

SR STATE SPEECH TOURNEY INVITATION 2025

February 2025

Dear Coaches and Students:

You are cordially invited to the 2025 KHSSL Senior State Speech Championship, which will be held **MARCH 7 and 8** at Western Kentucky University. We are sponsored by WKU Forensics, and we truly appreciate their hospitality.

Please read this invitation thoroughly and carefully.

TOURNAMENT PHONE NUMBER

(Emergency and otherwise) KHSSL: 859-927-1100

TOURNAMENT WEBSITE

<http://khsslstatesenior.tabroom.com>

REGISTRATION AND ENTRIES

Registration is on Tabroom: <http://khsslstatesenior.tabroom.com> .

Registration soft deadline:

5 PM on Wednesday, February 26.

This is a soft deadline for judges and entries – and does not change even if there is a blizzard or school's not in session for anything else. This will allow the tournament to

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know how many entries and judges to expect (needed for rooms, sections of limited prep events, judge lounge food orders, etc.) and plan accordingly. T-shirt pre-orders are also due at this time.

Coaches will be allowed to change names of entries/judges until 5 PM Monday, March 3, with no financial penalty, so feel free to put in a random judge name knowing you'll put the real one in by Monday, etc. But if you change the number of entries in an event or decrease the number of judges you're bringing, the drop/change fees here (copied and pasted from page 88 of the current Handbook) apply.

- a. Contestant substitutions between the Registration Deadline and the Final deadline = free.
- b. Drops and Adds between the registration deadline and the Final deadline = entry fee plus \$10.
- c. Substitutions after Final deadline through start of tournament = \$10 + entry fee.
- d. Drop/Adds after the Final Deadline and prior to the first day of the tournament = \$25 + entry fee.
- e. Drop/Adds the first day of the tournament = \$50 + entry fee.
- f. Judge Name Changes at any time = free. New judges must be fully qualified as rules require.
- g. Judge drops after registration deadline and before Final Deadline = \$10 fee plus hired judge fees for the shortage.
- h. Judge drops after Final Deadline and prior to the first day of the tournament = \$25 + hired judge fees for the shortage.
- i. Judge drops at the start of or at any time during the days of the tournament = \$100 fee + hired judge fees

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Hard Deadline:

Monday, March 3, 5 PM Eastern.

After the hard 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, see the list on the prior page for how the fees work. There are no excuses from fees for illness or family emergencies or anything else as any changes cause considerable time spent adjusting the tournament for KHSSL, no matter what the reason.

Entry fees are \$20 for each individual entry, \$40 for each duo team entry.
All fees are due when schools register. Schools may not compete until all fees are paid including drop fees, t-shirt fees for pre-orders, etc.

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.

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! 😊

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Students can qualify for Senior State multiple ways this year --

- Competed in a specific event at the Regional tournament and earned a total of 8 or less in the ranks from the two preliminary rounds.
- Competed in an event at Regionals that had 7 or fewer competitors in the event (all competitors advance to State in this case – note that a MAJORITY of Regions and events had this happen this year, so if check with Steve if you have any questions here as most entries made State this way this year due to Regional reshuffling).
- Given an exemption for a specific event from the Regional tournament as they had already qualified another way and could not attend Regionals.
- 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).

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).**

Please just reach out to the Executive Director if you have any questions at all about your entry or who's qualified for State.

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FOOD AND LODGING

Coffee and light snacks **for judges** will be provided on Friday evening 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 know the Downing University Center will have food available for sale most of the time we are on campus, but that is at the bottom of the Hill and most events will take place on the top, so we have also made requests to have up to four food trucks parked at the top of the Hill on Friday/Saturday. WKU has a whole procedure for these requests, and when they finalize who's coming when, a full food information flyer will be posted on the Tabroom site for the tournament, and coaches will be alerted.

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 as some of these old dogs were coaching back when we went to WKU every year for Senior State (1988-2009).

BOWLING GREEN
TOURISM
HOTEL LIST

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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 \$150 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 unless assignments are split between two judges who make up one judge. Please note** that judges must be available the full day to count for the day, so no “Please no finals” requests unless you’re willing to pay the full day’s charge for a judge.
- You may not request exemptions from particular events (like “no limited prep.”).
- If you have two judges who wish to share a judging assignment (Boris can come on Friday and Natasha can come on Saturday), please sign up BOTH judges and also email me who’s doing what by the Hard Deadline (5 PM Monday the 3rd) so I can adjust them in the tournament for you. Friday costs \$50 and Saturday costs \$100 if you have judges who can only do one day and have no other portion; the judge must be present all of Saturday to count as a ½ judge in your “you must bring at least half your judges” quota.

Reality of Judges:

Judges should expect to judge every round of the tournament. They must also bring their own laptop or tablet. Judging on a phone is impossible at this tournament; paper ballots will NOT be available.

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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!!!

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 [here](#) and 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 or in a prior school year, they're good to go (no need to complete it again). You can check who has done so [here](#); be sure to read the note at the top about searching.

A [hodgepodge video](#) of various judge trainings is also available on the KHSSL website and may be of use to rookie judges if coaches wish to use that as additional judge training they provide to their judges (with follow-up for questions, advice, etc.). We strongly encourage new judges to complete [the NFHS judging course](#) that's on the KHSSL homepage and at the Judging Tips page (see below). It may become required in the future – we're fact-gathering this year.

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.

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PARKING/MAPS/ORATORIES/INFORMATIVES/ SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY INFO

PARKING AND MAPS:

Our hosts at WKU are working on providing us with parking and building maps. These will be posted on the Tabroom site (and coaches alerted) when they are finalized. Info for parking buses and cars as well as drop-off points will be included.

For those of you familiar with WKU's campus, we are planning to have registration and merchandise sales and tabulations and poster drops for breaks all at the Downing University Center, which is at the bottom of the Hill. Nearly all the rooms we've been provided will be at the top of the Hill (Cherry Hall and vicinity), so please be aware that this tournament will include a LOT of walking. Students and judges with mobility issues should make plans to have help; students wearing heels may wish to bring walking shoes.

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.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Here is the link to locate AED locations, all Gender restrooms, Accessibility walkways and Disability parking and other things:

https://www.wku.edu/dfmgis/campus_maps/maincampus_pdf.php

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AWARDS

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 Downing University Center's main auditorium.

BREAK ROUND QUOTAS AND PLANS

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

For events with Quarterfinal rounds.

The top-three Quarterfinalists advance out of each Quarterfinal section. Semifinal Section 1



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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

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 six events could have Quarterfinals. It will depend on the actual numbers that register for State. Stay tuned!

TOURNAMENT WHEREABOUTSES

Registration:	Downing University Center room 2081
Opening Ceremony and Judges' Meeting:	Downing University Center Auditorium
Merchandise Sales and Food Sales:	Downing University Center plus food trucks parked at top of the Hill
Advocate:	At Merch Table
Judge Lounge:	Downing University Center room 1037
Tabulation Room:	Downing University Center room 2081
Extemp Draw:	Grise Hall room 0526
Broadcasting Draw:	Kelly Thompson Hall room 1035
Awards Ceremony:	Downing University Center Auditorium

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T-SHIRT PRE-ORDERS

	 <p>Center Front 12"w</p> <p>Shirt: carolina blue</p> <p>Ink Color(s) <input type="checkbox"/> White</p>
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DIFFERENT PROCEDURE THIS YEAR

The shirts are short-sleeved cotton t-shirts.

You'll notice that, as many of you have been requesting for years, they say the words 2025 State Tournament on them. Thus, KHSSL is ONLY selling these by pre-order.

You can request a number of shirts of each size as part of your registration (see CONCESSIONS) and pay for them at registration by either a separate check or cash OR as part of your registration check.

These shirts will NOT be available for sale at the regular tournament unless there are some folks don't pick up, so pre-order is the way to go. Pre-ordered shirts will be handed to you at Registration as you pay. All other merch is first come first served pay-as-you-buy at the Merch table throughout the tournament.

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SOUVENIRS FOR SALE AT STATE THIS YEAR

- Blyton Bears in the 2025 color t-shirt (a light blue) \$25
- NEW: small beanbag-based Hippos \$10 Junior is naming in a contest
- NEW: sunglasses \$5
- Stickers galore – we literally have dozens of options this year
-- donated by [You're Awesome Design Machine](#) -- \$1
- Water bottles \$20
- Spiral-bound notebooks \$10
- T-shirts (black) – short sleeve \$12 and long sleeve \$20 (sizes vary)
plus some very small gray t-shirts for kids not in adult sizes yet; we do not have all sizes in the black (just what's left from last year), so you are STRONGLY encouraged to pre-order to guarantee you get a shirt.

[A flyer with pictures](#) is posted on the [Tabroom site](#) and on the [KHSSL homepage](#).

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, KHSSL

khssl@khssl.org 859/927-1100 talk or text www.khssl.org



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KHSSL SENIOR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT 2025 SCHEDULE

WKU March 7 and 8, 2025 Central Time

Friday

4:30 PM	Opening assembly
4:45 PM	Judge meeting
5:00 PM	Extemp Draw begins
5:30 PM	Round 1
7:15 PM	Round 2

Saturday

8:30 AM	Round 3
11:00 AM	Quarters as needed, a couple of Semis
1:30 PM	Semis
3:30 PM	Finals
5:30 PM	Awards

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.

**TEAMS REGISTER IN DOWNING UNIVERSITY CENTER room 2081
between 3 and 4 PM on Friday.**



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.