

6th Annual Oak Hill Purely Policy & Congressional Debate Tournament
(Willamette Valley Classic)
Saturday, November 23, 2019

You are cordially invited to the 6th annual Purely Policy & Congressional Debate tournament, hosted by Oak Hill School (Eugene, Oregon), on **Saturday, November 23, 2019**. This year's tournament is taking place within the broader Willamette Valley Classic. Speech and other debate events will be hosted by South Albany High School.

Our goal is to offer CX policy teams at least **five rounds** of solid, early-season competition. We plan to offer three divisions -- Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice – assuming we have sufficient JV entries. And this year, for the first time, we are also offering Congressional Debate, as described below.

Entries: This is, indeed, primarily a tournament for **CX Policy Debate**. The size of our campus makes holding a full-scope tournament impossible, which is why we have partnered with South Albany High School. At Oak Hill, however, we must limit the tournament to 32 total CX teams.

To meet our format preferences and pairing priorities (see below), we must – **at least initially** – restrict the number of entries per school to **two CX teams per division** (i.e., a school may enter two Varsity teams, two JV teams, and two Novice teams, for a total of six CX teams). If we receive insufficient JV entries, we will collapse those teams into the appropriate division, but we will protect the Novice division (which functions on Oregon's novice case areas and rules). Consistent with OSAA practices, we accept three- and four-person CX policy teams. We encourage you to register early to ensure spots for your teams; as much as we'd like to, we simply cannot accommodate more than 32 CX teams. As noted, we will also offer one open-division chamber of **Congressional Debate** (aka Student Congress). We are limiting the size of the Congress to 20 competitors, with no more than four from any one school. Please see the separate description below.

Awards: In Policy Debate, awards will be presented to the top teams and top speakers in each division. How 'deep' awards go will depend on the number of entries in each division, but – at a minimum – we will recognize the 1st and 2nd place teams. 'Top Speaker' awards will be given to roughly the same percentage of competitors in each division; we do not designate places for speaker awards. In Congressional Debate we will recognize – again, at a minimum – the top three speakers and a presiding officer. We also present 1st and 2nd place sweepstakes trophies for the Policy and Congressional Debate portions of the tournament.

Judges: While we hope to find supplemental qualified judges within the Eugene/Springfield and University of Oregon communities, **schools must bring enough judges to cover their entries** (i.e., one judge to cover 1-2 teams, two judges to cover 3-4 teams, and three judges to cover 5-6 teams). For Congressional Debate, schools need to bring a judge who can cover three Policy Debate rounds for each Congressional Debate competitor. This ensures that we can use non-affiliated judges in Congress (if you have questions about this requirement, please contact the

tournament directors). Also, if you have alumni at the University of Oregon or elsewhere in the Eugene/ Springfield area that you are not using, but who might be interested in paid judging for another team, please have them contact debate@oakhillsschool.net directly. We will also gladly offer appropriate fee waivers to schools supplying extra judges.

Fee Schedule:

School fee: \$25

Each CX Policy team: \$25

Each Congressional Debater: \$20

Hired Judge (if available): \$75.00

(If you wish to hire a judge, please contact us ASAP; we cannot guarantee hires.)

Debate Pairing Priorities and Tournament Format: We will pre-pair preliminary rounds before the tournament begins. As in previous years, our pairing priorities are to: (a) maximize the number of rounds per team; (b) avoid fratricidal rounds (i.e., teams from the same school debating each other) prior to semis or finals; and (c) avoid two teams meeting a second time prior to elimination rounds. To best meet these priorities, the exact format we use will be determined by the final number of entries and their distribution by school and division. ***The most likely divisional formats are either single- or multi-pool round robins.*** We may opt to use slightly different formats in different divisions if that allows us to best meet pairing priorities.

We will not make final decisions on divisional formats until registration closes and we know exactly how many entries we have per division. If preliminary results suggest the need or appropriateness, we reserve the right to break to semis in any or all divisions and declare the semifinal round winners to be co-champions. In both JV and novice divisions, we reserve the right to declare a single team that has gone undefeated in prelims to be divisional champion, then use the break round to determine the 2nd/3rd place finishers.

Novice Rules Apply: The novice division will use the OSAA-designated 2019 Oregon Novice Debate Case Areas (see OSAA.org for details). Please note that again this year, Oregon novice debaters are allowed to run a counterplan, but remain prohibited from running Kritiks.

Oak Hill ‘Purely Policy’ Definitions of Varsity, Junior Varsity (JV), and Novice Debaters: In registering your debate teams, please use the following definitions/descriptions:

- **Varsity:** One or more members of the team is a 3rd or 4th year high school debater (any team that might otherwise be JV or novice may choose to compete at this level);
- **Junior Varsity (JV):** No team member has participated in competitive high school debate in more than one previous season (any team that might otherwise be considered novice may choose to compete at this level);
- **Novice:** All team members are in their first year of competitive high school debate.

Note 1: If one or more members of a team have *extensive experience* in middle school debate *or* attended a Summer 2019 debate workshop that lasted longer than one week, we *encourage* coaches to register that team in the JV division.

Note 2: If a student competed in five or fewer rounds of speech or debate in a previous high school season, that student may be treated as a novice for Oak Hill's tournament.

Be Aware: To avoid byes (which the tournament director hates during the early part of the season), ***we may ask a coach to shift a JV team to Varsity or a Novice team to JV if, before the tournament opens, odd numbers of teams are registered in multiple divisions.***

Congressional Debate: As noted above, we have decided to add a Student Congress to the tournament. There will be a morning session from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., following by an afternoon session from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. For various reasons, we will have to limit Congressional Debate to one chamber, open division, with no more than 20 total competitors. At least initially, we are imposing a limit of four (4) competitors per school. Anyone bringing competitors will need to bring ***policy debate*** judges – for each Congress competitor your judge will need to cover three policy debate rounds. (NOTE: We are working to identify and hire Congressional Debate judges and a parliamentarian, all of whom would NOT be affiliated with any of the participating schools.) Each competitor may introduce one piece of legislation, due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 15. If necessary, we will also select several bills from the NSDA/NFL November legislative package to add to the mix.

Debate Schedule: We plan to begin the first Policy Debate round promptly at 8:00 a.m. Please be at Oak Hill no later than 7:30 a.m. We anticipate presenting most awards prior to the break round. If necessary, we will update the schedule on Tabroom.com as November 23 approaches.

Meals and snacks for competitors: Oak Hill's campus is somewhat isolated (at least in terms of proximity to restaurants). It is virtually impossible for debaters to leave campus for lunch and still make their next round. We thus encourage your teams to either bring their own meals/snacks or purchase them at Oak Hill. We will be contacting all registered teams a week before the tournament to finalize details about lunch options. Be aware that we may opt for a binary choice of either bring-your-own lunch or to pre-order lunch through us.

Judges/Coaches Lounge: As always, we will offer coaches and judges a selection of light breakfast items in the morning, followed by a buffet lunch that will include vegetarian options. Coffee, tea, other beverages, and snacks will be available throughout the day.

Location: Oak Hill School is located just off I-5, adjacent to Lane Community College. If you're using a GPS device, our street address is ***86397 Eldon Schafer Drive***. You can find a map to the school at <http://oakhillschool.com/about/campus-map/>.

Questions & additional information: Email tournament directors Keith A. Eddins and/or Irin Mannan at debate@oakhillschool.net if you have any questions or for additional information.