

*** Welcome Back ***

We are delighted to (finally) announce that the 2014 GDS Tournament is returning to the High School. You are cordially invited to the Georgetown Day School on 26-28 September for a weekend of intense competition and Hopper hospitality.

We will offer one division of Varsity policy debate, featuring 7 prelims and Octa-finals on the 2014-15 NFL policy debate resolution. The format will be 8-3-5 with ten minutes of preparation time. We will not break brackets in the elims. We genuinely regret that space does not allow us to offer more divisions (and more events) this year; we sincerely hope that plans to expand the tournament to include multiple policy divisions as well as LD and Public Forum are able to bring those divisions back online for next year.

All inquiries about the tournament should be directed to: GDStournament@gmail.com or you can contact me via phone (text is better than a call) at 205-266-0523.

Looking forward to seeing you all,
jon

jon f. sharp
Director of Debate
Georgetown Day School
4200 Davenport St NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-274-3296 [office]
205-266-0523 [cell/text] - Text is the best way to contact me.
GDStournament@gmail.com

*** Fees and Logistics ***

Registration will take place on Tabroom.com

Each school may enter up to three (3) teams. If there is additional space, we will be happy to accommodate requests for additional teams.

Team Fee: \$125

Judge Fee: \$200 per uncovered team*

* Each team requires 4 rounds of qualified judging; a single judge may cover two teams. All tournament judges are expected to have philosophies posted online and any conflicts entered on the Tabroom.com site. The tournament will be providing some supplemental judging, but we strongly prefer that you avoid hiring judges through us, if at all possible. If you need to hire a judge,

please write me at GDStournament@gmail.com to be put in contact with a judge in the area who wishes to be hired. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, reach out to me and we can work something out.

Fees will be set on 21 September. Any drops after that date will forfeit the entry fee for that/those entry/entries, and an additional \$25 per dropped team.

Please note that the entry fee will also cover breakfast on Saturday, dinner on Friday, and dinner on Saturday.

We will offer one division of Varsity policy debate, featuring 7 prelims and Octa-finals on the 2014-15 NFL policy debate resolution. Two prelims will be preset and the remaining 5 will be paired based on SOP (strength of opponent). The format will be 8-3-5 with ten minutes of preparation time. We will not break brackets in the elims.

Points will be on a scale of 30 with tenth of a point increments.

There will be one and only one winning team and one and only one losing team in each debate.

Despite my better judgment, we will employ "mutual preference" judging (MPJ) for judge assignment.

We will provide awards for all teams advancing to the elimination debates and for the top 15 speakers.

We are unable to accept independent entries. An independent entry is a team or student who wishes to compete without the approval, knowledge or consent of their school administration. All students must compete under the school's name in which they are officially enrolled.

This tournament functions as a Quarterfinals TOC bid in policy debate and a points qualifier for the NDCA National Championship tournament.

Chaperonage: Our expectation is that each school have at least one adult (non-high school student) present for oversight and as a contact in case of emergency. Please include this information in your Tabroom.com entry.

Important Dates

Hotel Block Closes: 12 September*

Housing Forms Due: 17 September

Fees Set: 21 September

Registration Closes: 21 September

Finalize Judging: 21 September
Prefs Due: Noon, 26 September
Arrival Check-In: Noon, 26 September

* If the block closes before you are able to make reservations, please contact me to see if additional space can be obtained (it likely can).

*** Travel & Lodging ***

Tournament Hotel and Tournament Housing

HOTEL: The tournament hotel is the Doubletree Bethesda, which some of you may remember from previous GDS tournaments in years past. This beautiful facility is located at 8120 Wisconsin Ave (Bethesda, MD 20814), and their main number is (301) 652-2000. There is a block of rooms allocated to the tournament, with a rate of \$99 per night, for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. In addition to top-notch accommodations, the Doubletree Bethesda is conveniently located 5 blocks from the Bethesda Metro Station, on the Red Line, two short stops away from the high school. To get in the block, reference Georgetown Day School and the reservation code GD9. If you try to make reservations and the block is full, please contact me via email or text (205-266-0523) and I will speak to the hotel about expanding the block to include additional rooms. Our coordinator has indicated that this should not be a problem.

Doubletree Bethesda
8120 Wisconsin Ave
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-652-2000

Tournament Reservations Page:
http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/W/WASBHDT-GD9-20140926/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Reservation Code: GD9

HOUSING: In addition to the regularly-scheduled tournament hotel, we are delighted to announce that we will also be returning to the golden age of the GDS Tournament by bringing back a robust housing program for those competitors coming in from outside the Washington metro area. Housing will be offered for Friday and Saturday nights, with some limited availability on Thursday or Sunday night. All housing requests should be directed to GDStournament@gmail.com for an information (student names, sexes, and allergies) sheet you will fill out and return to me. We will not be able to house the entire tournament; however, if you would like to avail yourself of this option, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please contact

us with all housing requests by Wednesday, 17 September, to ensure that we can place everyone.

Transportation

Between the location of the tournament hotel and the option of tournament housing, we strongly suggest that you avoid renting a vehicle. If you are staying at the tournament hotel, you will be able to take the Metro to and from the tournament (the hotel is 5 blocks (10 minutes +/-) from the Bethesda Metro Station and GDS is 2-3 blocks (5-7 minutes) from the Tenleytown Metro Station). If you are being housed by the tournament, transportation between the school and the homestay locations will be managed on this end as well. All of the airports and major transportation systems in the region are connected to the Metro system in one way or another:

DCA (Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport) has its own Metro station.

Dulles (Dulles International Airport): From Dulles, one can reach the Metro rail system via the Metrobus (to the Rosslyn Station) or Washington Flyer Bus (to the new Silver Line).

BWI (Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport) is farther away, but often cheaper. From BWI, one can take the MARC commuter train to Union Station and access the Red Line directly.

Amtrak will take you to Union Station, which is also a transit point for the Red Line.

Additional information on accessing the Metro from our major airports can be found here: http://www.wmata.com/getting_around/new_metro/

If you plan on arriving by bus, or have any additional questions about transportation (either to/from DC or within the district), please do not hesitate to email us at **GDStournament@gmail.com** for further consultation.

*** Tentative Tournament Schedule 2014 ***

Please Note: All debates (including elims) will take place at GDS.

Friday, 26 September 2014

Noon	In Town Arrival Check-In Deadline
1PM	Pairings (Online and On Paper)
1:30PM	Round 1
4PM	Round 2
6PM	Dinner (Provided by Tournament)

7PM Round 3
9:45PM Housing Pick-Up (Forum)

Saturday, 27 September 2014

7:30AM GDS Squad Set-Up
8AM Pairings and Continental Breakfast
8:30AM Round 4
11:30AM Lunch (On Your Own)
1PM Round 5
3:45PM Round 6
6PM Dinner (Provided by Tournament)
7PM Round 7
9:45PM Housing Pick-Up (Forum)

Sunday, 28 September 2014

7:30AM GDS Squad Set-Up
8AM Continental Breakfast
8:30AM Octafinals (8 classrooms)
11:15AM Quarterfinals (4 classrooms)
2PM Semifinals (2 classrooms)
4:45PM Finals (1 classroom)
7PM Exit building