The 9th Annual Jackrabbit Jamboree
Tournament of Champions – Speech Qualifier and NIETOC Qualifier

January 29-30, 2027

Mesa High School

Dear Colleagues,

We are thrilled to invite you to the 9th annual Jackrabbit Jamboree Speech and Debate tournament on January 29-30, 2027. We will offer Novice/Varsity divisions of LD and Public Forum, open divisions of Big Questions and World Schools Debate, Congressional Debate, and a full complement of Individual Events.

We are pleased to announce that the Jackrabbit Jamboree is again a Bid Tournament to the University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions in Speech and to the NIETOC!

On Saturday, concurrent with Individual Events, we will once again have the Cottontail Classic Middle School Congressional Debate for 6-8 grade competitors. More information is available in the Congressional Debate section of this invitation. The Cottontail is the only event open to Middle School. All other events are for grades 9-12 only.

We will offer Congressional Debate during the day on Friday, prelims of World Schools Debate, L-D Debate, Big Questions Debate, and Public Forum Debate on Friday afternoon/evening, followed by all remaining events and debate out rounds on Saturday.

The Jackrabbit Jamboree will present awards to the top three in each Debate event, the top 6 in all Congress chambers, and finalists in all IE and Duo events. Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top five schools and to the top school with 17 or fewer entries. Only the top 3 scoring competitors per school in each event will count toward sweepstakes.

While AIA Tournament Rules will be the foundation for the operation of this tournament, please be advised that they will not apply in all situations. We have clearly noted any diversions from the AIA rules in the event information section. Most event rules align with the NSDA.

Please contact us if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Berlat	Kimberly Bayan-Berlat	Paige Thorgerson	Marco Dominguez	Daniel Lennie
Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Assistant Coach	Assistant Coach	Assistant Coach

kjberlat@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

All registration will take place in the auditorium lobby starting an hour prior to the beginning of the event.

ILLNESS MITIGATION

We recommend that competitors and judges take protective measures. We recommend social distancing in classrooms and common spaces. We reserve the right to limit the number of spectators in a room. Judges must be aware that the choice to wear a mask or not should not affect the score or overall evaluation of a competitor.

OVERALL ENTRY AND EVENT INFORMATION

1. DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, INCLUSION, & JUSTICE: The ASDCA and Mesa High School Speech and Debate are committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, and staff the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The Jamboree prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Any individual or group of individuals who believe they have been a victim of harassment and/or discrimination should report it to the Help Desk or appropriate authority immediately. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

2. COMPETITOR ENTRY RESTRICTIONS:

   Each competitor will be allowed to enter 1 debate event, Congress, and up to 3 IE events (unless you enter Extemp, in which case you may only double-enter in IE).

3. ENTRY DEADLINE: The entry deadline is Friday, January 22nd, at 5:00 p.m. Fees will be assessed at this time. Get your entries in early. If we must limit entries, it will be done on a first come, first serve basis.

4. EVENT RULES: We will be following the NSDA event rules for Congress, Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Extemp, Impromptu, Oratory, Informative, Dramatic Interp, Humorous Interp, Program Oral Interp, and Duo Interp.

   For Duet Acting, Prose, Original Spoken Word, and Poetry, we will follow the ASDA rules. Please look on the Events Section (on the right side) of Tabroom.com for specifics. Please remember that Poetry Interpretation has been reduced to a five-minute time limit.

5. BID LEVELS

UKTOC Speech bids are available in the following speech events (EX, INF, OO, DI, HI, POI, Duo Interp, & OI (Prose). AZ Poetry no longer fits the qualifications for UKTOC OI and will not be a qualifying event.

Champion (1 Bid) - Minimum 8 Entries / 3 Schools / 3 Prelims AND Finals
Top 3 (Up to 3 Bids) - Minimum 16 Entries / 4 Schools / 3 Prelims AND Finals
Finals (Up to 6 Bids) - Minimum 30 Entries / 5 Schools / 3 Prelims AND Semifinals + Finals
Semifinals (Up to 12 Bids) - Minimum 60 Entries / 10 Schools / 4 Prelims AND Quarterfinals Onward
Quarterfinals (Up to 24 Bids) - Minimum of 120 Entries / 10 Schools / 4 Prelims AND Octofinals Onward
Due to our schedule limitations, we do not anticipate offering semifinal or quarterfinal bids to the UKTOC.
Note: A bid in Prose counts toward qualification in Oral Interpretation

NIETOC offers bids in EXT, OO, INF, HI, DI, POI, and DUO.
Bids are gained at the following levels (updated August/2026):
5-10 contestants = FIRST PLACE BID
11-20 contestants = TOP 3 BID
21-50 contestants = FINAL ROUND BIDS
51-60 contestants = SEMIFINAL (or NEXT-IN/HONORS FINAL) ROUND BIDS (16 bids max)
61-70 contestants = EXTENDED SEMIFINALS (or MERIT FINAL) ROUND BIDS (20 bids max)
71-100 contestants = QUARTERFINAL (or CONSOLATION FINAL) ROUND BIDS (26 bids max)
101 + contestants = OCTAFINAL ROUND BIDS (50 bids max)

6. DROPS / CHANGES: You will be allowed to make drops and changes on Tabroom until Tuesday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. After that time, you will need to call in your last-minute changes to the cell number provided. Please call as soon as you know you have change to the entry. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL REGISTRATION TO REPORT DROPS AND CHANGES. Please check and recheck your entry before the deadlines.

7. NO SHOWS: No Shows have been a large problem for the tab room staff at tournaments in AZ. When a student is not dropped from the event prior to round one beginning, the numbers competing in each section varies drastically and can end up skewing the results. I plead with you to help us by reporting all students that will not be competing at the time of registration or as soon as physically possible when a student must drop after the beginning of the tournament due to an illness or some other situation.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Traditional Congressional Debate Chambers:

1. LEGISLATION: Each school may upload 2 pieces of legislation to the tournament site on Tabroom.com by Tuesday, January 12th by 5:00 p.m. **This legislation should be created**

on the templates provided and NOT saved as a PDF. We will post a provisional docket, and ballot to limit the docket to the top 8 most preferred pieces of legislation, if necessary.

We reserve the right to reject any legislation that does not meet the following criteria along with proper formatting as outlined in the NSDA Congress Manual.

A. SIGNIFICANT (in scope)
B. JURISDICTION (within the realm of the US Federal Government)
C. TIMELINESS (current issue of concern)
D. DURABILITY (ability to stand the test of time)
E. DEBATABILITY (fair and equitable debate on both sides)
F. PROPER NSDA FORMATTING (as detailed in the NSDA Congress Manual) Go to congressionaldebate.org for templates under resources. **NO PDFs, NO Legislation created on a table, No Google Doc submissions. Use the templates provided. Google templates which download as a .doc do not format correctly. Be aware.**

2. ENTRY LIMITS & RESTRICTIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE: Each school will initially be limited to 18 total entries but will be allowed to enter additional students on the waitlist. Coaches should waitlist students in order of preference for being pulled off the waitlist. While first come first served is a baseline criterion, equity of competition is also a goal, and we will strive for balanced school representation in each chamber. Students will be randomly assigned to chambers.

3. PRESIDING OFFICER: Students who desire to run for Presiding Officer should be well versed in proper Parliamentary procedure, understand the NSDA guidelines for Presiding Officer protocol, and have practiced serving as P.O. prior to the tournament.

Cottontail Classic Middle School Congressional Debate

1. This division is for Middle School (grades 6-8) students only.
2. Each school will initially be limited to 10 competitors, with an overall event cap of 48.
3. They will debate the same docket as High School Congress, with three additional bills provided for the final round.
4. The Cottontail final will take place during IE semifinals.
5. Each school is responsible for providing a judge who may be placed in Cottontail rounds or put in the IE pool. Similarly, judges may be taken from the IE pool to score Cottontail rounds. Either high school students will volunteer as a PO, or the parliamentarian will act as the PO in each round.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS & PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

1. TOPICS: **The Jamboree will use the NSDA assigned topics for January 2027.** Please pay attention to the NSDA website for topic selections.

2. ENTRY LIMITS: Each school will initially be limited to 12 total entries, of which a maximum of 6 may be placed in the Novice division and 6 in the Varsity division. Schools may enter additional students on the waitlist. Coaches should waitlist students in order of preference for being pulled off the waitlist.
3. NOVICE DEFINITION: Novice is defined as any competitor competing in their first year of any debate. Middle School competition in the same debate event counts. Ex. If a student competed in MS Public Forum, they should NOT enter the Novice division at the HS level.
4. OUT-ROUNDS: All LD and PF events will hold octofinals if entry numbers warrant. We will not hold a double-octofinal round under any circumstance.
5. MAVERICKS: Maverick debates in PF will NOT be allowed as this event is specifically designed for two individuals (teammates).

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE

1. TOPICS: Rounds 1 and 2, quarterfinals (if necessary) and finals will use a preset topic to be released at the same time as the Congressional Debate docket. Teams will debate as both the Government and Opposition in rounds 1 and 2 (barring any byes).
2. ENTRY LIMITS: Each school will initially be limited to 6 total entries,. Schools may enter additional students on the waitlist. Coaches should waitlist students in order of preference for being pulled off the waitlist.
3. OUT-ROUNDS: WSD will hold semifinals if entry numbers warrant. We will not hold more than a quarterfinal round under any circumstance.
4. TEAMS: Schools may register a minimum of three and a maximum of 5 students per WSD team, of which three will debate in any particular round.

BIG QUESTIONS DEBATE

1. TOPICS: The Jamboree will use the NSDA topic for 2026-27.
2. ENTRY DEFINITION: Each entry may be one or two competitors. All competitors in an entry must be from the same school.
3. ENTRY LIMITS: Each school will initially be limited to 6 total entries. Schools may enter additional entries on the waitlist. Coaches should waitlist students in order of preference for being pulled off the waitlist. We will pull more entries on an equitable per-school basis if room numbers permit.
4. OUT-ROUNDS: BQ will hold octofinals if entry numbers warrant. We will not hold a double-octofinal round under any circumstance.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

1. ENTRY LIMITS: Each school will initially be limited to 8 total entries in UKTOC/NIETOC events, and 6 in all others. Schools will be allowed to enter additional students on the waitlist. Coaches should waitlist students in order of preference for being pulled off the waitlist.

2. Impromptu Speaking will have three topics per speaker in prelims. We reserve the right to be creative in elimination rounds.

3. We will hold quarterfinals or an expanded semifinal when UKTOC/NIETOC bids require us to.

JUDGE QUOTA AND REQUIREMENTS

Coaches: Please make sure your judges are trained to judge using online ballots and about the events they will be judging. The NSDA provides judge training videos about the various events at https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/

1. JUDGE ENTRY: Schools must enter the appropriate number of judges on the Tabroom website no later than Tuesday, January 26th by 6:00 p.m.

2. JUDGE QUOTA:

   1 qualified judge for Cottontail Classic Middle School Congress
   1 qualified judge for every **6** Congress entries or part thereof. Congress judges must be available for both sessions and each school should make every effort to provide at least one qualified individual to serve as a parliamentarian. Parliamentarians are committed to both the AM and PM session.
   1 qualified judge for every **2** World Schools Debate entries or part thereof
   1 qualified judge for every **2** L-D Debate entries or part thereof
   1 qualified judge for every **2** PF Debate entries or part thereof
   1 qualified judge for every **2** BQ Debate entries or part thereof
   1 qualified judge for every **5** Individual Event entries or part thereof
   All timeslots must be covered. Please ask if you are uncertain about the quota you owe!

3. REPORT TIMES FOR JUDGES: All judges will be required to check in with the information table or press "ACCEPT BALLOT" 15 minutes prior to the round they have been assigned to judge. Failure to do so may result in the ballot being pushed and the school being fined.

4. **AVAILABILITY: Judges must be available for the entire tournament. If your school is scheduling a judge for only part of the tournament, a replacement judge must be available to cover those missing time slots. Judges who fail to judge their scheduled**

rounds at the appropriate time, will be replaced and fined $25.00 per round they are replaced.

5. REQUIREMENTS: Each judge should have already created a Tabroom.com account and be linked to the team for whom they are judging. They need to have a clear **understanding of the rules**, their own computer with access to the internet to judge the rounds, and while the program has a timer, it might be helpful if the judge uses their own **timer or timing device like a cell phone**.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

1. Please send in your entry fee check or P.O. prior to the tournament OR at the very least, have your check or P.O. available at the time of registration.

2. Please make checks payable to "Mesa High School Speech and Debate." Invoice will be available on Tabroom.com. Mail checks to the following address:

    Mesa High School Speech and Debate
    c/o Kevin Berlat
    1630 E Southern Ave
    Mesa, Arizona 85204

3. TBA Entries – TBA Entries will be purged on January 15th. Please do not enter TBAs to "hold spots."

4. Fees: Each single-person event will cost $10.00 and each 2-person event will cost $20.00. Each school will be assessed a $25 team fee.

9th Annual Jackrabbit Jamboree – Provisional Schedule

Friday, January 29th, 2027

7:30 a.m.	Congressional Debate chambers and judging assignments released.
8:00 a.m.	Session 1 – Congressional Debate
10:30 a.m.	Session 1 ends
12:00 p.m.	Session 1 – Congressional Debate
2:30 p.m.	Session 2 ends
3:15 p.m.	**Any school not checked in will be dropped from debate.**
3:30 p.m.	Pairings and ballots released
3:45 p.m.	Round I of debate events
	All other rounds will begin as soon as possible.

Saturday, January 30th, 2027

7:45 a.m.	Coach/Judge meeting
7:45 a.m.	Extemp Draw Round I
8:15 a.m.	Round I for all IEs and Cottontail Congress
9:15 a.m.	Extemp Draw Round II
9:45 a.m.	Round II for all IEs
10:30 a.m.	Round II for Cottontail Congress
10:45 a.m.	Extemp Draw for Round III
11:15 a.m.	Round III for all IEs
12:15 p.m.	Debate Elimination Round 1
1:30 p.m.	IE Quarterfinals (for those UKTOC/NIETOC events as necessary)
2:00 p.m.	LD/PFD elimination round #2
2:30 p.m.	Semifinals in all IEs and Cottontail Finals
2:45 p.m.	CX Elim Round 2
3:15 p.m.	Semifinals in IEs with Quarterfinals
4:00 p.m.	LD/PFD Elim #3
5:00 p.m.	Finals in all IEs
6:00 p.m.	CX Elimination Round 3 and LD/PFD Round 4 (if necessary)
7:30 p.m.	Awards Assembly