

The 2025 Rushmore Challenge
Harrisburg High School
Friday and Saturday, February 14 - 15, 2025

Dear Coaches and Competitors,

The Harrisburg High School Chapter of the National Speech & Debate Association invites you to the **Rushmore Challenge Debate and IE Tournament** on **Friday and Saturday, February 14–15, 2025**, at Harrisburg High School.

This document outlines key information regarding events, divisions, fees, judges, schedules, and awards. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out for clarification!

The Rushmore Challenge (et al) Schedule						
Friday, February 14						
Northern Quals (NQ)		Rushmore Quals (RQ)		Rushmore Tournament (R)		
		Draw	8:30			
		RQ R1	9:00			
Draw	10:00 AM	Draw	10:00			
NQ1	10:30 AM	RQ R2	10:30			
Draw	11:30 AM	Draw	11:30			
NQ2	12:00 PM	RQ R3	12:00 PM	Registration	1:00 PM	Concessions open
Lunch		RQ Strikes	1:30			
Draw	1:45 PM	Draw	1:45			
NQ3	2:15 PM	RQ Finals	2:15	R Draw R1	2:15 PM	
				R1	2:45 PM	

				R Draw R2	3:45 PM	
Strikes	4:15 PM			R2	4:15 PM	
NQ F Draw	5:15 PM			R Draw R3	5:15 PM	
NQ Finals	5:45 PM			R3	5:45 PM	
				R Draw F	7:15 PM	Concessions closes
				R Finals	7:45 PM	
Awards	9:00 PM	Awards	9:00 PM	Award	9:00 PM	
Draw in the H - Wing				Draw in the PAC		
Speak in H- Wing Rooms				Speak in G - Wing Rooms		
Saturday, February 15						
Northern Quals		Rushmore Quals		Rushmore Tournament		
				Round 1	8:00 AM	
				Round 2	9:15 AM	Concessions open
				Round 3	10:45 AM	
				Round 4	12:15	
				Round 5	1:45	
				Quarters	3:00	Concessions closes
				Awards	4:45	
				Semis	5:15	
				Finals	6:30	

Friday, February 14 – Speech Events

- Events: **Humorous, Duo, and Dramatic Interpretation, Domestic and Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, POI, Informative Speaking, and Student Congress.**
- **Judging Requirement:** One judge per **five** entries (or fraction thereof) for all speech events. For **Student Congress**, provide **one dedicated judge per school**.
- **Rounds:** Three preliminary rounds and finals.
- **Rules:** NSDA guidelines apply.
 - **Extemporaneous Speaking:** 7-minute speech, 30-minute prep.
 - **Interpretation, Informative, and Oratory:** 10-minute time limit.
- **Entry Limits:** None.
- NORTHERN DISTRICT EXTEMPERS will not be able to enter both The Rushmore Challenge & The Northern District NSDA Qualifying Tournament. Coaches in the RUSHMORE District please reach out if you would like to attempt to have your extempers entered in both.

Due to multiple tournaments occurring in the same building, please follow the provided schedule carefully.

Friday, February 14 – Rushmore Challenge (RC) & National Qualifiers

Saturday, February 15 – Debate Events

- **Lincoln-Douglas (Varsity & JV)** – Five preliminary rounds, breaking to quarters.
- **Public Forum (Varsity & JV)** – Five preliminary rounds, breaking to quarters.
- **Topics:** The **January/February** NSDA topic for LD and the **February** topic for PF:
 - **PF:** *Resolved: The United States should accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.*
- **Judging Requirement:** Schools must provide judges to cover entries.
- **Wi-Fi:** Guest access will be available.

A full schedule for debate rounds will be shared in advance.

REGISTRATION

- **Platform:** [Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com)
- **Entry Deadline:** Wednesday, February 12, at 10:00 PM.
- **Questions?** Contact Patrick Pope at patrick.pope@k12.sd.us or (605) 376-0667.

FEES

- **Public Forum & Lincoln-Douglas:** \$15 per entry.

- **Speech & Student Congress:** \$8 per entry.
- **Missing Judge Fees:**
 - **Debate:** \$200 per uncovered judge per day.
 - **Speech:** \$100 per uncovered judge per day.
- **Make checks payable to:**
Harrisburg High School Speech & Debate
C/O Speech and Debate Team

JUDGES

- **Online Balloting Required:** Judges must register on **Tabroom.com** for notifications and ballots.
 - **Availability:** Schools should cover their judging obligations and notify us of any extra judges available for hire.
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Congress Docket:** The **South Dakota January/February docket** will be used.
- **Extemp Questions:** Released **Thursday, February 13**. Schools may submit questions for consideration by **Monday, February 10**.

Concessions will be available throughout the weekend, accepting both cash and credit cards. An **ATM** is located in the main commons.

AWARDS

- **Speech:** Top **six** finishers in each event and Student Congress will receive awards.
 - **Debate:** Quarterfinalists and beyond will receive awards.
 - **Sweepstakes:**
 - **Top three Class AA** schools and **top two Class A** schools will receive trophies.
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VENUE & ARRIVAL

Harrisburg High School
1300 W Willow St
Harrisburg, SD 57032

Since school will not be in session, **please use the main entrance** upon arrival.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to welcoming you to **The Rushmore Challenge** in February!

Sincerely,
The Harrisburg Speech & Debate Coaching Staff