

BLYTON INVITATIONAL

December 12, 2020



Dear Coaches:

Meet Blyton. He's a bear. A polar bear, to be exact – one ready for winter. He's named after one of the Kentucky High School Speech League's longtime executive directors, Gifford Blyton of the University of Kentucky.

Why meet Blyton? Because he's hosting a speech tournament for the junior division (grades 4-8) very soon. And he'd like you to come.

This tournament is a bit last-minute. There were originally two middle school contests scheduled for December 12. One decided not to happen in this pandemic year. The other moved to January, leaving this prime date without a middle school meet.

So Blyton decided to step in. The Kentucky High School Speech League is sponsoring an invitational the second week of December.

December 8-12, 2020

3 rounds asynchronous for Prelims; top six entries in each event in async Finals

Managed via TABROOM.COM <http://blytonkhssl.tabroom.com>

Registration and videos are all due by 6 PM Monday, December 7.

Events Offered:

Broadcasting
Declamation
Dramatic Interpretation
Duo Acting
Extemporaneous Speaking
Humorous Interpretation
Impromptu Speaking
Improvisational Duo
Oratory
Poetry
Prose
Storytelling

See the KHSSL Handbook www.khssl.org/handbook for Kentucky rules, time limits, etc. **Broadcasting** will use Round 2 format and will not be treated as a Limited Prep event. [See Broadcasting judge instructions here.](#)

Limited Prep:

Extemp, Impromptu, and Improv Duo topics released at 1 PM Sunday, December 6. Students are expected to use expected time limits. Impromptu and Improv Duo should film prep time as well as performances. Extempers do not need to film prep time and may use Internet searches but may not consult human beings by any means in preparation.

Schedule:

- *Prelims judged 3 PM Tuesday to 6 PM Thursday.
- *Finalists announced at 6 PM Friday via video link (KHSSL YouTube channel).
- *Finals judged 6 PM Friday to 12 PM Saturday.
- *Awards announced 6 PM Saturday via video link (KHSSL YouTube channel).
- *Ballots and results posted online 7 PM Saturday via the Tabroom software/site.
- *All times Eastern Standard Time.

Video Info:

All videos (including the three limited prep events above) MUST be uploaded by 6 PM Monday, December 6. Student video links should be set for “anyone with the link” to view. Upload student video links to Tabroom through the “Entries” tab (click on the kid’s name once registered, and you’ll see a place to paste the URL). There will be only one video uploaded, and it will be used for all rounds (Prelims AND Finals).

Videos should be shot as one “take” without editing. Students may move on and off screen in the videos as needed, but the camera must not move.

*Duo Interp and Improv Duo entries MUST film on separate screens and should both be visible on screen at all times – even if they live in the same house – just to keep everything fair to everyone as well as to be safe. See this link for more info about filming Duo Interp / Improv Duo entries. The split-screen can be side-to-side or top-to-bottom, and students may leave the screen as needed for the scene as long as the camera does not move. Remember to film prep time for Improv Duo. [See these instructions for more help with team events.](#)

Drop/Add:

*\$10 per competitor per event nuisance fee + registration fee for drops after 6 PM Monday.

*Judge quotas do NOT change when drops are made.

*Dropped judges are \$50 -- \$40 hire fee plus \$10 nuisance fee.

*No adds after 6 PM Monday.

Entries:

*Teams may enter an unlimited number of students in each event.

*Students may enter as many events as they wish to enter.

*Only the top 3 students on each team in each event count towards sweepstakes.

Moolah and Judges and Quotas *(oh my!)*:

Fees: \$6 per competitor per event.
An \$8 fee will be added to each team's invoice to cover awards postage.
If your team receives no awards, this fee will be refunded.

Judges: Judge quota is one per six entries or fraction thereof; hires are \$40.
Judges must be available for Prelims AND Finals. If you want to provide two judges to fill one slot (one for Prelims and one for Finals), sign up one judge and email Steve about the second one by 6 PM Monday. Judges must have a Tabroom account by 6 PM Monday.

Postal Fee: All schools will be charged an \$8 postal fee at registration for the mailing of awards. If no awards need be mailed, it will be refunded.

Make checks payable and mail to:

KHSSL, Inc.
P. O. Box 23451
Lexington, KY 40523

W-9 form available on our Tabroom site if needed.

You may also pay via PayPal at www.paypal.me/khssl. You must add \$5 to any PayPal payments to pay for this convenience and the fees associated with it.

Awards:

*Top 6 teams will receive awards.

*The top 6 finishers in each event will receive medals (mostly) or small trophies.

*Awards will be mailed after completion of the tournament and receipt of your team's entry fees.

*Blyton may have an extra holiday gift for all participants – stay tuned.

MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU:

Tabroom.com

Coaches and judges need Tabroom.com accounts for registration, online ballots, and video links for asynchronous events. See making a Tabroom.com account <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyTqMwhRJpo>

Judges will use Tabroom.com to access their ballots. And, after the tournament is over, students can see their ballots on Tabroom.com and use those comments from their judges to help them improve their performances.

As this tournament is completely asynchronous, competitors do not absolutely have to have Tabroom accounts for this meet. However, they won't be able to view their ballots online at the end without one, so do set one up for them as you can.

Asynchronous Tournaments & Students

Once a student submits a video to the coach for an asynchronous tournament, there isn't anything else students need to do except watch out for awards and look at ballots at the tournament's conclusion. They can also buy have treats delivered to your house because you're awesome. Suggest it. You deserve a treat.

Ballots

[KHSSL Ballots can be accessed here](#). The ballot will be duplicated and available to you within your online Tabroom ballot as well – this link is just provided in case you want to get a sneak peek. Be sure to note JUNIOR DIVISION time limits in some of the limited prep events.

KHSSL Resources for You

- [KHSSL Best Practices for Virtual Tournaments](#); you can probably guess what this is about.
- [Filming Students for Video Competitions](#) (video from KESDA)--How to Best Film Yourself guide for students filming competition videos -- a new video (that's lots of fun plus very useful) plus [some text suggestions](#) from the fine folks at KESDA - - thanks y'all.
- [KHSSL Video for Judging Virtual Tournaments](#)--Judges, be sure to watch this!

Tech Tips

- #1 For judging, you can use 2 devices: 1 for the video & 1 for your ballots. You can log into Tabroom on each device. Or you can use a desktop computer, open 2 tabs and position them so you can see the video (one tab) & type on the other one (the ballot) at the same time (that's what Mr. Meadows does when he judges at a desk, and it works swell).
- #2 When judging, try to use a fairly large screen to watch the videos. If you're trying to watch videos on a phone, you may be losing facial expressions, etc. because the screen is so small.
- #3 KHSSL rules require that cameras stay still when filming; competitors may move around as they wish in the camera frame including leaving/re-entering the frame.

SPEECH SCHEDULE

1 PM	SUN 12/6	LIMITED PREP TOPICS RELEASED
6 PM	MON 12/7	REGISTRATION AND VIDEO UPLOAD DEADLINE
3 PM	TUE 12/8	ALL PRELIM ROUND JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS RELEASED
6 PM	THU 12/10	ALL PRELIM ROUND BALLOTS DUE.
6 PM	FRI 12/11	FINALS POSTED/FINALS BALLOTS OPEN TO JUDGES.
12 PM	SAT 12/12	ALL FINAL ROUND BALLOTS DUE
6 PM	SAT 12/12	AWARDS RELEASED ONLINE (EXPECT A VIDEO TO WATCH)
ASAP	MAIL CHECKS TO COVER TOURNAMENT FEES. OR PAY VIA PAYPAL.	
ASAP	AFTER CONCLUSION OF TOURNAMENT & RECEIPT OF MOOLAH =	
		AWARDS MAILED.

Y'ALL COME

Please don't be shy to email questions about rules or events or how the tournament will work. This is going to be a great event, even though it's being planned very last minute. Blyton won't be able to . . . bear . . . it if you don't come!

Your host -

Steve Meadows, Executive Director
The Kentucky High School Speech League, Inc.

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