THE ROYAL INVITATIONALS

2026 SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT

OFFICIAL WELCOME & TOURNAMENT INFORMATION PACKET

DECEMBER 4–5, 2026 • JIM HILL HIGH SCHOOL • 2185 COACH FRED HARRIS STREET
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Hosted by The Royal Stage Society Speech & Drama Club

Welcome to The Royal Invitationals

Dear Coaches, Competitors, Judges, and Guests:

On behalf of Jim Hill High School and The Royal Stage Society Speech & Drama Club, welcome to The Royal Invitationals! We look forward to two days of spirited competition, student leadership, thoughtful debate, and expressive performance. Our goal is a respectful, well-organized experience in which every student can use their voice with confidence.

Speak with Purpose. Perform with Passion. Debate with Excellence.

Mr. Kenneth A. Carter | Tournament Host and Theatre Director

At a Glance

Dates	**Friday–Saturday, December 4–5, 2026**
Host / Venue	The Royal Stage Society • Jim Hill High School
Address	2185 Coach Fred Harris Street, Jackson, MS 39204
Awards	Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. • Auditorium
Registration site / deadlines	To be announced by the tournament host
Entry fees / judge obligations	To be confirmed in the final tournament invitation
Contact	esanders@jpsms.org (tournament contact previously provided)

Events Offered

Debate: Public Forum, Policy, Lincoln–Douglas, and Congressional Debate.

Speech and Interpretation: Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting, Program Oral Interpretation, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Poetry Interpretation, and Prose Interpretation.

Divisions: Novice and Varsity are offered for Extemporaneous Speaking, Poetry, and Prose. Declamation, Expository Speaking, and Storytelling are restricted to 9th- and 10th-grade competitors.

Specific division availability, event caps, double-entry rules, and topic selections will be confirmed in the final registration notice.

Tournament Spaces & Room Assignments

Public Forum	Auditorium
Policy / Lincoln–Douglas / Congress	Room 405 / Room 407 / Room 403
Dramatic Interpretation / Humorous Interpretation	Room 510 / Room 602
Duet Acting / Duo Interpretation	Room 501 / Room 604
Impromptu / Extemporaneous Speaking	Room 502 / Room 603
Program Oral Interpretation / Prose	Room 503 / Room 504
Original Oratory / Informative Speaking	Room 601 / Room 505
Poetry / Declamation	Room 600 / Room 605
Expository / Storytelling	Room 506 / Room 507
Judges Lounge / Student Lounge	Library / Cafeteria
Tally Room / Awards	Room 101 / Auditorium

Tournament Schedule

Friday, December 4: Debate and/or tournament activities are anticipated. Round-by-round start times, Congress sessions, and check-in hours are pending final confirmation.

Saturday, December 5: Speech rounds, remaining debate rounds, and elimination rounds are anticipated. The awards ceremony is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Important: The attached Mustang Invitational packet provides an example of a two-day schedule, but its October round times are not the confirmed Royal Invitational schedule.

Registration & Judging

Coaches should prepare their student entries and identify adult judges for the tournament. The registration link, entry deadline, fees, event limits, judging quotas, missing-judge fees, and ballot procedures will be shared by the host. Do not rely on the Mustang Invitational's registration dates, fee schedule, or judging quotas for this tournament.

All coaches, competitors, and judges should follow published tournament procedures, be ready for their assigned rounds, and uphold professional standards of sportsmanship. Details on observation policies and food deliveries will be communicated before the event.

Hospitality & Campus Navigation

Judges Lounge: Library. Student Lounge: Cafeteria. Tabulation / Tally: Room 101. Awards: Auditorium. Volunteers and hall monitors will help direct participants to rooms and common areas. Concessions and food-service details will be announced separately.

Awards & Recognition

Top three placements are planned for each applicable event/division, with one placement trophy per team or duo. Six special awards are also planned. Final award categories and eligibility will be communicated by tournament leadership.

Coach Checklist

☐ Confirm the final registration link, deadlines, and entry fees.

☐ Review event/division eligibility and tournament-specific rules.

☐ Submit student entries and judge availability.

☐ Review the finalized schedule and any posted debate topics or legislation.

☐ Share room assignments and campus expectations with competitors.

☐ Arrive in time for check-in and monitor tournament announcements.

Important Information Still to Be Announced

Registration website and deadlines • Entry and judge fees • Judge coverage requirements • Friday/Saturday round-by-round schedule • Event entry limits and flighting • Debate topics and Congress legislation • Observer and food policies • Check-in procedure • Accessibility and accommodation contact.

We look forward to welcoming your team to Jim Hill High School for The Royal Invitationals 2026!