



Dear Coaches,

The Myers Park Speech & Debate Program is pleased to cordially invite you to the 45th annual Laird Lewis Invitational at Myers Park High School on January 10-11, 2020. We are thrilled to return this event to its traditional weekend, and are looking to make this year's tournament better than ever!

We will host competition in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Congressional Debate, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Original Oratory, Declamation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, and Informative Speaking.

In 2020 we are pleased to offer bids to the **UK Tournament of Champions**. We will award bids in Public Forum Debate to all Quarterfinalists (Gold) and Octofinalists (Silver); in Lincoln-Douglas Debate to Finalists; and in all Speech events offered by the TOC (bid level determined by entries).

Additionally, we will serve as a CFL of Charlotte qualifying tournament for schools in Western North Carolina.

Please review each section of this invitation carefully for information about events, rules, schedules, and registration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the tournament director at jessea.covault@cms.k12.nc.us.

We look forward to seeing you in January!

Sincerely,

Jesse Covault

Director of Speech & Debate

Katie Dunn

Assistant Coach

Katie Valder

Assistant Coach

Robert O'Donnell

Assistant Coach



REGISTRATION

Online Registration

Registration will open November 8, 2019 on Tabroom.com. All competitor and judge entries should be made through your team's Tabroom account – no emailed entries will be accepted. Online registration will close for adds on January 3, 2020, and will close for all drops, name changes, and judge registration on January 7, 2020.

Final Registration

Final registration will take place in the Art Gallery on MP campus. This registration is for payment of fees and last-minute drops only. We request that any late entry changes after the close of online registration (drops/adds/name changes) be emailed to the tournament director or texted to 980-319-2406.

Fees

Entry fees will be \$25.00 per entry. Public Forum and Duo Interp entries will be \$50.00.

Payment

Please make all checks payable to:

Myers Park Debate Foundation

Independent Entries

Independent entries must email a letter of permission on school letterhead signed by an administrator to the tournament director acknowledging the students and chaperone who may participate, including emergency contact information, no later than January 3, 2020.

We will not accept cash at final registration.



JUDGING

We value high-quality competition and take the educational value of Speech & Debate very seriously. Please do not bring judges who are unqualified or unwilling. We understand that inexperienced judges are often a necessity and can even be a valuable asset, but we do ask that you thoroughly train any first-time judges on their role prior to the tournament.

All events at this year's tournament will utilize online balloting. Therefore, all judges must have an active Tabroom account in order to register and judge.

We will only accept high-school graduates as judges. No current high school student may judge any event at the Invitational.

Quotas

- Individual Events: 1 judge per 5 entries
- Public Forum Debate: 1 judge per 2 entries
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate: 1 judge per 2 entries
- Congressional Debate: 1 judge per 8 entries

Hired Judges

We will offer hired judging in Speech and Congress for \$50 per judge.

We will offer hired judging in Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas for \$150 per judge.

A note on hired judging: per Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools policy all students must be chaperoned by an adult representative (21+) for the duration of the tournament. The Invitational will not accept entries from schools with no adult supervision. In accordance with this policy, no team will be allowed to hire 100% of its judging commitment at the tournament. This policy includes independent entries.



AMENITIES

Food

We will provide a wide variety of concessions to students in the Myers Park cafeteria for all tastes and dietary needs. We ask that you support the tournament and our sponsors by not bringing outside food from surrounding restaurants to campus.

Complimentary snacks, drinks, and meals will be provided to coaches and judges in the Judge's Lounge.

Lodging

Any teams needing overnight accommodations are encouraged to stay in close proximity to campus in the Southpark neighborhood of Charlotte.

Booking information for the tournament hotel block at the Charlotte Marriott Southpark will be posted to the tournament invitation page as soon as the booking link is available.

Additional lodging can be found at multiple properties in and around Southpark. Please email the tournament director with any and all hotel inquiries.

Awards

- All final round and semi-final round participants in individual events (top 12-14) will receive awards.
- Elimination round participants in Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas will receive awards.
- Finalists in Congressional Debate will receive awards.
- The top overall schools will receive sweepstakes awards.



EVENT GUIDELINES

Electronics Policy in Debate Events and Extemporaneous Speaking

Students may use the internet in Congressional Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and during Extemporaneous Speaking Prep. Students may use the internet to access files and evidence, but may NOT use the internet to communicate with any other person. Any student found to be communicating electronically during competition will be disqualified.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

The Invitational will provide a legislation packet for competitors to be made available on Tabroom. Legislation will be assigned by session.

Competition in Congressional Debate will be held in 3 preliminary sessions. If entries warrant, a semifinal session will be held in lieu of the 3rd prelim session, followed by a final session.

Congressional Debate will follow all NSDA event rules found in the High School Event Rules Manual unless otherwise noted here. Congressional Debate will use the pilot rules on debate time, with debate on assigned legislation being capped at $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of a session (1 hour per bill). Additionally, the tournament will utilize the “direct questioning” format in competition.

LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE

Competition in Lincoln-Douglas Debate will feature six preliminary rounds and subsequent elimination rounds of competition.

Procedures

Lincoln-Douglas competitors will have four minutes of preparation per side. Sides will be pre-assigned in preliminary rounds and will “flip” in elimination rounds unless the competitors have previously met. All round assignments will be high-low power matched after round 2.

Speaker points will be assigned in 0.1 increments on a scale of 20-30.

The tournament will use the **Jan/Feb** topic for Lincoln-Douglas as published by the NSDA.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate will follow all NSDA time limits and evidence rules.



PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

Competition in Public Forum Debate will feature six preliminary rounds and subsequent elimination rounds of competition.

Procedures

Public Forum teams will have three minutes of preparation per side. Sides will be “flip” in all preliminary and elimination rounds regardless if the competitors have previously met. All round assignments will be high-low power matched after round 2.

Speaker points will be assigned to individual speakers in 0.1 increments on a scale of 20-30. Points may be tied between individual speakers and between teams.

The Invitational will use the **January** topic for Public Forum as published by the NSDA.

Public Forum Debate will follow all NSDA time limits and evidence rules. Evidence and ethics challenges will be adjudicated by the judge in the round.

SPEECH EVENTS

All speech events will follow NSDA rules published in the High School Event Rules Manual with the exception of Declamation which will follow published NCFL rules.

All speech events will feature five preliminary rounds of competition with subsequent elimination rounds. Speech events will feature Open competition with the exception of Declamation which is limited to 9th and 10th grade students.

Competitors in speech events may enter up to three (3) events (competitors in Extemporaneous Speaking may ONLY double enter) but should be aware that in order to stay on schedule no rounds will be held past their scheduled end time to allow double- or triple-entered students to compete. It is the responsibility of double- or triple-entered students to swiftly move between rounds of competition. Coaches are encouraged not to over-enter students who cannot handle this responsibility.