



Good afternoon coaches,

Please see below for information on the New Mexico District Congress National Qualifier Tournament, and the Spring Coaches Meeting.

Congressional Debate National Qualifier Tournament:

**State champion in congress is determined at this tournament*

***High school only*

Date: Sat, Feb 14th

Schedule:

Registration: 7:45–8:00

Caucusing: 8:00–8:30 (students in each chamber meet to determine what dockets will be proposed, and who will run for PO)

Session 1: 8:30–11:30 (House & Senate prelim round 1)
(Coaches meeting starts 8:45)

Session 2: 12:45–3:45 (House finals; Senate prelim round 2)

Awards: 4:15–4:45

Location: Albuquerque Academy Library, Albuquerque

Contact with questions: Hannah, 505-306-9086 or hflake@eastmountainhigh.net

To-dos and deadlines:

- A. Sign up for your annual NSDA membership if you haven't already
- B. Make sure all students on your team are added on NSDA, and linked to their tabroom account
- C. Make sure all points accumulated so far have been added in the NSDA website (Do each of these above things by Jan 24.)
- D. **The registration link is slightly different:** Register for district congress by going to tabroom.com; click your email; and **in the middle of the page under "National Tournament" heading**, you'll see the registration site for districts. Due Friday, February 6th by 8:00 PM.
- E. Send in congress legislation to Hannah, hflake@eastmountainhigh.net . Due Friday, Jan 30th by 3:00 PM. (Additional instructions below)
- F. Recruit unaffiliated judges (or, if you recruit judges who know your students, be prepared to group your students in the same chamber). Due Friday, Feb 6th by 8:00 PM.

Judges will be asked to complete NSDA judge accreditation in:

- a. **Level One, Introduction to Impartial Judging**

- b. Level One, Intro to Judging Congress**
- G. \$10 entry fee. Fees, or proof of PR, must be received on or before tournament registration on February 14th.
- H. New coaches: Let Hannah know you plan on attending by Friday, Jan 23rd. I'll set up a call with you to review how the district tournament works, it's a little different than most tournaments.
- I. To be eligible for recognition as placing in the state congress championships, ensure NMSDA secretary Atalie Nelson (anelson@eastmountain.org) has received the following:
- [NMSDA Coach Verification Form](#)
 - ["Building Supportive Culture to Prevent Bullying and Harassment"](#) NSDA course completion certificate
 - [NMAA eligibility verification](#)
 - And that NMSDA treasurer Elise (matton@aa.edu) has received the \$50 annual NMSDA dues. (Invoice [here](#); W9 [here](#))

Spring NMSDA Coaches Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 14th

Start time: 8:45 AM

Send in agenda item requests to Mackenzie (mackenzie.lementino@rrps.net) by Friday, Feb 6th.

Send in Speech Coach of the Year, Debate Coach of the Year, Outstanding Legislator of the Year, and Akin Student of the Year through [this form linked here](#).

Congress Legislation Instructions:

The New Mexico District Congressional Tournament is coming up on Saturday, February 14. Ideally, students will debate a wide variety of topics that day in the form of legislation composed by students from each competing school. To that end, please ensure your students take note of the following:

- *The NSDA requires district legislation be shared with students no later than 14 days prior to the tournament, which means **all legislation must be submitted by midnight on Friday, January 30**. This is a **hard deadline**, as the docket must be sent out the next day for us to be in compliance with the NSDA's guidelines!*
- *Students should submit their legislation to their coaches, who should then compile it and send it to Hannah, hflake@eastmountainhigh.net.*
- *Especially since this deadline falls in the middle of the Cottonwood Tournament, coaches are encouraged to set earlier deadlines for their teams' submissions to allow sufficient time for review (just a quick read-through to check for major issues such as unoriginal content) and compilation.*
- *To facilitate compilation of the official docket, please submit legislation in an editable form (e.g., a Microsoft Word or Google doc) rather than as a pdf.*
- *Remember that, as of this year, there is no longer any cap on the number of items of legislation each school can submit. However, please note that legislation is selected*

with the goal of producing quality dockets that promote productive debate, equity of school representation, and diversity of topics. Thus, submitting an item of legislation does not guarantee that item's inclusion.

- *Also remember that students are encouraged to credit themselves as authors of their legislation if they so desire, though it is still perfectly fine to leave names off and credit just the entire school instead.*
- *If students (or coaches) desire any additional guidance writing legislation, please encourage them to reach out to Hannah and/or to review [this presentation](#) (which includes useful resources on the final slide).*

Safety Procedures

In order to maximize safety and security and the tournament, the following procedures will be enforced.

1. All tournament attendees will check in at the designated station upon arrival.
At Feb 14th Congress, this will be the foyer of the main entrance of the AA Library (south entrance.)
At March 20-21 Speech & Debate, this will be the north entrance of the AA dining hall.
2. All attendees, including students, coaches, judges, and any other guest, will be given a badge & lanyard at check in.
This badge must be visible at all times during the tournament. (During rounds, students may place these at their seats once being noted by the judge, and students do not need to wear them while speaking.)
Any person unable to provide a badge will be asked to leave campus.
These badges must be returned at the check-in station as attendees depart campus at the end of the tournament.
3. Coaches will submit a guest list ahead of check in by emailing Hannah, hflake@eastmountain.org .
This list might include anyone not already listed as a tournament coach, judge, or competitor, such as non-judge chaperones, bus drivers, students watching but not competing, etc, in order to provide badges for approved guests.
Coaches can add additional guests during the tournament, but these guests must be confirmed by a coach or they will be denied entry.
*Awards: We know in the past that plenty of parents will show up for awards, and that they don't always let coaches know before they arrive. However, we hope that parents will be understanding of our updated safety procedures in order to protect their children. Please ensure that even adults who are only attending awards at the tournament are aware that they need to be on the guest list, or they will be denied entry.
4. Coaches must have cell phone numbers for each student and parent chaperone.
If school policy prevents coaches from having student cell phone numbers, coaches

must confirm all students have access to and will check a group message app (like GroupMe) in order to ensure coach-to-student communication.

5. Coaches must have cell phone numbers for at least one parent/guardian of every student attending (both competitors and observers).