

SR STATE SPEECH TOURNEY INVITATION 2024

February 2024

Dear Coaches and Students:

You are cordially invited to the 2024 KHSSL Senior State Speech Championship, which will be held **MARCH 8 & 9** at Northern Kentucky University. Please read this invitation thoroughly and carefully.

REGISTRATION AND ENTRIES

Registration is on Tabroom: <http://khsslstatesenior.tabroom.com> and is due by **8 PM on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29. This is a firm deadline for all registration – judges, drops, adds, name changes, everything. After 2/29/24’s deadline, changes go through the KHSSL email address ONLY (khssl@khssl.org -- no texts or calls for changes, and you’ll be blocked from changes on Tabroom).** After this deadline, \$25 fees are added to registration fees for any changes until tournament registration begins on Friday, when the fee doubles to \$50, so please try to be accurate early. There are no excuses from fees.

Entry fees are \$20 for each individual entry, \$40 for each duo team entry.

The KHSSL Handbook contains extensive information about how the State Tournament is put together and how tabulation is done to determine advancement. Coaches are responsible for understanding these procedures (or for asking for clarifications as needed) and for explaining them to your team and their parents, your judges, etc. Anyone in the world can access it at the KHSSL website: <https://www.khssl.org/handbook-and-constitution> Please make sure all coaches have reviewed how State tournament works before you come to campus.

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Coaches may ONLY enter as many entries as schools entered and paid for at Regionals (or fewer). If coaches applied for and were granted exemptions, these students are considered eligible to be on your team's roster for state. Yay!

As the Board opened State qualification to anyone who attended Regionals this year, **students can qualify for State multiple ways this year as long as their school attended Regionals --**

- Competed in a specific event at the Regional tournament.
- Given an exemption for a specific event from the Regional tournament.
- Prequalified for a specific event by attending two Kentucky tournaments that used KHSSL rules in that event this school year -- the Blyton tournament counts.
- Prequalified for a specific event by advancing to Finals/top 6 in a Kentucky tournament that used KHSSL rules in that event this school year (or top 3 at the Blyton Invitational).
- Prequalified for a specific event by breaking to Semifinals or finals in that same event in the same Division (Junior or Senior) last year.

As the coach, you vouch for this qualification as a part of the KHSSL Code of Ethics when you enter your students for State tournaments. Several schools' entries will be audited for compliance, so please be sure your students have all "made State."

In each speech event, schools may enter up to three (3) entries. Each individual student may enter up to three (3) events. Students must have qualified in an event as noted above. Remember, **schools may ONLY enter as many entries as the schools entered and paid for at Regionals (or fewer).**

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FOOD AND LODGING

Coffee and light snacks **for judges** will be provided on Friday afternoon with coffee/tea/water only on Saturday morning (plus any leftovers from Friday). All students and judges are on their own for meals.

Students should eat breakfast OFF CAMPUS on Saturday as many restaurant options will not be open when students are due on campus. We will try to obtain on-campus food availabilities to share with you closer to the tournament date.

KHSSL is no longer involved in lodging arrangements for state tournaments. As a former coach, my personal suggestion is to check with your school's athletic director for any special rates your school may have negotiated with hotels in town as that person will know; your bookkeeper is also a good source of such info. Remember too that many hotels will give schools what's called the "state rate." AAA and other such organizations also can give you a decent discount.

If you are a new coach/school this year, this is a grand question for your Mentor for suggestions.

JUDGES

Judge Obligations: The judge quota is set at one judge required per six entries or fraction thereof. Teams may hire up to but not more than half your quota for \$130 each if you are bringing other judges, but you must provide at least half of your judges required regardless; if you only owe one judge, YOU MUST PROVIDE THAT JUDGE. And we really need your judges. **All judges are obligated through the full**

tournament. DO NOT ASK TO LEAVE EARLY. Please note that judges must be

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available the full day to count for the day, so no “Please no finals” requests unless you’re willing to pay the \$65 per day charge for a judge. You may not request exemptions from particular events (like “no limited prep.”). Judges who leave early will make the state director very very grumpy and will also find invoices headed to their school principals for drop fees as well as judge fees.

Age of Judges: Remember that all judges at State must be **OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL** – no high school student judges allowed at Regionals/State.

Reality of Judges: Judges should expect to judge every round of the tournament.

Extra Judges: If you have extra judges who can judge, even if just for one of the two days, we will gladly accept them. You will be doing a huge favor to everyone attending! Thanks!! You’re the best! You rock! You’re amazing!!!

Virtual Ballots: Judges are expected to bring their own devices (tablet or laptop – **do not plan to judge on a phone** as it’s just too hard to do) to judge as the tournament will use virtual ballots. NKU has a free WiFi network anyone can sign up for upon arrival on campus. We will not provide paper ballots to use.

Judge Training: The Handbook states that all judges must be trained prior to State tournament. The Board voted to require **anti-bias training** as this training for this year. The link for this training is on the homepage of the KHSSL website, www.khssl.org. Please make sure all judges have completed it no later than the registration deadline. If your judges already completed it for Regionals, they’re good to go (no need to complete it again). A hodgepodge video of various judge trainings (about 30 minutes in length) is also available on the KHSSL website and may be of use to rookie judges if coaches wish to use that as the judge training they provide to their judges (with follow-up for questions, advice, etc.).

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JUDGE TIPS!!!

A judge's best friend is our **Judge Tips webpage**. On this page, Judges can see the full (the paper version) ballots for the events, the judging guidelines, and a 3-ish minute video from a KHSSL Coach explaining what they look for when they are judging that event. There are even sample performances of each event on this page if judges have time to see what an event looks like before they go in a round. A handout with a good review of the judging process and suggestions of comments is also posted at the top of this page.

www.khssl.org/judging

PARKING/MAPS/ORATORIES/INFORMATIVES

[PARKING MAP OF NKU HERE.](#)

Buses can park in Lot K & Lot L, which are the two lots next to the Kenton Garage. The map shows where these places are at NKU as well as the Student Union, where registration (and food) will be. All of these lots and the garage are on Kenton Drive.

All other guests will need to park in Kenton Garage. Gates will be down for part of the day on Friday, any guests leaving during that time will be responsible to pay the hourly rate. If the gates are up when you leave, you got free parking for the day! Go you!

UNIVERSITY ADDRESS & MAPS

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NKU is located at 100 Nunn Dr. Highland Heights, KY 41099. A map of campus that includes the schedule will be provided on the back of each judge's and contestant's "dance card," or individual schedule of rounds and rooms. You may also see it online at the Tabroom site once rooms being used are finalized. Here is a general map of campus to get you started: <https://map.nku.edu/>

ORATORIES AND INFORMATIVES

Don't forget that students' speeches in Oratory and Informative must be physically available on paper or easily downloadable electronically should a copy be needed.

AWARDS CEREMONY

ALL students who advance to Quarterfinals / Semifinals / Finals will be recognized during the ceremony and are expected to be in attendance. Awards will be held in the Student Union ballroom like last year.

SAFETY INFORMATION

AED(s) located?

Student Union: 2nd Floor Near Main Lobby Near Elevators

Griffin Hall: in the south entrance vestibule (2nd floor).

Other parts of campus: <https://inside.nku.edu/safety/programs/aed.html>

Emergency plan?

For emergencies, we contact University Police at (859) 572-7777. More information about our emergency management can be found here: <https://inside.nku.edu/safety.html>

Work Control (M-F 8:15am-4:30pm) – 859-572-5660

After hours Power Plant 859-572-5548

Campus Police Non-Emergency –(unlocking doors on weekends, etc.) 859-572-5500

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BREAK ROUND QUOTAS AND PLANS

A Quarterfinal round will take place in ALL EVENTS with 48 or more entries, measured as of the Registration deadline.

The top 24 students in order will advance to the Quarterfinal round. No adjustments for students from the same school competing in the same section are made.

This round will have four sections of six competitors.

- a. The four sections will be seeded as follows:
Section 1—1st, 8th, 9th, 16th, 17th, and 24th
Section 2—2nd, 7th, 10th, 15th, 18th, and 23rd.
Section 3—3rd, 6th, 11th, 14th, 19th, and 22nd
Section 4—4th, 5th, 12th, 13th, 20th, and 21st
- b. Only in the event of an absolute tie shall an additional contestant be advanced to the Quarterfinal round, and such contestant would be placed in a random section.

Advancement to and Pairing of Semifinals.

Semifinal rounds are paired as set forth below. No adjustments for students from the same school competing in the same section are made.

- a. *For events with Quarterfinal rounds.* The top-three Quarterfinalists advance out of each Quarterfinal section. Semifinal Section 1 includes advancing Semifinalists from Sections 1 and 4 of Quarterfinals. Semifinal Section 2 includes advancing Semifinalists from Sections 2 and 3 of Quarterfinals.

For events advancing directly to the Semifinal round. The top twelve students after the preliminary rounds advance into two Semifinal sections, paired as follows:

Section 1: 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 12th

Section 2: 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th

- b. Only in the event of an absolute tie shall an additional contestant be advanced to the Semifinal round, and such contestant would be placed in a random section.

Based on Regional Tournament entries, I anticipate as many as ten events could have Quarterfinals. It will depend on the actual numbers that register for State. Stay tuned!

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SOUVENIRS FOR SALE AT STATE THIS YEAR (cash, card, Apple Pay)



Enamel Pins (two new varieties this year) \$5



2024 Blyton bear (with black t-shirt)

\$25

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State Tournament souvenir t-shirts
(black, adult sizes S-4X) short sleeve \$12 long sleeve \$20



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17 oz. water bottle (copper vacuum insulated)

\$20



Spiral-bound small notebooks

\$10

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From the Director

I have high hopes that all coaches and students will have their best experience ever at KHSSL Senior. Our planned schedule is on the penultimate page of this invitation, and I hope you'll also go through the "classy" expectations for tournaments with your students (the last page of this invite).

Let's make it our shared goal that we'll run efficiently and smoothly. We want our kids to make happy memories.

May the words be with you! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have about the event, and good luck to you and yours at the State Tournament!

STEVE

Steve Meadows, Executive Director
Kentucky High School Speech League

khssl@khssl.org

859/927-1100 talk or text

www.khssl.org



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KHSSL SENIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT 2024 SCHEDULE

Friday, March 8

**Registration 10 AM to 11:30 AM
in Student Union by rooms 108 and 109**

Judges' Meeting: 11:45 AM

Rounds at 12:30 PM, 2:15 PM, 4 PM

Finish up for day 6 PM

Saturday, March 9

Rounds at 8:00, 10:00, 12:15, 2:15
(Quarters/Semis/Finals intermixed as needed)

We anticipate Quarters in up to 10 of the 14 events.

Awards at 4:30-ish PM in Ballroom / Student Union

A more specific and detailed schedule will be posted on the tournament website after Registration closes and we know what events are having Quarters, exactly which rooms we're using, etc.



SENIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT INVITATION

HOW TO BE CLASSY AT A CONTEST

Be a polite audience member – watch your competitors with attention (and laugh and clap when appropriate). This applies for all other contestants – **don't leave anyone out.**

Be sure to **tell your judges if you are doubling or tripling** and need to go early in your room to leave.

If you are doubling/tripling & in extemp or a 3rd round of broadcasting, **go to extemp/broadcasting before you go to other events.** Tell the person running the draw room you are headed to other events as well.

If doubling or tripling in a duo event, **make plans with your partner** about when to meet them at the duo room (before other events or after other events) so you don't leave partners stranded waiting on you.

Don't touch anything in the classrooms other than the desk you sit in and chairs you use for Duo Improv. And avoid using the teacher's desk, even for judges.

Bring the supplies you need with you: index cards, black book, pen/pencil, bottle of water, etc.

Wait quietly in the hallway until the judge arrives and invites you into the room. Once the contest starts, before you enter a room, wait in the hallway and listen carefully to make sure you are not entering a room while someone else is performing. No one wants to be that kid who interrupts.

Make sure your **phones are OFF** and won't vibrate or make noise during a round.

At awards, be happy for everyone, even if you don't win your event. You're on display, after all, for everyone – including other kids' friends, judges who will be evaluating you next tournament, etc. – and we work together to make ourselves better at communication using competition to inspire us, not to beat other people down. Use those acting skills if you are a finalist but don't get the place you want – many others watching would like to be a finalist getting a trophy, after all. Show grace. And go get 'em next time!

Teams stand up for any students on their teams who win awards, but they don't whoop and holler as this is a dignified event, not a rodeo (no offense to rodeos). Also, teams stand up for all 1st place winners as a tournament-wide recognition of the event champions and the overall team champions. It's just classy.

And we always **choose classy** when we have options.

This is the way.