



Beaver Battles

January 9, 2027

We are pleased to invite you to the 16th annual Beaver Battles Speech & Debate Tournament, hosted live and in person by Beaver High School in Beaver, Utah on Saturday, January 9, 2027.

Events:

Individual Events will include Panhandling, SpAr, Character SpAr, Storytelling, TV News, National Extemp., International Extemp., Oratory, Impromptu, Informative Speaking, POI, HI, DI, Duo and Poetry.

Debate events will include Policy, LD, PF, BQ and “Old School Congress.”

Schedule:

7:00 a.m.	Check-in table opens
7:45 a.m.	Opening Ceremony / Judges' Meeting
8:00 a.m.	Individual Events Round 1
9:15 a.m.	Individual Events Round 2
10:30 a.m.	Individual Events Round 3
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:00 p.m.	Debate Round 1 (LD, PF, BQ, Policy, SpAr)
12:00 p.m.	<i>Congress Session 1</i>
1:30 p.m.	Debate Round 2 (LD, PF, BQ, Policy)
2:00 p.m.	<i>Congress Session 2</i>
3:00 p.m.	Debate Round 3 (LD, PF, BQ, Policy)
5:30 p.m.	Awards Ceremony

Fees:

Student Fee \$5.00 per student entry

School Fee \$25.00 per team

Payable at check-in Saturday morning, based on registration numbers at Friday deadline. Make checks payable to *Beaver High School*.

Judge requirements:

1 judge per six i.e. event; 1 per four teams ld/pf/cx entries.

Please fill judge requirements; penalty of \$50 per judge-forfeiture round.

Trophies:

We will continue our tradition of presenting custom-made trophies six-deep in all events, along with the highly coveted chewed-off beaver logs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Sweepstakes Trophies.

Student Films:

We will also continue our tradition of including a welcome film in the opening ceremony, and a student film in the final awards ceremony.

Contact:

Head Coach: garrett.faylor@beaver.k12.ut.us

Assistant Coach: von.christiansen@beaver.k12.ut.us

Event Rules

Public Forum Debate will follow regular UHSAA rules, with teams of two debaters discussing the pros and cons of the **January NSDA topic**. The round will consist of four separate 4 minute speeches, followed by four additional 2 minute speeches, with a three minute cross-examination after the 2nd, 4th, and 6th speeches. Competitors are judged by their use of evidence, analysis, and overall persuasion.

Lincoln Douglas Debate will follow regular UDCA and NSDA rules, with one debater on each team discussing the pros and cons of the **January NSDA topic**. The round will consist of five separate speeches (6 min., 7 min., 4 min., 6 min., 3 min.) interspersed by a three minute cross-examination after the 1st and 2nd speeches. Competitors are judged by their analysis of the arguments within a moral framework and their overall persuasion.

Big Questions Debate asks the really, really big philosophical questions of our day. It will follow NSDA format beginning with two five minute speeches, a three minute cross-examination, two additional four-minute speeches, three more minutes of cross-examination, and four final three minute speeches.

Old School Congress will follow UDCA rules of the day, except that students will write and present their own cases—rather than the list of recommended cases listed on the UDCA website. Students should present their original bills on the day of the tournament (after obtaining permission to submit the bill from their *own coach*), making sure to bring enough copies to share with the other competitors (25 copies should probably do the trick).

National Extemp. & International Extemp. both involve a 7 minute speech about a current event—National or International. Before arriving at the assigned room, students are given 30 minutes of prep time, and perform one at a time before the judge.

Oratory is a 7-10 minute memorized persuasive speech written by the student.

Informative Speaking follows the rules of Oratory (7-10 minute original speech), except that students are allowed the use of visual aids (non-electronic) and should focus on *informing* the audience about the topic rather than persuading the audience.

Impromptu allows a student 7 minutes to prepare and deliver a speech, with the judge assigning topics at the start of the 7 minute period.

SpAr will follow normal UDCA and NSDA rules. Students are paired off by the judge and flip a coin to choose the topic and decide who will speak for or against the subject. Students are then allowed 1 minute of preparation, followed by a 2 minute affirmative speech, a 2 minute negative speech, three minutes of cross-examination, and 1 one minute summary for each of the students.

Character SpAr combines regular SpAr with a bit of acting! Students will deliver their arguments using the voice and mannerisms of a famous personality (actor, musician, politician, fictional character, etc.), with topics and personalities decided by the flip of a coin.

Panhandling allows students to fine-tune persuasive skills by begging the judge for money. Competitors should use a creative or engaging “pitch,” which may include creative storytelling (explaining why they need the money), a performance (musical number on a portable instrument brought by them to the tournament), dance, pantomime, magic, art (typically on a hand-held cardboard sign), or any combination of such pitches. Time should not exceed four minutes. The winning student will receive \$20 from the tournament host during awards.

TV News Anchor allows students to practice for future careers in news reporting by delivering the evening news, which may be real or fictional. Taking a break from headline news for weather, sports, and even a commercial or two is permitted. Speeches may be team or maverick, and should range between 5 and 10 minutes. Simple props and introductory music are allowed, but not costumes.

In **Storytelling** students select a published story that meets a designated theme. Themes range widely and may include mysteries, heroism, or fairy tales. Students select a story that would be appropriate for young children and tell the story as if presenting to that audience. This event is five to ten minutes. Students may use a chair. Manuscripts are not permitted.

Interpretation (Humorous, Dramatic, Duo, Poetry) allows a student to interpret a work of literature, analyze the meaning of the selection, then use their acting skills to play-out the scene to the audience. Time is 7-10 minutes.

Program of Oral Interpretation follows NSDA rules (7-10 minute speech) blending poetry, prose, and drama around a common theme or “program.” Scripts may be used in POI.

Finally, back by popular demand is the famous **“Best Dam Beaver” (BDB)** award, presented to the student who receives the highest rankings in the most number of events! Multiple entries are allowed in individual events, but students enter at their own risk. Each school will be allowed to register its top performing students to face-off against the most talented students from competing schools—to see who really is the Best Dam Beaver! (Register students to compete by clicking the BDB entry under the registration column).