



14th Annual Stagecoach Classic

Saturday, September 26, 2026 • Bartlett High School • Bartlett, Tennessee

THE JOURNEY BEGINS HERE.

The 14th Annual Stagecoach Classic offers competitors an early opportunity to begin the 2026-2027 speech and debate season. Stagecoach is one of the nation's first NIETOC bid tournaments of the season and the first outside Texas, giving competitors an early opportunity to earn bids toward qualification for the 2027 National Individual Events Tournament of Champions. Tennessee schools will also have the opportunity to earn bids to the 2027 THSSDL State Tournament.

Separate high school and middle school divisions allow programs to bring competitors at multiple levels for a full day of competition.

Tournament at a Glance

Date	Saturday, September 26, 2026
Location	Bartlett High School, Bartlett, Tennessee
Registration	Open now on Tabroom; closes Wednesday, September 23 at 8:00 PM CDT
NIETOC	Approved NIETOC bid tournament
THSSDL	Tennessee competitors may earn bids to the 2027 THSSDL State Tournament
Director	Kevin Rogers • krogers@bartlettschools.org
Tabroom	Stagecoach Classic tournament page

Entry Fees

Single-person speech entry	\$10.00
Two-person event / Public Forum team	\$20.00

Events & Entry Policies

High School

Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking (combined International and Domestic), Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Improvisational Duet Acting, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Original Spoken Word Poetry, Poetry, Program of Oral Interpretation, Prose, Storytelling, TV Broadcasting, Public Forum Debate (September/October NSDA topic), and Panther's Podium.

Middle School

Dramatic Interpretation, Duet Improvisation, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Poetry, Prose, Storytelling, TV Broadcasting, and Public Forum Debate (September/October NSDA topic).

Entry Policies

- Schools may enter an unlimited number of entries in each event.
- Tripling is allowed except for competitors entered in TV Broadcasting, Extemporaneous Speaking, or Public Forum Debate.
- TV and Extemp competitors may double, but not in those events.
- Public Forum competitors may not double.

Judging

- Provide 1 judge for every 6 Individual Event entries or fraction thereof.
- Provide 1 judge for every 2 Public Forum teams.
- Judges must be available for the entire competition to count toward a school's requirement and should expect to judge both middle and high school events.
- Lunch will be provided for judges.
- Judges should bring an internet-capable device; critiques will be completed online.

Tournament Schedule

Registration	7:30-8:00 AM
Opening Assembly	8:00 AM
Round 1	8:30-10:00 AM
Round 2	10:00-11:30 AM
Round 3	11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Finals	2:00 PM (or ASAP)
Awards	4:00 PM (or ASAP)

Registration Deadlines

Registration closes	Wed., Sept. 23 - 8:00 PM CDT
Fees freeze	Wed., Sept. 23 - 12:00 PM CDT
Judge information due	Wed., Sept. 23 - 8:00 PM CDT
Drops online until	Thu., Sept. 24 - 12:00 PM CDT
Change fees apply after	Thu., Sept. 24 - 12:00 PM CDT

Event Rules

Unless otherwise noted below, the Stagecoach Classic follows current NSDA event rules. As a THSSDL state-bid tournament, applicable THSSDL requirements will be followed where they differ from NSDA rules.

Improvisational Duet Acting

Two-person limited preparation event. Competitors receive 1 minute to prepare and up to 5 minutes to perform, with a 30-second grace period. The scene must contain only two characters, with both competitors sharing dialogue. An introduction is optional; the scene should establish and resolve a clear conflict. No costumes or makeup may be used; a table and/or two chairs may be used. Preliminary prompt types are Person vs. Person, First Line/Last Line, and Three Words. In finals, teams draw three prompts containing a person, place, and event, receive 30 seconds to choose one, and may not discuss before beginning.

Panther's Podium

A limited-preparation event in which students receive a real-world scenario and respond in character. Competitors draw three prompts, receive 30 seconds to choose one, then have 5 minutes to prepare a 4-6 minute presentation. The goal is a coherent, persuasive, engaging response in character with strong organization and delivery.

Prose

Time limit: 10 minutes.

Storytelling

Time limit: 8 minutes.

Television Broadcasting

Competitors prepare and deliver a five-minute television newscast from a tournament-provided packet of news stories. Preparation time is 30 minutes. Students may select and edit material from the packet and may write transitions, opening, and closing, but may not use outside materials other than a dictionary. Performances more than 10 seconds over or under the five-minute limit may be penalized.

Registration is open.

[Visit the Stagecoach Classic page on Tabroom to register.](#)

Questions: Kevin Rogers, Tournament Director • krogers@bartlettschools.org