

2022 Northern Lights NSDA Speech Qualifier

March 18-19, 2022: Horizon Middle School East - Moorhead, MN

Greetings Speech Coaches,

On behalf of the Northern Lights District Committee, it is my pleasure to invite you and your team to the 2022 NSDA District Qualifier in Speech, held this year IN PERSON in Moorhead at Horizon Middle School East on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19. Please use the 'register' tab at <http://northernlights.tabroom.com> to complete your registration.

Important tournament information is listed below. Please let me know if you have any questions.

1. Registration: We are using Tabroom.com as our online host for the NL District Tournament Series. Registration will open on Friday, Feb. 18 at 8:00 am at <http://northernlights.tabroom.com>. Remember that all entries must be submitted no later than March 11 at 8:00 pm.

2. Chapter Dues/Membership Requirements: You will not be able to register on Tabroom.com unless your school has paid its annual chapter dues to the NSDA. Please take care of this promptly so that you have no difficulties in entering. In addition, all students must be on record as members of the NSDA seven days prior to the tournament. These two items are non-negotiable as they are dictated by the national office. Please let me know ASAP if you need help with this.

3. Schedule: Three preliminary rounds will be held in all events; a fourth prelim will be added for events with 40+ entries. The full schedule is listed below.

4. School Obligations: Participating teams are expected to provide one judge per four entries or fraction thereof. Each judge is obligated for the duration of the tournament; however, teams may enter multiple judges to cover one spot. For example, you may have one judge cover Friday rounds and another judge cover Saturday. Please use the judge notes section on Tabroom to communicate availability.

5. School Fees: There is a \$25 team entry fee. Each individual entry is \$12 (\$24 for Duo). District dues will also be assessed based on team strength. Please ensure that all NSDA balances are paid prior to the tournament.

Tournament Schedule:

Friday, March 18

Check-in: 9:30-10:00 am

Round 1A: 10:30 am

Round 1B: 12:00 pm

Round 2A: 2:00 pm

Round 2B: 3:30 pm

Round 3A: 5:00 pm

Round 3B: 6:30 pm

Round 4A: 7:45 pm (if needed. For events with 40+ entries only)

Elim Round Announcement: ASAP

Saturday, March 19

Check-in: 10:00 am

Semifinal: 10:30 am (all events, section A)

Semifinal: 12:00 pm (all events, section B)

Final A: 2:00 pm

Final B: 3:30 pm

Awards: 5:00 pm or ASAP

We are planning for a slightly later start time on Friday so teams/judges can opt to travel in the morning if desired.

Event patterns will be announced by Monday, March 14.

6. Extemp. Speaking Topic Areas:

International Extemp:

- IX: Africa
- IX: Americas & Caribbean
- IX: Asia
- IX: Energy and Environment
- IX: Europe
- IX: International Organizations
- IX: Southwest Asia & North Africa

US Extemp:

- US: Business & Industry
- US: Covid & Healthcare

- US: Education
- US: Infrastructure
- US: Politics & Elections
- US: Social Issues
- US: Supreme Court & Legal Issues

Students should prepare for all topic areas. The district committee will select topic areas at random prior to round 1 on Friday.

7. Tabbing Rules: Two judges will be used in each prelim round. Each judge's score carries (no composite score) with the worst rank dropped after prelims. Semifinals use three judges, finals use 7 with HI/LO dropped. Elim round ranks are doubled (Finals HI/LO dropped first before doubling).

8. Advancing Entries:

- Events with 6-12 entries will break straight to finals.
- In events with 13-48 entries, the top 12 will advance to semifinals.
- If an event has 49-56 entries, the top 14 will advance to semifinals.
- Any entry tied for a semifinal spot after prelims will advance (i.e. if seed 12 and 13 have the same rank, both advance to semifinals).
- From semifinals, the top 6 overall advance to finals (not necessarily an even number from each semi). We can and will advance up to 7 to finals if there is a tie.
- If a tie results in 8 or more entries advancing to finals, those students tied for the last spot do not advance (i.e. if 6th-8th are tied after semifinals, only the top 5 would go to finals).

All of this can be found here starting on page 88:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/High-School-Unified-Manual-2021-2022.pdf>

Other reminders:

1. Make sure that all competing students are NSDA members at least seven days prior to the tournament. This rule is absolute and exceptions cannot be made. Tabroom will not allow non-members to register.
2. Be sure that you have paid all outstanding membership fees for new members.
3. Use the invoice provided on Tabroom to request a check for entry fees. Remember that all schools are assessed a \$25 team fee in addition to entry fees (\$12 per speaker). Chapter dues are also assessed at this tournament:

1-30 member strength of team = \$65

31-60 = \$75

61-90 = \$85

91-120 = \$95

121-150 = \$105

151-180 = \$115

181+ = \$125

4. Dues will be manually added to your Tabroom invoice once registration closes. I will try to have this updated ASAP, but if you need to print your invoice with dues included before the deadline, please email me so I can make those updates.
5. All Northern Lights payments should be made to "Northern Lights Speech and Debate" and mailed to Moorhead High School, Attn. Andrew Tichy, 2300 4th Ave. S. Moorhead, MN 56560. All NSDA payments should be mailed to the National Office or paid online through your NSDA account.

9. Judges: We will panel elimination round judges prior to the tournament using the coach vote. Once hired judges are placed, we will round out panels with HCs and experienced assistant coaches as much as possible. Our goal is to have this set before the tournament so coaches and judges know their Saturday schedule.

10. Tournament qualifiers/Awards: We will qualify THREE entries in each event with 10+ entries; FOUR entries with 50+. Events with nine or fewer entries will have TWO qualifiers.

11. Single Entry Letter of Intent Forms: Coaches of double-entered students must select their event preference prior to the start of the tournament. To do this, click on the "NSDA Forms" tab after logging in to your Tabroom account. Since we are using Tabroom this year, you do not need to print these forms! Remember that students are only allowed to compete in two district series events (Congressional debate does not count toward the double entry policy).

12. Scripts: The Northern Lights District Committee will not collect scripts at registration, but you must have them available during the tournament in case of protest. Manuscripts must meet the standards provided in the NSDA HS Unified Manual.

13. District Award Nominations: The District Committee is seeking nominations for individuals in the following categories: Student of the Year and Coach of the Year. Nomination submissions are done electronically. Information about each award and submission deadlines are below:

- **Northern Lights NSDA Student of the Year - Due: Friday, March 11**

This prestigious award is presented to a graduating senior in each district who best represents the tenets of the Association's Code of Honor: integrity, respect, humility, leadership, and service. Nominees must also have strong academic credentials and a commitment to the speech and debate community. Each year, six students who win the district award are selected as finalists for the William Woods Tate, Jr. National Student of the Year Award. To nominate a deserving senior, please visit <https://www.speechanddebate.org/student-of-the-year-nomination-form/>. Though we generally announce our student of the year award at our District Speech Tournament, this award is open to ANY NSDA senior student in the Northern Lights District, whether or not they are participating in speech.

- **Northern Lights NSDA Coach of the Year - Due: Friday, March 11**

The NSDA's James M. Copeland High School Coach of the Year award annually honors high school coaches who reflect outstanding leadership and commitment to speech and debate activities. To be eligible for nomination, a high school coach must:

- 1. Currently work as a high school speech/debate coach in an NSDA member school.*
- 2. Have completed five consecutive years of experience as a high school speech/debate coach at an NSDA member school (experience need not be in the same school).*
- 3. Plan to continue working as a high school speech/debate coach next year at an NSDA member school.*
- 4. Agree to be nominated.*
- 5. If selected as the winner, be able to participate in the NSDA Tournament and/or be present to accept the award at the National Tournament.*

More information can be found [here](#). To nominate a deserving coach, please visit <https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-coach-of-the-year-nomination-form/>.

Thank you,

Andrew Tichy
Northern Lights District Chair