

Kentucky High School

SPEECH  
LEAGUE



## WHO

Meet Blyton.

He's a bear -- a polar bear, to be exact, who can handle whatever winter months or anything else our long season throws at him. He can compete in any category and in-person or online. He is unbearably excellent at every speech event.

Blyton would like to invite you to a tournament named for his namesake async online December 15-22, **the Blyton Speech Invitational for NOVICES** (grades 4-12).

This tournament is managed by the Kentucky High School Speech League (Steve Meadows, Executive Director) and **open to students worldwide.**

P O BOX 23451 \* LEXINGTON KY 40523 \* KHSSL@KHSSL.ORG \* (859) 927-1100 \* [www.khssl.org](http://www.khssl.org)

Contests will be offered for all **NOVICE** (first year in their Division) competitors in grades 4-12.

- Novice for middle schoolers means any student in grades 4-8 in Speech contests (forensics events) for the first year.
- For high school, any 9<sup>th</sup> grader is considered a Novice to the Senior division as well as any student competing in Speech contests (forensics events) for the first year.
- No experienced students may compete in this meet, even if they only went to one forensics tournament last year (unless they are 9<sup>th</sup> graders new to Senior Division).

In years past, this tournament has been open to Kentucky students only. Again this year, we are opening up the contest worldwide, BUT we will name a Kentucky champion in each event. So if an out-of-stater wins an event, there will be two Champions for the event -- the Kentucky Champion and the Event Champion. If a Kentucky kid wins the event, there will be one Champion.

Three entries total will be recognized with medals in each event as Champions or Finalists. Students will receive medals or enamel pins; all will bear Blyton's likeness.

These two tournaments and the bear himself are named after **Gifford Blyton**, a longtime University of Kentucky Debate coach who became the Executive Director of the Kentucky High School Speech League afterward and helped save the League during a time of fiscal crisis. Our Blyton Book Award given each year for 8th and 12th grade students remains one of the top honors students can be awarded in speech and debate. He's also inspired our League mascot's name.

**This is a GREAT opportunity for newer teams and for your rookies to get some recognition!** So often, the newbies get knocked around a bit their first year. This contest is designed to encourage them.

# MIND OVER CHATTER

**WHERE:** [www.blyton.tabroom.com](http://www.blyton.tabroom.com)

## JUDGES

Judge quota is one per six entries or fraction thereof; hires are \$40. Judges must judge three rounds. Judges must have a Tabroom account with a valid email address and phone #. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders as Judges: students in grades 11 and 12 may serve as judges **if** they are in at least their third year of competition. These students can receive volunteer hours (and letters asserting this) for their work as needed. They may register as regular judges for a team quota OR as KHSSL "Hires" who will be paid in love. These judges must also have Tabroom accounts with valid emails/phones.

[KHSSL Video for Judging Virtual Tournaments](#) -- Judges, be sure to watch this if you are unfamiliar with judging online contests!

## WHEN

The Blyton invitational for Speech events (Junior and Senior) will be held **asynchronously** online December 15-22.

Students/coaches may upload videos through Wednesday, December 17 at 8 PM Eastern. Judging will take place Thursday-Sunday December 18-21 online; awards will be announced Monday evening, December 22, online.

### Schedule for Blyton Invitational

M	October 6	Tabroom site opens for registration
M	December 15	3 PM Eastern: Extemp, Impromptu, and Improv Duo topics posted.
W	December 17	8 PM Eastern; deadline for video uploads and registration closes.
Th	December 18	12 PM Eastern to
Su	December 21	12 PM Eastern Judging
M	December 22	5 PM Eastern Awards video goes live on YouTube

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# WHAT

## EVENTS OFFERED

### **Senior Speech Division**

Grades 9-12

Broadcasting  
Declamation  
Dramatic Interpretation  
Duo **Interpretation**  
Extemporaneous Speaking  
Humorous Interpretation  
Impromptu Speaking  
Improvisational Duo  
Informative Speaking  
Oratory  
Poetry  
Program Oral Interpretation  
Prose  
Storytelling

### **Junior Speech Division**

Grades 4-8

Broadcasting  
Declamation  
Dramatic Interpretation  
Duo **Acting**  
Extemporaneous Speaking  
Humorous Interpretation  
Impromptu Speaking  
Improvisational Duo  
Oratory  
Poetry  
Prose  
Storytelling

All events will use Kentucky rules and time limits, which are what most folks expect around the world (NSDA and CFL compatible for most events, though we offer longer time for Storytelling).

For the Kentucky High School Speech League Handbook, [browse here.](#)

For the Kentucky High School Speech League ballots for each of the events, [browse here.](#)

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## MONEY

Fees: \$8 per competitor per event. A \$10 fee will added to each team's invoice to cover awards postage, and each team will pay this fee whether or not they win any awards. Community contribution.

Make checks payable and mail to: KHSSL, Inc. P. O. Box 23451  
Lexington, KY 40523. W-9 form available on our Tabroom site if  
needed. You may also pay electronically at  
<https://www.khssl.org/payment>.

All entries that are not KHSSL member schools must pay all fees in full before the beginning of first round at 12 PM Eastern on December 18. All entries from unpaid non-Kentucky schools will be deleted at that time; Kentucky schools must be paid in full by January 15 (no awards will be mailed until fees are fully paid).

Awards will be mailed out between Christmas and New Year's (or for Kentucky schools, after their payment is received).

## HOW

Each entry will be judged three times over the four days of judging.

Kentucky tiebreaker rules will break all ties.

- RANKS TOTAL (LOWEST)
- RECIPROCAL OF RANKS TOTAL (HIGHEST)
- RATINGS TOTAL (HIGHEST)

There will be no sweepstakes (team) awards as Novices just happen. 😊

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Here are the **steps for video submission**:

- Record a performance. Kids can do this on their own or with you. Note these rules we require (violators will be disqualified):
  - The camera should stay STILL – kids can move, but not the camera.
  - No editing the videos – one continuous take, please.
- Note: for limited prep events, it's perfectly fine for kids to time themselves or for coaches or someone else to give them time signals.
- Upload the video to an online service. By far the easiest to do is YouTube, which is owned by Google, so most folks already have a Google ID they can use to create a YouTube account. Set the video to **Unlisted** (**NOT Private**) on YouTube, and then copy the link.
- Coaches upload this link in the Entry Details section on Tabroom (click the Edit button next to each entry from the Entry tab and paste the link in the "Link to performance video" box).
- Judges get four days to watch three rounds of videos and rank them. The video awards happen on YouTube.

If you do something else besides use YouTube and Unlisted status, you risk getting your entry dropped as kids often leave Google Drive videos locked. I am a one-man band for this tournament and don't have the hours to check for locked videos. YouTube is really easy to use. Just use YouTube. We'll all be happier. 😊

For limited prep events (IMPROV DUO, IMPROMPTU, EXTEMP), the topics will be posted on the Tabroom site on Monday (12/15) at 3 PM Eastern time. The coaches will be on the honor system with their students to film with the time limits in place; they should record the prep time of the impromptu and improv kids but not the extempers and include that footage as part of the one continual take that is submitted as a video. **Remember** – no editing of videos, and keep the camera still (see rules above).

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Broadcasting -- use a Round 2 script, so no prep time needed.

Duo teams (Duo Interpretation, Duo Acting, Improvisational Duo) must **BOTH** be novices.

## **TABROOM.COM**

Coaches and judges need Tabroom.com accounts for registration, online ballots, and video links for asynchronous events. See making a Tabroom.com account

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyTqMwhRJpo>

Judges will use Tabroom.com to access their ballots. And, after the tournament is over, students can see their ballots on Tabroom.com and use those comments from their judges to help them improve their performances. Competitors must have Tabroom accounts to see their ballots.

## **TECH TIPS**

#1

For judging, you can use 2 devices: 1 for the video & 1 for your ballots. You can log into Tabroom on each device. Or you can use a desktop computer, open 2 tabs and position them so you can see the video (one tab) & type on the other one (the ballot) at the same time (that's what Mr. Meadows does when he judges at a desk, and it works swell).

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#2

When judging, try to use a fairly large screen to watch the videos. If you're trying to watch videos on a phone, you may be losing facial expressions, etc. because the screen is so small.

#3

KHSSL rules require that cameras stay still when filming; competitors may move around as they wish in the camera frame including leaving/re-entering the frame. Videos must not be edited but should be one continuous take.

#4

**KHSSL Best Practices for Virtual Tournaments**; you can probably guess what this is about.

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I really hope you'll support KHSSL and sign up your kids for this meet. Blyton won't be able to . . . **bear** . . . it if you don't come! We look forward to hosting you here in Kentucky – sort of!

STEVE 😊

Steve Meadows

Executive Director, the Kentucky High School Speech League, Inc.

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