

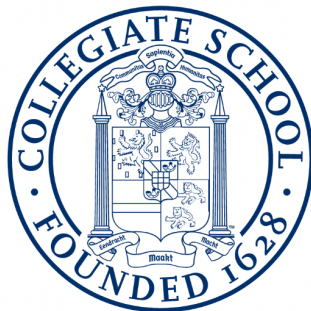
Collegiate School Speech and Debate

Ronald Reagan Debate Series Northeast Qualifier

Saturday, April 19, 2025

301 Freedom Place South, New York, NY 10069

Mr. Teja Vepa | TVepa@collegiateschool.org | (212) 812-8716



Dear Colleagues:

We cordially invite you and your team to attend The Ronald Reagan Debate Series Northeast Qualifier, held on **Saturday, April 19, 2025** at Collegiate School in New York, NY.

Site Logistics

On Campus Format

This competition will be held on-campus. We are excited to be able to host students, coaches, and teams in person.

Hotel Options and Rates

Please email Teja Vepa at TVepa@collegiateschool.org for assistance with hotel blocks. Our school maintains a relationship with several local hotels and we will find a solution for your team.

Location and Parking Directions

Collegiate School is located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan at 301 Freedom Place South, New York, NY 10069. The school is located near West End and 61st street. Public transportation options include the A/C/E trains at 59th Street/Columbus Circle and the 1 train at 72nd street.

On Saturday, free street parking is available outside of our building, but availability may be limited. We also have two local parking structures by Icon group. The closest parking structure to the school can be found through this link. We recommend purchasing parking in advance, as rates at the structure itself will be approximately \$40-\$50 per day, but pre-booked parking can be as low as \$18 per day: [Icon Parking Near Collegiate School](#).

You can also use the Spothero app to find parking near our school. Please reach out to Tvepa@collegiateschool.org if you are planning to park an oversized vehicle for options.

Events and Divisions

Ronald Reagan Debates

This tournament will operate the unique Ronald Reagan Debate Format which you can locate on the [Debate Resources](#) page.

Technology Logistics

Wifi Information

A dedicated SSID will be set up for the tournament.

The SSID is "CSNY Debate" and the password is "rgdebate419420"

Tabroom Account Linkage

All competitors must be linked to a Tabroom.com account associated with their school in order to access their competition rooms.

Single Flighting

All rounds will be single-flighted.

Arrival and Building Logistics

Arrival

Entries, Judges, and Coaches can begin arriving at 8:00 AM. Please check in with the security desk upon arrival. Adults will need a photo ID, but students will not. Once you have checked in with the security desk, please head to the main dining room on the 1st floor. We will have volunteers to direct you to the dining room where breakfast will be available.

At 9:00 AM, we invite you to join us in the Auditorium on Lower Level 2 (LL2) for the opening meeting - this meeting is required for all attendees and judges.

Please note that all attendees must be listed on tabroom, either as a competitor, a judge, or a non-judging attendee. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with our school's security policies.

Debate Round Locations

Debates will occur on the 5th, 6th, 8th and 9th floors. Students are welcome to go to the main dining room on the first floor between rounds. No students should be on any other floors than 1, 5, 6, 8, and 9 unless accompanied by a Collegiate School community member. Please consider utilizing the stairs when possible to move between competition floors.

Tabroom Location

The tabroom is located in the Upper School Debate Office on the 6th floor at the end of the hallway. At times, the tabroom may be based out of room 614.

Open Tabroom

The Collegiate School believes that transparency is important at academic competitions. Thus, coaches are welcome to stop by and ask questions, or provide feedback or visit at their convenience. There are times when we may ask for some space in the tabroom in order to panel the subsequent round, however, the tabroom door will remain open throughout the tournament.

Team Squad Rooms

Depending on the number of rooms in use, we may be able to assign specific classrooms for teams to prepare and/or convene between debates. If this option is appealing and you would like to request a team room, please email us at Tvepa@collegiateschool.org

Respect for the Campus and Building

Attendees are expected to place trash and recyclables in appropriate receptacles, and generally treat the building and facilities with respect. Those who do not meet this expectation may be asked to leave the campus. Use of the Collegiate School building is a privilege and we may not retain this privilege if the classrooms and other spaces are disrespected. Thank you in advance for meeting this expectation.

Hospitality Information

Meals Provided for All Attendees

Collegiate School will provide breakfast and lunch for all students, judges, coaches and observers. Please register any dietary restrictions on your tabroom.com student or judge roster so that we can be sure to accommodate those of you with dietary restrictions.

Our meal offerings are designed to be nutritionally balanced and inclusive. You should find many options to choose from that are suitable for people with common food allergies or the following dietary restrictions: vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, lactose-free, kosher, halal. If you have a unique dietary restriction, please feel free to email Tvepa@collegiateschool.org so that we can accommodate your needs.

Coffee, sugar-free beverages, fruit, and other snacks will be available throughout the day.

We will also have additional snacks, fruit and coffee available prior to the final round in the auditorium.

Registration, Waitlist, and Entry Limitations

Registration

Entries will be accepted online at <http://reagannewyork.tabroom.com>. You can also locate the tournament name from the Tabroom homepage to register. You can also search for the tournament by entering "Reagan" into the search box and locating the appropriate regional qualifier.

Media / Image Release Form

A student media release form is required for all attendees. If students are over the age of 18, they can fill out this form themselves. If not, please have a parent/guardian submit this form for each registered student.

[Ronald Reagan Debate Series Media / Image Release Form](#)

Waitlist Process

Teams will clear the waitlist once their entries are covered by judging or by tournament-approved hired judging requests.

Initially, schools will be limited to 5 entries per school. This cap will increase as space permits.

TBA entries will not clear the waitlist. Please register names for your entries by the TBA deadline.

If you feel you have teams waitlisted despite these conditions being met, please contact the tournament.

Independent Entries

Independent entries are welcome at Collegiate School provided they meet the following requirements: All students who are independent entries must have a custodial parent/guardian who is to remain on-site throughout the event. In addition, Independent entries require a letter from their school indicating no objection to their attendance. If there are multiple independent entries from the same school/institution, each student must have a custodial parent/guardian on-site who is present for the duration of the event.

Deadlines and Schedule

Dates and Deadlines

Online registration will accept changes until 11:55 PM on Monday, April 14, 2025. You are able to change names or drop entries up until the day of the tournament; **however, drops made after Monday, April 14th, 2025 at 11:55 pm will be charged their entry fee.**

Judge changes are due at the Drop/Fees Freeze deadline - Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 at 11:55 pm. If you would like to buy out of judging, you must request hired judging (via email or Tabroom) by Monday, April 14th at 11:55 PM. Requests made after this deadline may or may not be able to be fulfilled and may be charged a higher rate.

Hired Judging Request Deadline	4/14/2025 @ 11:55 PM EST
TBA Deadline (entries must have names)	4/14/2025 @ 11:55 PM EST

Drop Deadline - Fees/Obligations Freeze	4/14/2025 @ 11:55 PM EST
Judge Deadline - Changes Freeze	4/16/2025 @ 11:55 PM EST
Add Deadline - New Entries Due	4/14/2025 @ 11:55 PM EST
Entry Name Change / Online Drops Freeze	4/18/2024 @ 8:00 PM EST

Schedule

Saturday - Reagan Debates

Registration/Check-in and Breakfast will be Saturday, April 19 from 8:00am-8:45am.

	Pairings	In-Room Time	Start Time	Decision Time
Arrival / Breakfast			8:00 AM	
Mandatory Meeting			9:00 AM	
Round 1	9:30 AM	9:40 AM	9:45 AM	10:30 AM
Round 2	10:30 AM	10:40 AM	10:45 AM	11:30 AM
Round 3	11:30 AM	11:40 AM	11:45 AM	12:30 PM
Lunch			12:30 PM	
Round 4	1:15 PM	1:25 PM	1:30 PM	2:15 PM
Round 5	2:15 PM	2:25 PM	2:30 PM	3:15 PM
Quarterfinals	3:30 PM	3:40 PM	3:45 PM	4:30 PM
Semifinals	4:30 PM	4:40 PM	4:45 PM	5:30 PM
Final Round	5:45 PM	5:55 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM

Financial Information

Entry Fees

Entry fees are set by the Ronald Reagan Debate Series. If cost is a barrier to your team's ability to participate, or if your school is a member of an Urban Debate League (UDL), please email us at TVepa@collegiateschool.org. Discounts and waivers can be made available proportional to a school's need. The Collegiate School is committed to equity of access for all competitors and schools.

Entry Fee - \$15 per student

Hired Judging - \$100 per uncovered entry

Judging Requests After Deadline - Additional \$25 per uncovered entry

Missed Ballot Fee - \$20 per missed ballot

Payment Information

Electronic Payments can be processed via this online payment form:

[Ronald Reagan Debate Series Payment Form](#)

If you are paying by check, please make it out to The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute. Be sure to indicate the name of the school or entity, as registered in tabroom, on the check. **Please DO NOT mail a check to Collegiate School.** You can either bring the check to the tournament, or contact education@reaganfoundation.org to make mailing arrangements.

Please direct any inquiries regarding payment to education@reaganfoundation.org

Judging Information

Judging Coverage Ratios

Each Judge covers up to 2 entries or fraction thereof

Judge Qualifications and Training Resources

All judges are expected to have a linked Tabroom account. This is to ensure they have access to both their ballots and tournament announcements.

Judges should ideally have some experience with debate competitions or should be informed about how the process works. Schools are responsible for preparing their judges in the use of Tabroom.com and for what to expect at a debate competition. We encourage the use of the following resources ahead of the tournament to become prepared:

[Judging Resource for the Ronald Reagan Debate Series](#) - Please use this link to access this resource that reviews the technical process of entering a tabroom.com ballot as well as the rubric for assessing student speaker points.

[Judging the Ronald Reagan Debate Series Video](#) - This video is under 8 minutes long and will help you become familiar with the process as well as provide examples of exemplary debaters and various speaking styles.

We encourage all judges to review the NSDA Cultural Competency resources (www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/) and take the course. If you have newer judges, we strongly recommend the Adjudicating Speech and Debate course available via the NSDA (www.speechanddebate.org/judge-accreditation/).

Judges are expected to write a complete ballot with feedback for improvement for each speaker and a clear and concise "Reason for Decision" (RFD) that indicates which arguments made by the students motivated your decision as well as what the other side could have done to be more persuasive.

Finally, we expect all judges to act in a manner that is inclusive, equitable, and offers constructive criticism to the competitors, regardless of their background or experience.

Elimination Round Obligations

All Debate judges are committed to judge one round beyond when the last student from that school/institution is eliminated from competition in that division.

This means that if you have 3 judges and one of your entries advances to the Quarterfinal round, ALL 3 judges are committed to judge the Semifinal round.

All judges are obligated through the first complete elimination round.

For example, if the tournament runs a partial octofinal debate all judges are obligated through the quarterfinal elimination round.

We will be reasonable with these standards and make attempts to honor requests from our guests, but these policies exist in order to keep the tournament on schedule.

Partial Judge Shifts and Availability

The tournament's intention is that judges are available for a minimum of a full day.

Please communicate with us if you need a break, either to finish feedback for prior ballots or for any other reason. We can often accommodate these requests if communicated prior to the next debate.

Missed rounds without communication will incur fees as we have to replace those judges with hired judges or school judges beyond their commitment. Missed round fees will be \$20 per ballot.

Hired Judging

Hired Judging Process

School's that wish to buy out their judging requirement can do so at a rate of \$100 per entry. This fee covers the cost of hiring a judge to fill that role for the weekend.

If you need tournament hired judging, please notify the tournament so that we can begin the process of retaining a judge for the weekend. You can do so either by using the hire request feature on Tabroom.com or by emailing Tvepa@collegiateschool.org.

Missing judges are not an indication of a hired judging request and will be charged at a higher rate of \$125. This is the default rate on Tabroom when no hire request is made and no judge is entered. Tabroom will reflect the correct rate for hired judging after hired judging requests are made and approved.

Hired Judging Deadline

The deadline to request hired judging from the tournament is Monday, April 14th at 11:55 PM EST. Requests made after the deadline do not have a guarantee of being filled and may be charged a higher rate of \$125. We welcome judge hire requests but wish to handle them in a timely manner. All funds from judge hiring is used to offer judges competitive contracts.

Judges Wishing to be Hired

If you wish to be a hired judge for this event, please email Tvepa@collegiateschool.org

We strongly recommend the NSDA Multicultural Competency Course for all judges. You can access each of these courses via the NSDA Judge Training Webpage: (www.speechanddebate.org/judge-accreditation/).

Event Specific Information

Reagan Debates:

Topics

The 2024-25 Ronald Reagan Debate Series topic is

Resolved: The US education system should be managed by the states, not the federal government.

Resources

You can find out more about the Ronald Reagan Debate Series at the [Ronald Reagan Debate Series Webpage](#). This page contains the resolution and information about the regional qualifiers. Prior national championship rounds can also be found here.

You can also visit the [Debate Resources Webpage](#) to locate more information about the format and time limits, as well as the competition rules and information about the national final.

The [Research Packet](#) published by the Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is also available as a resource for students.

Coinflip Process

Teams will flip for sides in elimination rounds. Coinflips will be conducted online via Tabroom.com. Flips will become live three minutes after pairing release, and the winning entry will have three minutes to choose a side. If the time elapses, either entry may choose.

Evidence Expectations

Evidence must be made available to view upon request from either an opponent or judge.

Argument Restrictions

The tournament does not take a position on what types of arguments can be advanced by debaters on either side.

Equity and Belonging

At Collegiate School, we strive to build and sustain an equitable environment, in which all community members feel a deep sense of belonging - being seen, heard, and valued. We honor that responsibility and, with community, we co-create a culture that supports and promotes our [equity and belonging initiatives](#).

In alignment with these goals, competitions at Collegiate School utilize procedures that are consistent with our school's values of inclusion as well as the speech and debate community's contemporary best practices for inclusive competitions. Therefore we will utilize the [National Speech and Debate Association's Belonging and Inclusion Station](#) process to address appropriate concerns that may arise. There will be a Belonging and Inclusion Advocate that has completed relevant training present throughout the competition to address any issues.

From the NSDA webpage regarding the BIS:

NSDA Belonging and Inclusion Station

The NSDA is committed to fostering a tournament environment where all members feel heard, included, and safe. The Belonging and Inclusion Station (BIS) provides interpersonal support to those who feel excluded and helps uphold the NSDA Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Rooted in the principles of teaching, learning, and healing, the BIS addresses concerns through dialogue and education, reserving corrective measures for situations where education alone cannot resolve an issue.

Reasons to visit the BIS include (but are not limited to)

- *An individual makes an inappropriate joke.*
- *A really powerful speech (that violates no rules) triggers emotions in a contestant or judge, and they need space to process their feelings.*
- *An individual feels overwhelmed or alone and needs a listening ear or encouragement.*
- *A contestant is rude or unkind to another contestant.*

At Collegiate, our vision of inclusive practices ranges from things like designating gender neutral restrooms, designating a prayer room, lactation room, quiet room, having inclusive meal options, and addressing needs that we have not anticipated when they are brought to our attention.

The BIS process exists to provide a dedicated resource for any other misunderstandings, friction, or possible violations of the honor code that may take place when we bring different school communities together. It serves a similar purpose to a school counselor—someone to help process thoughts, feelings, or emotions.

Our Belonging and Inclusion Advocate will be announced shortly before the tournament. We will also announce the Belonging and Inclusion Advocate at the opening meeting on Saturday.

How to engage the BIS: There will be an intake form to submit. This procedure and the intake form will be published to the tabroom webpage along with contact information for the BIA and the link to the intake form. This section of the invitation will also be updated with the intake form after it is available. The location of the intake form and process will also be announced at the opening meeting on Saturday morning.

Observer Policy

Public Debates

Debates held at Collegiate School are considered public debates in alignment with our values of open dialogue and discourse. Therefore observers are encouraged to attend and observe debates. Observers must be non-disruptive, and may take notes and/or utilize their technology during the round. Observers are not permitted to be in communication with competing debaters during the debate.

Questions/Concerns

Please direct any questions about Collegiate School, the building, local logistics, meals/dietary restrictions, accessibility, and registration changes to Tvepa@collegiateschool.org. Please direct any questions regarding payment, billing, or partnership with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute to education@reaganfoundation.org