Seth Rich Invitational Tournament - 2023

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# Tournament Date & Host Site

The Seth Rich Memorial Debate Invite will be held at Omaha Central High School (124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102) on January 28th, 2023.

# Equity Policy

The tournament is committed to providing its participants, judges, and coaches the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect and safety. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, etc. are broadly unacceptable and certainly not permitted at our tournament.

We believe in the transformative power of debate as an activity. A component of that is creating a competitive environment that welcomes diverse experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives and combats sexist, classist, and racist microaggressions that have resulted in varying student experiences in this activity. To that end, if a student or judge interprets an action or argument to be exclusionary, they’re encouraged to contact the tournament director ([drew.ruchti@gmail.com](mailto:drew.ruchti@gmail.com), 406-830-6717) immediately following their round in order to address the situation. We take the safety and wellbeing of those within our community seriously.

# Tournament Accessibility

Omaha Central is a multi-floor facility so it is essential that the tab staff be aware of accommodations. In order to ensure we have those spaces available for the folks who need accessible spaces, we need a couple of simple things to be done within each school’s entry (if they have anyone within their entry that requires accommodation):

• For coaches and/or judges that require accommodations, please:

o check the ADA/ Accessible rooms needed box on tabroom

o use the "judge notes" box for specific requests.

• For debaters that require accommodations, please:

o check the ADA/ Accessible rooms needed box

o email the tournament director at drew.ruchti@gmail.com with any specific needs as there is not a place within Tabroom to more efficiently make this request

# Important Dates & Online Entries

New Entries Due/Fees & Obligations Freeze: 1/25/23 5PM CT

Judge Entries Due: 1/25/23 5PM CT

Entries will only be accepted online via www.tabroom.com. No entries submitted via email will be accepted. Once the entry deadline passes, no further entries will be permitted. Entry drops after the entry deadline will not reduce a team’s judge obligations or entry fees due.

Name changes or drops can be made on Tabroom.com until 7AM on tournament day. Any drops after that point should be communicated at tournament registration Saturday morning.

# Events

The 2023 Seth Rich Memorial Debate Invite aims to offer competition in the following events: Congressional Debate, Lincoln Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum. If entries in each division do not permit Varsity and Novice fields, we reserve the right to collapse fields into Open Divisions. If that is something that must be decided, the call will be made immediately after our initial registration deadline and coaches will be permitted to modify their novice entries as they see fit with no fee penalty.

# Fees

Entry fees for the tournament will be as follows:

Congressional Debate: $20

Lincoln Douglas: $25

Policy: $25

Public Forum: $25

# Special Awards

*The Raksin Friend of Debate Award*

The Raksin Award is given to a coach, judge, or volunteer that has dedicated themselves to the advancement of debate in high schools. The award is named in honor of Nebraska Debate alumni Alex Raksin and his monumental support for debate in our state. Raksin’s vision of the life-changing power of debate affirms the essential importance of our activity, and he actively dedicates himself to making debate accessible to as many students as possible.

*The Rich Memorial Trophy*

The Rich Memorial Trophy is given to the champion team at the Seth Rich Memorial Debate Invite. The award and our tournament are named in memory of Omaha Central alumnus Seth Rich (2007). Seth was the last competitor from Omaha Central to qualify for the National Speech and Debate Association’s national tournament, and his life serves as a testament to the incredible power, portability, and life-long importance of the skills gained through Speech and Debate. After high school, Seth studied Political Science and History at Creighton University and committed himself to a future of selfless dedication to helping others. In 2016, Seth was working in Washington D.C. as the DNC’s Voter Expansion Data Director when he was murdered in a senseless act of gun violence. His memory serves as an important part of the history of the Omaha Central Speech and Debate teams, and we aim to honor him through our tournaments and sweepstakes awards.

# Judge Coverage

Lincoln Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum judges are obligated through the first full elimination round and then for one round beyond their teams’ elimination. For instance, if we break to a partial doubleoctofinal and a team’s entries are eliminated prior to octofinals, their PF and LD judging obligation would be met following the octofinal debate.

Congressional debate judges are obligated until the congressional debate tournament is completed. Please note that

congressional debate judges may be used in pools for other events if they are not being used in congress.

Please limit your judge hire requests as there are only a limited number of hired judges available. Judges should be experienced judges and/or former debaters and must be out of high school. Limited exceptions regarding this graduation rule can be made for judges who are only qualified to judge novice fields (i.e. active varsity students), but the head coach of any team wishing to enter a Novice Only judge must clear that with the tournament director prior to entering these judges! In Public Forum, lay-judges are acceptable, but the tournament expects that the hiring school will provide their judges with the requisite and appropriate training to judge adequately within the tournament.

An important note that all judges should be aware of prior to the tournament: it is the expectation of the tournament that judges in Lincoln Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum will orally disclose their decisions to students upon the conclusion of each round. Detailed oral comments are welcomed, but A COMPLETED BALLOT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED VIA TABROOM PRIOR TO THE JUDGE SAYING ANYTHING IN ROUND! Students, it’s also important for you to remember that judges who are uncomfortable disclosing in debates often feel that way due to past negative experiences disclosing decisions. Results will be posted live throughout the tournament.

# Schedules

Please note that the tournament will attempt to accelerate times as much as it is possible. In order to allow the tournament to accelerate, we ask that all coaches, judges, and competitors remain on site throughout the length of their obligations to the tournament. Judges who are missing and who are replaced will need to see tab prior the start of the next round of debate to confirm they are available.

The schedules are as follows.

**LD/PF**

8AM Round 1

9AM Round 2

10:30AM Round 3

12:30PM Round 4

Lunch

2PM Round 5

Outrounds to Follow Immediately

**Policy**

8AM Round 1

10AM Round 2

12:30PM Round 3

2:30PM Round 4

Outrounds to Follow Immediately

**Congress**

8-11:55AM Session 1

12:45-4:45PM Session 2

Awards are targeted for 5:30PM.

# Congressional Debate

Each school will be assessed a judging fee of $90 for each six students. You can alleviate this fee by bringing a judge for each six entries. This fee will be prorated at a rate of $15/student. So, if you bring three students you can pay $45 or bring a judge. Your judges may only be used for ½ a day in congress, so please indicate which additional event they would be qualified to judge as well. These judges’ obligations will be finished before awards.

Legislation for the 2023 Seth Rich Memorial Debate Invite is available on the tabroom.com invite page

# Lincoln Douglas

We will be using the January/February topic and follow the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format with 4 minutes of prep time. We encourage all judges in all events to have a paradigm posted on Tabroom prior to the tournament.

# Policy

We will follow the standard format with 8 minutes of prep time. We encourage all judges in all events to have a paradigm posted on Tabroom prior to the tournament.

# Public Forum

We will use the January topic and follow the event format which provides each team with 3 minutes of prep and 3 minute summary speeches. We encourage all judges in all events to have a paradigm posted on Tabroom prior to the tournament.

# Eligibility & Independent Entries

All entries must be officially representing their school and entered by the adult head coach/sponsor of the high school which those students attend with the approval of the school they attend and are representing. Due to Nebraska state rules, competitors must be HIGH SCHOOL students only and attending the institution under which they are competing. If students are found to be ineligible any point of the tournament, they will be disqualified from the tournament and removed from competition. Additionally, in order to be eligible to compete at our tournament, students must comply with tournament policies, specifically and most critically those related to equity and safety. Students who violate tournament policies risk disqualification from the tournament. Entry fees for disqualified entries will not be refunded.

# Payment Information

A district W9 is available upon request. Checks for entries/fees can be made out to:

Omaha Central Debate

c/o Andrew Ruchti

124 N. 20th St.

Omaha, NE 68102

# Contact Information

You may contact the tab room the day of the tournament at (402) 202-5131 (call or text). The tournament director can be reached at [drew.ruchti@gmail.com](mailto:drew.ruchti@gmail.com), 406-830-6717.

We're looking forward to hosting your teams at Omaha Central!