



You are cordially invited to the

23rd Annual Spudder Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament

Dear Coaches,

I'm excited to announce the 2021 Spudder Invitational will be taking place from December 6-11 this year. Participating in the Spudder Invitational has always been a highlight of the debate season for me, and while things may still be a bit strange due to the pandemic we hope to carry the same energy into our online tournament.

This year, in light of varying social distancing guidelines in place because of COVID-19 and to allow as many as possible to participate, the Spudder Invitational is going to be an entirely virtual tournament. We would love to have you and your program participate from wherever you are. Read below for details about the tournament. If you have any questions, please contact me at michelle.hamann@ridgefieldsd.org.

- Michelle Hamann, Coach, RHS Speech and Debate Team

Dates:

December 6-11, 2021. Please try and get your registrations in **as soon as possible** so we can adequately plan for judges. It is easier for us to drop entries, especially in asynchronous events, than to add them last minute.

Registration for all events will be due **Wednesday, December 1**

Asynchronous Events Events will be judged **December 6-10**. Videos will need to be uploaded by **Saturday, December 4**.

Synchronous Events will be hosted **Friday-Saturday, December 10-11**.

Events:

Asynchronous Events: Oratory, Expository, Dramatic Interp., Humorous Interp., Duo Interp., and POI.

Synchronous Events: Congressional Debate, LD Debate, PuFo Debate, Extemp, and Impromptu.

Duo Impromptu and SPAR Debate are both historical highlights of the Spudder, but due to the difficulties of hosting these events virtually they are taking a year off. They'll be back as soon as we can host a live tournament again!

Debate Topics:

LD and PuFo will be debating the November/December Topics released by the NSDA. (We *do not* run the special novice LD topic.)

Congressional Debate will be debating legislation from the WSFA Fall 2021 Legislation Packet. If you need a copy of the packet we are happy to forward one to you.

Fees:

\$30.00 per school registration fee

\$10.00 per individual event

\$10.00 per individual debate event (Congress, LD)

\$18.00 per team event (Dual Interp, Public Forum)

Registration fees are waived for schools within WIAA District 4.

Judges:

Our goal is to have as many judges available as possible to lighten the load of each individual judge.

Each school is required to provide:

ONE judge for Student Congress (regardless of the size of your squad).

ONE judge for every TWO Debate entries on Saturday, December 11.

ONE judge for every FOUR Extemp/Impromptu entries on Sat., December 11.

ONE REMOTE judge for every 4 asynchronous event entries.

Registration:

Students may compete in as many asynchronous events as they want. Students may compete in one (1) synchronous event per time slot. This means students **MUST CHOOSE** between LD and PuFo debate **AND** between Extemp and Impromptu.

District 4 Programs: Registration and uploading videos will work the same as it has for past tournaments this year. A link to the registration spreadsheet will be provided.

Other Programs: Please make a copy of [this form](#), complete it to the best of your ability, and return it to michelle.hamann@ridgefieldsd.org. Once we have received your registration we will be in contact to give you necessary information including how to upload asynchronous videos and links to virtual competition spaces.

Schedule:

The schedule is tentative and subject to change, but is likely to look pretty close to what is listed below. All live events will take place in Zoom.

Friday Schedule

3:30-5:30 PM	Congressional Debate Session 1
5:30-6:30 PM	Dinner Break
6:30-8:30 PM	Congressional Debate Session 2

Saturday Schedule

8:00 AM	LD/PUFO
9:30 AM	Impromptu/Extemporaneous
10:30 PM	LD/PUFO
12:00 PM	Impromptu/Extemporaneous
1:00 PM	LD/PUFO
2:30 PM	Impromptu/Extemporaneous

3:30 PM	LD/PUFO (if needed)
5:30 PM	Virtual Awards Ceremony

Awards:

Top three finishers in each event will be recognized at both the Novice and Open levels. Depending on registration numbers, Novice and Open may be collapsed for competition, but will be separated for awards.

We know how much everyone loves the holiday socks. We can't award virtual socks, but we can promise that anyone who is eligible who competes or judges at our next live tournament will be able to claim their socks.

Sweepstakes winners will be announced.

Special Awards:

The Aja Gerrity Award: This award, named after a former member of the RHS Speech and Debate Team, is presented to the open-level competitor who most helps their team in the team standings. Due to the adjusted schedule of a virtual tournament, the award will be based on three possible events: A competitor's top finish in a debate event (Congressional Debate, LD, PuFo), their top finish in a synchronous individual event (Impromptu, Extemp), and their top finish in an asynchronous event (all other events).

The Bisbee Family Small Program Sweepstakes: The Small Program Sweepstakes award was first given in 2018 by Ken Bisbee in his last year as RHS Speech and Debate Coach, and was reintroduced in 2020 as *The Bisbee Family Small Program Sweepstakes Award*. It goes to the "small program," defined by the number of competitors at the Spudder Invitational, that earns the most sweepstakes points. The award honors Ken Bisbee, who served as coach for 20 years, and his family, who all have worked tirelessly to support Speech and Debate, and who was always looking out for the underdog, the small school, and the small team, fighting to make them the best they could be.