

Dear colleague,

Newburgh Free Academy cordially invites you and your team to participate in the second installment of the Northeast Championships. Building on the inaugural edition of this tournament held last year at Lakeland High School, we are proud to offer a full-service tournament across seven divisions! This year's tournament will take place on April 11-12, and features competition in Lincoln-Douglas Debate (three divisions—Varsity, Junior Varsity for second-year debaters, and Novice for first-year debaters), Policy Debate (three divisions—Varsity, Junior Varsity for second-year debaters, and Novice for first-year debaters), and Public Forum Debate (one open division).

The goal of this tournament is to attract the very best competition from across our region, to provide a venue for one last blowout to determine true regional champions. The tournament Directors are Sheryl Kaczmarek of NFA, Jim Menick of Hendrick Hudson High School, Jon Cruz of the Bronx High School of Science and Joe Vaughan of Scarsdale High School.

We will offer six preliminary rounds in each division, clearing all 4-2s to elimination rounds. We will make every possible attempt to hire a pool of top-rate neutral judges to help adjudicate rounds. We will offer extremely handsome and distinctive awards, including speaker awards and sweepstakes awards both for overall performance (the aggregate of each school's top five entries across all divisions, so that it will not favor the absolute biggest schools) plus a special "small program" sweepstakes award for schools registering 7 or fewer entries across the divisions (in any combination). Each school in the region is encouraged to register up to 4 entries in each division; of course, we expect these to be your strongest competitors.

To insure the quality of the tournament, we ask that each school bring their top judges, and that coaches join in the adjudication. Any judge brought to the tournament must have been judging the activity they are covering for at least two years; college freshmen who have judged during their high school careers would fit this criterion. Each school will be allowed a number of strikes (to be determined). The judge ratio is 1 to 3 in LD, 1 to 2 in Policy, and 1 to 2 in PF. Upperclassmen who are in their senior year and who have judged since their junior year are allowed to judge novice and JV, if their coaches wish to bring them. We will argue the January-February (TOC) topic in LD, and the April TOC topic in PF. Policy debaters will discuss the national resolution.

Judges for hire *may* be available, but will not be offered directly by the tournament; we expect all entries to be covered by the schools. Please contact Jon Cruz directly regarding hires.

A limited amount of housing will be available thanks to the generosity of the NFA team. A list of possible hotel rooms will be posted shortly. Dinner will be served by the tournament on Friday night; an enticing selection of tasty and nutritious foods will be offered for purchase all day Saturday. We encourage you to register early, as we anticipate the tournament will fill very quickly. With low registration costs, meals provided, and free housing available for students (first come, first served), the Northeast Championships should be one of the new highlights of your team calendar.

Registration is now open on [Tabroom.com](http://Tabroom.com) under "High School Invitationals." Please note that space at NFA is at a premium, so it is in your best interests to register now!

We hope to see you and your team in New York this April.

Yours,  
Sheryl Kaczmarek, Jim Menick, Jon Cruz, Joe Vaughan

## **Tentative Schedule:**

1:30-2:30 Registration

People should not arrive before 1:30 as the cafeterias are in use until nearly then. And do not plan on arriving between 2:05 and 2:20 as that is when the big afternoon bus run is and the parking lot will be a mess. People should be dropped off on the lower level so they can leave clothes and bedding in the North Cafeteria on Friday afternoon (it should actually stay there when not in use). People should not leave electronic or other valuables in their luggage). There are also restrooms down there for changing purposes.

3:00 Round 1

5:00 Round 2

7:30 Round 3

8:00 Round 4

10:30 Round 5

12:30 Round 6 (LD, possibly Policy if numbers warrant it)

2:30 Elimination Rounds

## **Hotels**

As for hotels, we have two tournament rate with breakfast options, and there are a number of other hotels for people who want to go their own way. Two blocks of 20 non-smoking doubles have been reserved, one at each of the following hotels.

The Comfort Inn  
5 Lakeside Road  
Newburgh

PH 845-567-0567  
FAX 845-567-0582  
Contact: Deborah -- request NFA Debate Rate  
Rate \$88 (Includes Breakfast)

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Hampton Inn  
1292 Route 300  
Newburgh  
PHO 845-567-9100  
FAX 845-567-6331

Contact: Donna Miranda  
Rate \$115 (including breakfast)