

REVISED INVITATION
February 24, 2026

Dear Valley Forge Coaches:

I am pleased to invite you to our district tournament. Our local qualifier will be run in-person.

The NSDA Unified Manual governs all District Tournament procedures. The Tournament will be administered by the District Committee, which will adjudicate all disputes that may arise. The pilot rules for internet usage and penalties will be in play.

Valley Forge is a level 3 district. Level 3 districts who field at least 10 entries in a given event will qualify three entries to nationals in that event. If we can only field four entries in an event two will qualify to nationals. NSDA is again expected to permit each school who participates in the district tournament to be able to send two students to nationals in supplemental events.

ENTRY LIMITS

School entry limits – the total number of entries you may have - are driven by NSDA members and degrees. You can check your school's status by logging into the NSDA website and navigating to the district tab. Regardless of your total limit, you may have no more than four entries in any speech or debate event (congress limits could be higher or lower for you, depending on your school's NSDA strength).

BONUS ENTRIES

If a school enters two entries in each contest category, they may enter two additional entries, regardless of their chapter strength, but totaling no more than **FOUR** entries in each category.

JUDGE QUOTA

In order to run our district tournament effectively with three judge panels, the following quotas must be met:

Debate

- 1 entry – 2 judges
- 2 entries – 3 judges
- 3 entries – 5 judges
- 4 entries – 6 judges

Speech

1 judge for every 3 entries, up to a maximum of 5 judges. For judge obligations above 5, your school will be required to hire the additional judges at \$200/each from the league.

Congress

While no set quota is in place if you have judges willing to judge congress, please let me know. If you are able to provide a neutral judge, you avoid a \$50 fee.

Judges in their respective categories will be obligated for the entire tournament.

Judges are required to complete the NSDA's Intro to Multicultural Competence, plus Intro to Judging Congress and/or Intro to Judging Debate and/or Intro to Judging Speech.

FORMAT

Congress will use the congress rules spelled out in the unified manual. Speech will use the speech rules. Debate events will continue to use the double elimination bracket format following four preliminary rounds. All debate entries with a winning record will clear to the bracket. The tournament draft schedule is found at the end of this letter.

DOUBLE ELIMINATION PATTERNS

All entries may compete in the House or Senate PLUS the event of their choice (subject to school limits). Policy debaters will be able to double enter in Lincoln Douglas debate and Public Forum debate, but not double enter in speech. Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum double entry is not possible. Other double entry combinations are possible. Big Questions entry is separate from the aforementioned limits.

SINGLE LETTERS OF INTENT

Remember to submit your single letters of intent in advance of our qualifiers. The deadline is March 14th at 8:00 AM. The single letter of intent form will appear as a link in Tabroom.com as you go through the entry process.

WORLD SCHOOLS

Please see instructions and links here: <https://tinyurl.com/VFWorldSchools26>.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Coach of the year, administrator of the year, and student of the year nominations should be submitted through the National Speech and Debate Association website. Our volunteer of the year award should be submitted through the Valley Forge form attached. Nominations for all of the above are due by March 8, 2026 at 8:00 AM.

DUES AND FEES

Valley Forge membership - \$50

House and Senate school fee - \$50 (the House and Senate fee is only for schools entered in Congress!)

Individual events - \$10

Partner events - \$15

House and senate entries - \$20

Please note that you may avoid the House and Senate school fee by providing a judge for March 8th that we are able to use during the congress qualifier. The House and Senate school fee will be adjusted accordingly.

CONGRESS BILLS

Congress bills are due on January 31st at 8:00 AM. Each school is able to provide two pieces of legislation. You should email your bill to Chris Berdnik at cberdnik@palisadessd.org. I plan on posting the packet on February 2nd.

ORATORIES AND INFORMATIVES

Schools with entries in oratory and informative are required to provide this speeches electronically with a certification by the coach and student that they are the original work of the student. You should submit the speeches by March 14th at 8:00 AM to David Long at longd@sbsd.org.

QUALIFIER DATES

House and Senate – March 8th

Speech and Debate (except for Big Questions) – March 14th and 15th

Big Questions – April 11th

PROGRAM AD COMPETITION

The NSDA publishes a tournament program including ads from the districts competing, wishing their competitors well. Our district offers a \$50.00 gift certificate at the NSDA store for the selected design. Coaches should submit their competitors' designs to cberdnik@palisadessd.org by March 31st.

DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR March 8th

Sunday at William Tennent High School

Congress Session 1 – 9:00

Congress Session 2 – 12:00

Congress Finals – 3:30

Awards to follow

DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 14th and 15th

Saturday at Gwynedd Mercy Academy

IE/CX 1 - 9:00

IE/CX 2 - 10:30

IE/CX 3 – 12:00

LD/PF 1 - 2:30

LD/PF 2 - 3:30

LD/PF 3 - 5:00

LD/PF 4 - 6:30

LD/PF 5 – 8:00

Sunday at La Salle College High School

IE/CX 4 - 9:00

IE /CX 5 - 11:00

IE/CX 6 - 1:00

LD/PF 6 - 1:00

LD/PF 7 - 2:20

LD/PF 8 – 3:40

LD/PF 9 - 5:00

LD/PF 10 – 6:20

Awards to follow

Saturday at Newtown Middle School April 11th

BQ 1 – 9:00

BQ 2 – 10:00

BQ 3 – 11:20

BQ 4 – 12:45

BQ 5 – 2:00

BQ 6 – 3:15

BQ 7 – 4:30

BQ 8 – 5:45

BQ 9 – 7:00

Awards to follow

QUESTIONS?

Should you have any questions, please call me at (412) 992-8472, or email me at cberdnik@palisadessd.org.