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Round 3
2:30 pm	Round 4
4:30 pm	Awards

USE OF ELECTRONICS

We will follow the NSDA and NMSDA rules for electronic devices in all forms of Debate. WIFI access is not guaranteed and access to power is not guaranteed. Please plan accordingly.

Concessions

Limited concessions of water and snacks will be available. Teams are welcome to bring their own lunches or to order from local restaurants. Please do not bring foods containing nuts. We have several students who are nut allergic who will be competing.

Bathrooms

Gender neutral bathrooms will be available.

Expectations

We expect that all students will obey the National Speech and Debate Association Honor Code. Any infraction of the code will result in a student and their team being asked to leave the tournament. That student's school will be notified of the infraction.

All students must be affiliated with a school and all competing schools must have a school approved adult present with them at all times.

When entering students, please be aware that the NMSDA defines a novice as a debater who is in his or her first year of debate or who has competed in fewer than twelve rounds of debate.

We look forward to seeing you!

Margo Batha
505-670-2852
m.batha@laschools.net
Coach, Los Alamos High School Hilltalkers

Sherri Bublitz
lamshawktalkers@gmail.com
(505)231-7184
Coach, Los Alamos Middle School Hawktalkers