

Lakeland tournament invite --

Tournament Dates

February 28-March 2, 2014

Registration

Registration will open on tabroom.com on December 20th

Tournament Goals

Every year the Lakeland District Debate Team hosts an annual open invitational. We host this invitational for a number of reasons –

- (a) To provide an affordable opportunity for students who wish to debate on this weekend at Lakeland. We do not make any money on our tournament and have often lost money.**
- (b) To provide students with an opportunity to develop core academic skills and to learn about issues on both sides of the topics that have been selected for debate.**
- (c) To provide an educational environment we believe students and coaches will find satisfying, enjoyable, and consistent with conduct expectations that they would find in typical middle school and high school academic settings.**

To fulfill these goals, we have designed the following tournament on February 28-March 1, 2014 at Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak, NY.

Events offered

**Novice Policy
Varsity Policy
Novice Policy NYCUDL starter packet (if there is demand)
Novice PF
Varsity PF
Varsity LD
Novice LD
Middle School Policy
Middle School PF
Middle School Parli
Extemp
Original Oratory**

All debate events are “switch side” – students will be expected to debate both sides of the resolution.

Entry fees

**\$25 per participant (all participants, including coaches and judges)
\$50 school fee**

\$250 hired judge fee/4 debaters (per judge if you need a judge)

We have a sponsor for PF, so the per participant entry fee does not apply to PF (PF is free). The school and hired judge fee (if applicable) does apply to PF.

The fees include dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday for all registered participants. Our judges’

lounge offerings will return to those of the Taylor Roth era (absent the homemade food).

You can also expect nice awards this year that have been ordered by Jon Cruz.

Hired judge fees

\$75/uncovered team in PF

\$125/uncovered team in policy

\$75/uncovered individual contestant in events with single contestants.

Judges in other events cannot be used to cover Policy debate entries.

Scholarship

The Teach to Learn Foundation will be providing a \$500 scholarship to one competitor at the Westchester Classic Tournament who has used their own education from debate to further someone else's education. Ninth through eleventh grade students can use the scholarship to attend a camp of their choosing, and twelfth grade students can use it towards their college tuition. The application will be released closer to the tournament, and will be evaluated by the T2L Debate Fund Committee (<http://t2lusa.me/debate>).

The application will consist of a resume, coach recommendation, and a personal statement on how the student "has used their own education from debate to further someone else's education ." Personal statements that are inspiring will be shared on T2L's blog following submissions. All questions should be addressed to debate@teach2learnfoundation.org.

The Teach to Learn Foundation was established by Lakeland District Debate alumnus, Priten Shah, in 2012 while he was debating for the team, to use the skills he gained from debate to help others. The organization is a 501c3 non-profit that aims to increase educational opportunities. In the past few years, they have provided over 10,000 hours of direct help to students in every state in the country and over 10 other countries.

Teach to Learn has had a relationship with the Westchester Classic Tournament since its founding. In both 2012 and 2013, the organization fundraised successfully at the tournament, and will continue to do so this year.

In 2014, funds will be used to support a new project. Teach to Learn is establishing a debate fund with the mission to provide micro-grants to students to increase debate opportunities. To further this mission, the Teach to Learn Foundation will be providing a scholarship to one competitor at the Westchester Classic Tournament who has used their own education from debate to further someone else's education. T2L hopes to inspire the same mindset that led to its creation in other students.

Deadlines

- We will accept registrations until Monday, February 23rd, 2014 (or until the tournament fills)
- The tournament always fills, so enter early if you wish to attend
- In order to discourage frivolous registrations, there is a \$10/contestant drop fee for every non-substituted contestant drop after February 1. That fee increase to \$25/contestant after February 15th.
- Judge hire fees are frozen on February 15th.

Topics

PF: February NFL Topic (all divisions)

L-D: January/February L-D (all divisions)

Policy: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic engagement toward Cuba, Mexico, or Venezuela.

This tournament does offer a variety of different events on a variety of topics, so we respectfully request you Affirm and or Negate (when relevant to the assigned side) the resolution in the division you are debating in. We are open to having debates on additional topics if there is sufficient interest and if said topics are consistent with Lakeland School District policies.

We also encourage debaters to use all types of evidence, arguments, and styles of debating that are consistent with persuading judges to Affirm or Negate the Affirmative's plan/ resolution advocacy as long as those strategies are consistent with the Conduct policy outlined below.

Judges

We expect that all judges will pay attention in the debates they are judging and will work to provide a fair decision based on the criteria they outline in their judge philosophies.

We also expect judges to behave in a way that is appropriate in a middle school/high school environment. Any judges that exhibit behavior inconsistent with this expectation can and will be removed from the tournament by the tournament director at his discretion. The financial costs of missed rounds will be passed on to the school that entered the judge.

Unless there is a violation of the Conduct policy by the judge or the team(s) in the debate, the tab room views the judge's decision regarding all arguments made in the debates as final. If the tabroom determines that a judge or the team(s) violates a Conduct policy expectation, the tabroom may alter the decision in a way that it feels is fairest for the debaters involved.

Judge Assignment

We will use a standard 9 category MPJ system in varsity policy and a 6 category MPJ system in varsity LD.

We will not use preferences in the other divisions.

Thanks to the support of the Lexington debate team, we believe that we will be able to provide all debaters in the novice division of policy debate with an equal number of male and female judges in at least the prelims.

Conduct Policy

We expect all debaters and judges to behave in a way that is appropriate for a high school/middle school environment both in and out of debates.

While we do not have an extensive conduct policy, we view any behavior inconsistent with

(a) typical school and league conduct policies (including those of the Lakeland School District -- <http://www.lakelandschools.org/policies.cfm?printme=168&printpage=1>),

(b) behavior that you would be proud of if it were viewed online, and

© social norms regarding appropriate language use

as a violation of our Conduct rules.

We expect that debaters will comport with the Lakeland School

District's anti-harassment policies, which define harassment as "the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his/her physical safety; (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student."

The District "strive[s] to create an environment free of discrimination and harassment" and "foster civility in the schools."

Therefore, we ask that participants, judges, and coaches refrain from conduct which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

Students and coaches found to be in violation of the conduct rules can be removed from the tournament at the discretion of the tournament director.

This is the Lakeland School District's policy on "Student Publication and Expression" (<http://www.lakelandschools.org/policies.cfm?printme=157&printpage=1>).

"All school-sponsored opportunities for student expression will comply with the rules set forth in this policy and in the Code of Conduct. All student publications will comply with rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, false statements; materials or performances advocating racial, religious or other prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school policies and/or regulations, or materials or activities designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted. Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers must be provided. In addition, the school-sponsored activities listed above which are paid for by the School District and/or produced under the direction of a teacher or other advisor as part of the school curriculum are not considered public forums. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to edit or delete such student expression which it believes is inconsistent with the district's basic educational mission."

The full Code of Conduct can be found here and some additional parts are reproduced below--
<http://www.lakelandschools.org/policies.cfm?printme=168&printpage=1>

Card Clipping

Judges who determine that debaters have "clipped cards" should assign the debater zero speaker points and a loss. This debater will be ineligible for any speaker awards. If the tab room also determines that card clipping occurred, the person will be removed from the tournament.

Forfeits and decision time

All policy ballots are due within 2 hours and 15 minutes (135 minutes) from the scheduled start time of the debate. If the debate you are judging starts late, you will have less time to decide.

Debaters are responsible for finding the room they are debating in. If a debater or team is more than 10 minutes late, his or her 2-person team will be forfeited.

Housing

We can provide housing for the first 150 contestants and we are working to find additional housing slots. If your team is able to stay in a hotel, please do so in order that we can accommodate more programs of more limited financial means.

Housing can be requested through tabroom.com. Any questions about housing should be directed to Priten.H.Shah@gmail.com

Independent/Unaffiliated Entries

Like most tournaments in the Northeast, we accept entries from non-school based individuals and teams. The tournament director does have the discretion to reject an entry if that entry appears to be designed to create a “super team” when other reasonable school-based entry opportunities are available to the students.

Students are not permitted to compete independently if their school and or coach prohibits their participation.

As per TOC policy, independent/unaffiliated students are ineligible to receive TOC bids.

Maverick Entries

Maverick entries are permitted at the discretion of the tournament director. If there are multiple mavericks in any division, it is expected the two individuals will debate together. Mavericks are eligible for awards.

Tournament Director Discretion

Since the tournament director is an employee of the Lakeland School District and the tournament is sponsored by the District, the tournament director has discretion to make decisions regarding tournament practice and administration that are needed to ensure compliance with all Lakeland School District policies. Compliance with these policies is not debatable.

TOC Qualifying Status

The tournament is a semis qualifier for the TOC in Policy debate.

Schedule

Friday, February 28th

12-2pm – Registration
2:30 -- pairings
3pm – Round 1 (all events)
5pm – Round 2 (all events)
6:30-7:30 – Dinner (included)
7:45pm – Round 3
10pm – Housing

Saturday

7:45 – R4 all events
11am – R5 – all events
1-2pm -- lunch
2pm – R6 –policy, 1st elim in other events, elims in all other events will continue throughout the day. Elims in all events except varsity policy will conclude on Saturday.
5pm – 1st elim policy (All 4-2 teams, UP TO 32 teams) in varsity and (4-2 teams, up to 16 teams in novice policy)
7:30 – 2nd elim policy
10pm – housing

Sunday 8am

Remaining elims in policy

Some other portions of the Lakeland School District's Conduct Policy

Visitors are expected to comport themselves in a manner that does not disrupt the order of schools or the educational process and in accordance with the law and this Code of Conduct.

The District encourages students to participate in curriculum related extra-curricular activity clubs and/or organizations. To the extent that the District authorizes meetings of non-curriculum related clubs or organizations, the same shall be subject to the constitution of the student government and shall be conducted in accordance with any applicable federal or state law, as well as Board of Education policy or regulations.

Student Expression - Students shall be allowed the opportunity for the free expression of ideas consistent with rights established by the federal and state constitutions. However, a student's freedom is subject to limitation in that the constitutional protections will not extend to libelous, slanderous, vulgar, lewd, indecent or obscene words or images or to words or images which by their very use incite others to damage property or physically injure persons. Any assembly or public expression on school grounds or at school activities that advocates the use of drugs or other substances that are illegal to minors is prohibited.

Harassment - means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his/her physical safety; (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.

The District will report any acts of violence against persons that constitute a crime, threatened acts of violence, and other violations of the Code of Conduct which constitute a crime and affect the order and security of the school to the appropriate local law enforcement agency (e.g., theft; destruction of school property; assault; false fire reports; arson; bomb threats; use, possession, distribution or sale of drugs or alcohol; use, possession, distribution or sale of a dangerous or deadly object or a potentially dangerous or deadly object) when the child is over the age of 16 or is 14 or 15 years old and qualifies for juvenile offender status.

The Board of Education recognizes that a learning environment that is safe and supportive can increase student attendance and improve academic achievement. A student's ability to learn and achieve high academic standards, and a school's ability to educate students, is compromised by incidents of discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to bullying, taunting, hazing and intimidation. The District will, therefore, strive to create an environment free of discrimination and harassment and will foster civility in the schools to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

**All Lakeland School District policies can be found here
<http://www.lakelandschools.org/policies.cfm?sid=5>**

**Stefan Bauschard
Tournament Director
Debate Coach, Lakeland Central School District**

