



Reverend D. Stanley Lord Tournament

For Middle School Debaters

Saturday, April 18, 2026 | University of Bridgeport

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that the Bridgeport Public Schools Debate League and New Haven UDL invite you and your middle school debaters to the Reverend D. Stanley Lord Tournament.

Location

Our venue is the beautiful seaside campus of The University of Bridgeport. We will kick off the event at the John J. Cox Student Center at 244 University Avenue, Bridgeport CT 06604.

Format

This is an in-person parliamentary tournament for middle school debaters (grades 6-8) and novice high schoolers (freshmen in high school who haven't competed in the past). Students debate in two-person teams following an extemporaneous format. See our [Style Guide](#) for information on our Parli format. (Please note the Style Guide differs from the BPSDL's.)

Fees

Thanks to the generosity of the University of Bridgeport and our additional sponsors, this tournament is free.

Judges

Participating schools do not need to bring judges. Judges will be experienced judges from local high school debate teams and Yale University.

For more information, view our judging guide:

Registration

Registration is open on Tabroom.com as the Reverend D. Stanley Lord Tournament 2026.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, **April 8, 2026 at 11:55 PM**. You are welcome to make changes after that date but please get your entries in by then. All schools will initially be waitlisted and then entered until we reach tournament capacity.

Supervision

All teams must be accompanied by a responsible adult who has emergency information for every debater. Teams do not need to be affiliated with a school.

Food

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to debaters, coaches, and judges.

Schedule

Event	Time
Registration & Breakfast	7:45-8:30 am
General Briefing	8:30-8:55 am
Round 1	9:00 – 10:15 am
Round 2	10:25 – 11:40 am
Round 3	11:50 – 1:05 pm
Lunch	1:05 – 1:50 pm
Speaker Awards & Announce Qualifying Teams	1:55-2:15 pm
Semi Finals	2:25 – 3:40 pm
Finals	3:40 – 4:55 pm

**Please note that late arrivals will not be tolerated. Failure to check in both members of a team by 9:00 a.m on Saturday will result in a forfeit for the first round. Plan accordingly!*

Questions

Please contact tournament directors Linda Chen and Janet Fan at lindachen239@gmail.com and janetfan999@gmail.com.

Reverend D. Stanley Lord

Reverend D. Stanley Lord was a civil rights activist who championed voting rights and was a fierce fighter for racial justice. He was a generous and thoughtful leader who, in his role as President of the Greater Bridgeport NAACP, positioned the organization to be at the center of the movement for change in the City of Bridgeport.