

BLYTON INVITATIONAL

LIVE ONLINE ROUNDS
AWARDS ONLINE
NOVICE ONLY
KENTUCKY ONLY



Dear Coaches:

Meet Blyton. He's a bear -- a polar bear, to be exact, who can handle whatever winter months or anything else our long season throws at him. He can compete in any category and in-person or online. He is unbearably excellent at every event.

Blyton would like to invite you to a pair of tournaments that will be held LIVE on Tabroom Campus December 17.

These two tournaments and the bear himself are named after [Gifford Blyton, a longtime University of Kentucky Debate coach](#) who became the Executive Director of the Kentucky High School Speech League afterward and helped save the League during a time of fiscal crisis. Our Blyton Book Award given each year for 8th and 12th grade students remains one of the top honors students can be awarded in speech and debate. He's also inspired our League mascot's name.

Basically, the Speech Blyton will be run by KHSSL on 12/17. Dunbar High School will run the Debate Blyton and will send out a separate invitation. All KHSSL events will be offered at these two meets – JR and SR Speech at the KHSSL Blyton, Debate at the Dunbar Blyton.

There are two catches here – all competitors must be NOVICES in their Divisions, and all competitors must attend KHSSL member schools (Kentucky only!!).

What does NOVICE mean?

FOR SPEECH

- Any student in his/her/their first year of speech tournaments
(if you're a brand new school, this means your whole team).
- Any 9th grader (for Senior Division).
- Duo teams must BOTH be Novices.

FOR DEBATE

- A novice debater shall be defined as any student in his/her/their first year of debate.

NITTY GRITTY DETAILS

SPEECH (grades 4-12, JR and SR divisions offered):

- All students will be judged for three live rounds on December 17.
- For any event with more than six competitors, the third “hidden power” round will contain a final, but it will be “just another” round until awards. Three judges will judge each final. If there are six competitors or fewer in an event, all three rounds will be used to determine the top two in each event.
- **ONLY NOVICE ENTRIES.**
- ONLY KENTUCKY (and your school must be a KHSSL member with dues paid).
- Awards for top 2 competitors in each Event/Division.
- No school awards; this tournament is JUST to encourage new competitors.

Managed via TABROOM.COM

<http://blyton.tabroom.com>

Registration deadline is end of the day, Wednesday, December 14. No late entries!

KHSSL, INC. * P O BOX 23451 * LEXINGTON KY 40523
KHSSL@KHSSL.ORG * (859) 927-1100 * www.khssl.org

Events Offered and Contest Rules:

See the KHSSL Handbook www.khssl.org/handbook.

SPEECH SCHEDULE (all times Eastern):

9:30 AM	Extemp Draw Round 1
10 AM	Round 1
11:30 AM	Extemp Draw Round 2
12 PM	Round 2
2:00 PM	Extemp Draw Round 3
2:15 PM	Broadcasting Draw Round 3
2:30 PM	Round 3
5:00 PMish	Awards online (coaches and judges will receive a Zoom link)

Drop/Add:

- *\$10 per competitor per event nuisance fee + registration fee for drops as of 12 AM Thursday, December 15.
- *Judge quotas do NOT change when drops are made.
- *Dropped judges are \$50 -- \$40 hire fee plus \$10 nuisance fee.
- *No adds after the entry deadline.

Entries:

- *Teams may enter an unlimited number of students in each event.
- *Entries must fit the definition of Novice defined earlier in the invitation.
- *Students may enter as many events as they wish to enter.
- *Registration will open November 23.

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

Fees: \$8 per competitor per event.
A \$10 fee will added to each team's invoice to cover awards postage.

Judges: Judge quota is one per six entries or fraction thereof; hires are \$40.
Judges must be available for all three rounds.
Judges must have a Tabroom account.

12th graders as Judges:

KHSSL will announce procedures for Seniors who wish to serve as judges for the Junior events. These Seniors can receive volunteer hours (and letters asserting this) for their work as needed. They may register as regular judges for a team quota OR as KHSSL "Hires" who will be paid in love.

Postal Fee: All schools will be charged an \$10 postal fee at registration for the mailing of awards.

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 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.

Competitors must have Tabroom accounts for this meet and to see their ballots after.

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.

KHSSL Resources for You

- [KHSSL Best Practices for Virtual Tournaments](#); you can probably guess what this is about.
- [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.

Y'ALL COME

Please don't be shy to email questions about rules or events or how the tournament will work. I hope coaches will take advantage of this contest as a beacon to guide rookies toward as they prep through the first semester.

And I really hope you'll support KHSSL and sign up your kids for this meet. 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.

