

# OMSSDL Winter Tournament:

Hosted in collaboration with

Lake Oswego Middle School

January 24th, 2026



**Dear Coaches/Leaders/Parents,**

You and your middle school students are invited to a friendly speech and debate tournament at **Lake Oswego Middle School** on **Saturday, January 24th**. The tournament's goal is to give middle school students the opportunity to compete in a welcoming and educational environment.

## **Attendance Details:**

**Each student can enter one debate format and up to two individual events (IEs).**

**Registration opens Friday, January 9th at 8:25 a.m.**

**The deadline for registration is Thursday, January 22th at 11:55 p.m.**

**The deadline to drop events is Thursday, January 22th at 11:55 p.m.**

## ***Location:***

Lake Oswego Middle School, currently housed at Uplands Elementary School: 2055 Wembley Park Rd, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

## ***Arrival Time:***

9:15 am for judges and 9:30 am for students. Check in at the lobby inside the main entrance doors upon arrival.

## ***Pick-up Time:***

4:00 pm (approximately)

## ***Fees:***

There are no required fees. Oregon Middle School Speech and Debate League (OMSSDL) is a not-for-profit organization composed of high school student volunteers dedicated to providing

more middle school speech and debate opportunities in Oregon. There are costs associated with running a tournament, and we would appreciate a \$5-10 donation per entry if you are able. Donations can be made in cash or a check made out to OMSSDL. Thank you!

### ***Lunch/food:***

Bring your lunch, snacks, and a refillable water bottle. There will be a cash-only concession stand selling candy, chips, fruit snacks, fruit bars, and granola bars.

### ***Judge quota:***

There is no required judge quota for any school, however, we rely on student and adult volunteers to judge at our tournaments and therefore recommend that teams bring one judge for every three IE entries, and one judge for every two debate entries to ensure that students get proper feedback and receive a better experience. At this tournament especially we are hoping that teams will be able to bring judges. If there are not enough judges to run the tournament once registration closes, we retain the ability to drop teams that have not provided sufficient judges. Refreshments and lunch will be provided to judges.

There is a comprehensive, free judging guide available at [omssdl.com](http://omssdl.com) for any individuals new to judging or who may want a refresher! Feel free to also reach out to OMSSDL via the contact tab!

**Thanks to all the volunteers who make tournaments like this happen!**

### **Tabroom Details:**

Here is a set of links to various resources to assist you in your registration.

[Here is a link with instructions on how to create a Tabroom account.](#) **Every student, judge, and coach must have a free Tabroom account.**

[Here is a link with basic instructions regarding managing your account.](#)

Once you have created a Tabroom account, you can register for this tournament at this link:

<http://omssdlw.tabroom.com/>

Or by searching for “**OMSSDL Winter Tournament**” in Tabroom.

If you need help with registering, [here is a link with instructions for competitors to register for tournaments](#)

All other questions can be answered at the Tabroom help page ([linked here](#)) or by emailing us at [OMSSDL2017@gmail.com](mailto:OMSSDL2017@gmail.com) or on the official OMSSDL website ([omssdl.com](http://omssdl.com)). Please email us if your club/team would like a flyer to help you advertise the tournament.

Thank you,

The Oregon Middle School Speech and Debate League

# The Events

The events are loosely based on high school speech and debate events. The times are reduced from the high school criteria, and students may present from note cards, papers, or electronic notes. Students will be able to access the Internet during rounds for all prepared events and parliamentary debate. (OMSSDL staff reserve the right to question any internet use).

**Pattern A Events** - Parliamentary Debate, Public Forum Debate, Congressional Debate

**Pattern B Events** - Impromptu, Tall Tales, Prose and Poetry Interpretation, Sales

# **Schedule of Events**

9:15 - 9:25	Check In for judges
9:25 - 9:45	Check In for student participants
9:30 - 9:50	Judge Orientation
9:50 - 10:00	Opening Remarks
10:00 -10:50	Round 1 - Pattern A
10:50 -11:30	Round 1 - Pattern B
11:30 -12:20	Round 2 - Pattern A
12:20 - 1:00	Round 2 - Pattern B
1:00 - 1:30	Lunch Break
1:30 - 2:20	Hidden Finals Round of Pattern A
2:20 - 3:00	Final Round of Pattern B
3:00 - 3:30	Award Prep
3:30 - 4:00	Award Ceremony

# Debate Events - Pattern A

**Note: Students may enter one debate format.**

## ***Public Forum Debate.***

2-person team. Teams prepare original cases with evidence for both sides. Sides are assigned each round. We will follow these times: 3-3-2-3-3-2-2-2-3-2-2. Each team is entitled to two minutes of prep time during the round.

**Topic– Resolved: The benefits of nuclear energy outweigh the harms.**

Order	Purpose	Time
Team A Speaker 1 Constructive	Presents the team's case	3 min
Team B Speaker 1 Constructive	Presents the team's case	3 min
Crossfire	Speak 1 from Team A & B question and answer each other	2 min
Team A Speaker 2 Rebuttal	Refute the opposing side's arguments	3 min
Team B Speaker 2 Rebuttal	Refute the opposing side's arguments	3 min
Crossfire	Speak 2 from Team A & B question and answer each other	2 min
Team A Speaker 1 Summary	Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round	2 min
Team B Speaker 1 Summary	Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round	2 min
Grand Crossfire	All debaters question and answer each other	3 min

Team A Speaker 2 Final Focus	Explain reasons that you win the round	2 min
Team B Speaker 2 Final Focus	Explain reasons that you win the round	2 min

## ***Parliamentary Debate.***

2-person team. Teams will be assigned a side (Proposition or Opposition). The judge reveals a common knowledge topic to both teams. The teams prepare their cases in 10 minutes using pen, paper and teams will have access to the internet. Use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT will not be tolerated during the round, and there will be consequences for any students found to be using. During the debate, each student speaks and during that speech, the opponent can stand to ask a question after the first 30 seconds but before the last 30 seconds. No questioning or new arguments in the rebuttals. This debate includes a time to set the case, a time to make counterarguments and a time to rebut and summarize. No prep in round.

<b>Order</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Time</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Proposition Speaker	Presents the entire Prop case	3 min
1 <sup>st</sup> Opposition Speaker	Presents the entire Opp case; counter-argues	4 min
2 <sup>nd</sup> Proposition Speaker	Counterargues OPP case & extends PROP case	4 min
2 <sup>nd</sup> Opposition Speaker	Counterargues PROP case & extends OPP case	4 min
1 <sup>st</sup> Opposition Speaker	Repairs, counters, and summarizes.	2 min
1 <sup>st</sup> Proposition Speaker	Repairs, counters, and summarizes.	3 min

\*An opponent may stand to question after the first 30 seconds and before the last 30 seconds. The speaker may accept or deny questions; he/she may limit the number of questions asked. The opponent may ask one question and then must sit down before asking another.

## ***Congressional Debate.***

**There will only be one chamber that will be capped for entries at 14 to ensure that students have sufficient time to speak.**

### **Speech Times and Format**

Students will take turns debating by giving alternating 2 minute Aff and Neg speeches followed by a questioning block.

This tournament will be using direct questioning in which recognized members of Congress will question the speaker and receive answers in 30 second blocks.

Following the first affirmative and negative speeches on a piece of legislation will be four, 30-second questioning blocks. After the first affirmative and negative speeches all subsequent speeches will have two, 30-second questioning blocks.

### **Leadership Positions**

This tournament encourages students to be leaders in the chamber so we will have some leadership positions available for students:

Clerk: The Clerk is responsible for keeping track of all bills, votes, processing of legislation, keeping track of speaking times, and reading out legislation when they are introduced.

Presiding Officer: The presiding officer will be in charge of ensuring the chamber runs smoothly and efficiently, they will be responsible for calling on speakers, managing the flow of business, putting questions to a vote and maintaining order. (There will be an adult to help supervise the Presiding Officer and assist in running the chamber with a proper presidency document).

Whip: The Whip will be responsible for supporting the chamber's organization by helping maintain balanced debate and smooth transitions. They will track who is prepared to speak on each side, ensure a balanced debate, assist newer members with procedure, and provide the presiding officer with logistical information. The whip remains impartial and does not influence how members vote or which positions they take.

Honorary Host Clerk: We will have a Honorary Host Clerk from our school to welcome in members and to assist in the election process for the positions described above.

### **Motions**

For the simplicity of this tournament, we will only allow students to use these 6 motions

Motion	Meaning	Second required?	Vote
Motion to Previous Question	To end debate and force a vote on a bill	Yes	$\frac{2}{3}$ Vote

Motion to Rescind	To withdraw a motion that you made before it is voted on	No	None
Point of Order	If you believe the Presiding Officer has made a mistake in following the rules	No	None
Motion to Recess for/until	To have the congress take a break to converse about a certain issue	Yes	Majority
Motion to open/close the docket	To open/close the docket (list of bills to debate) in order to change the order or add to it	Yes	Majority
Motion to add/move a bill	To move a bill or add a bill to the docket	Yes	Majority

### **Legislation**

Schools are welcome to submit sample legislation to be considered for Congress by emailing us their formatted legislation. Here is a link to some [example legislation](#) provided for middle school Congress by the National Speech and Debate association if you would like a reference for bill topics or the necessary format. Please submit legislation by Saturday January 17th at 10 p.m., legislation will be published on the tabroom page Sunday January 18th at 8 am.

### **Docket**

For all three sessions there will be a running docket using submitted legislation where students will vote on what bills they want to debate.

## **Individual Events - Pattern B**

**Note: Students may enter up to two individual events.**

## **Unprepped Events:**

### ***Impromptu.***

Given three topics, the student chooses one, prepares for one minute to speak insightfully about the topic, and then speaks for one to three minutes.

### ***Tall Tales.***

Given three words, the student has one minute to prepare a tall tale that includes all three words. The student then has up to three minutes to tell the tale.

### ***Sales.***

Students will pick one physical item out of a bag that the judge offers to them (the tournament staff will provide this). They will take the item, prepare for 1 min., and deliver a 2-3 minute speech on why the judge/audience should buy the item.

## **Prepped Event:**

### ***Prose and Poetry Interpretation.***

Choosing either a novel or a collection of poetry around a theme, students prepare and perform a speech between 4 min. 30 sec. and 5 min. 30 sec. minutes long. This is a storytelling event that focuses on narration, emotion, and vocal inflection.