



The First Annual Gordon Robertson Speech and Debate Tournament for Veterans

WHEN: Saturday, November 11, 2017

WHERE: James River High School, 3700 James River Road, Midlothian, VA 23113

EVENTS: This Speech and Debate tournament will follow VHSL rules to prepare students for upcoming conference, regional and state tournaments, although private schools are encouraged to compete as well. We hope to provide a great local tournament option for Central Virginia schools especially! Middle school students are also encouraged to compete in the novice category.

SERVICE: Each year, seniors at James River High School's Leadership and International Relations Center must complete a Capstone service project, benefiting a cause of their choice. Isabelle Mayor-Mora, a senior in the Center and captain of the JRHS team, has decided to host this tournament to raise money for the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation. Gordon Robertson, who the tournament is named after, is a local veteran and poet. He will be speaking about the effects of literature on PTSD, as well as performing some of his poems, between the rounds and awards ceremony. Donations are appreciated!

1. The following speech categories will be offered (3 rounds each):

Extemp, Impromptu, Original Oratory, Prose, Poetry, DI, HI, Serious Duo*, Humorous Duo*, Storytelling, Duo Improv and Original Spoken Word Poetry**.

Students MAY double-enter in speech categories.

*Serious & Humorous Duo may be combined depending on the number of entries.

***OSW Poetry* - in this category the student presents a poem or collection of poems that the student has written himself. The use of a manuscript is **OPTIONAL** in this category, but all competitors should bring 3 hard copies of their poem(s) so that they can submit a copy to the judges at the end of each round as is done in OO.

2. Lincoln-Douglas: Novice* and Open (novice debaters must be in their first year of competitive debate). 4 rounds.

The Lincoln-Douglas topic (for both novice and open divisions) will be the November-December 2017 NSDA resolution.

3. Public Forum: Novice* and Open. 4 rounds.

The Public Forum topic (for both novice and open divisions) will be the November 2017 NSDA topic.

- ***If there are not enough numbers to operate a separate novice bracket for LD and PF, they will be combined into the open division, but top novice awards will still be given.**

4. Student Congress: Open division. 2 sessions of Congress, 2 hours each.

Each student should submit a bill and teams should coordinate to divide bills up among the following 4 categories (Domestic, International, Virginia, and Economic). There will only be one chamber, thus *Congress registration will close after 30 entries*. Deadline is 11/3.

Email Congress legislation to jessica_sanchez@ccpsnet.net by **November 3rd, 2017.**

Congress Topics

Domestic

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Veteran's Health

International

U.S.- Ukraine

U.S.-Afghanistan

Economic

Tax Reform

U.S. Debt Ceiling

Virginia

Veteran's Education

Confederate Monuments

JUDGES

Each school is responsible for providing their own judges with the following quotas:

1 judge for:

...every 2 Lincoln-Douglas Debate entries or fraction thereof,

...every 2 Public Forum Debate entries or fraction thereof,

...every 5 Student Congress entries or fraction thereof, and

...every 5 Speech Event entries or fraction thereof*

***Student Congress and IE event judges may be combined.**

COSTS:

School registration fee: \$25 (covers snacks/lunch for judges/ coaches)
Schools are limited to 6 entries in each category/speech event.

Number of LD competitors	@\$15 per entry = _____
Number of Congress entries	@\$15 per entry = _____
Number of Individual Speech entries	@\$15 per entry = _____
Number of Duo Speech entries	@\$30 per entry = _____
Number of PF teams	@\$30 per team = _____

****Above costs include a lunch ticket for all competitors****

DROPS:

Drops (for any reason) are permitted up to 48 hours before the tournament with no penalty. Drops within 48 hours require schools to honor the entry fees AND still require the original judging quota. If the original judging quota is not met upon registration, students may not be able to compete and there will be a \$50 dropped judge fee.

SCHEDULE:

Registration:	8-8:30 am
Judges meeting:	8:45 am
Round 1 (all events):	9:00 am
Round 2 LD/PF:	10:15 am
Round 2 speech:	10:30 am
**Lunch (see below)	
Session 2 Congress:	12 pm-2 pm
Round 3 LD/PF:	12:15 pm
Round 3 speech:	1 pm
Round 4 LD/PF:	1:30 pm
Awards Assembly:	4 pm

LUNCH:

We will be providing lunch for our judges and coaches. Competitors will be provided the lunch "combo meal" of 2 pizza slices, a bag of chips and a drink that is built into their registration cost. Additional water, soda, pizza, chips, candy and other snacks will be available for purchase from our concession stand. Parents and students who are observing rounds will need to pay for any concession items. Going off campus for lunch is not recommended as it could complicate the tournament schedule and possibly lead to forfeited rounds.

AWARDS:

Medals will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in each category. Sweepstakes and runner up sweepstakes trophies will be given to the schools with the most points in all 4 categories.

How to Make Your Entries:

- If you do not have a tabroom account go to www.tabroom.com, click on the SIGN-UP link in the upper-right of the webpage. This takes you to the CREATE YOUR TABROOM ACCOUNT page. Complete the form. See [http://docs.tabroom.com/Sign Up](http://docs.tabroom.com/Sign_Up) for detailed instructions.
- When you have finished setting up your team account, please add your competitors and judges to it.
- Enter your student's (speech and debate) for the tournament at <http://jamesriverinvitational.tabroom.com> or locate the James River Invitational on the homepage under 11/11/17.
 - Deadline to register is 11/7/2017.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions that are related to Speech or Debate events, please contact Jessica Sanchez at Jessica.Sanchez@ccpsnet.net

**Best,
Jessica Sanchez and Laurel Maughan
James River Speech and Debate Coaches**

**Isabelle Mayor-Mora
James River Speech and Debate Captain**

