



AMERICAN FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NATIONAL SPEECH TOURNAMENT

Committed to public advocacy and those who teach it

January 24, 2023

Dear Director of Forensics:

On behalf of the American Forensic Association and the NST Committee, I would like to congratulate you and your team for qualifying for this year's tournament. I extend this invitation to you and your students to participate in the forty-fourth American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament (AFA-NST). This year's competition will be held in Santa Ana, California, March 31-April 3, 2023. Please note that this is a Saturday to Monday schedule with registration on Friday evening. I look forward to welcoming you to Santa Ana College!

Dr. Amy Martinelli from the University of Florida has consented to serve as this year's National Tournament Director with Dr. Mallory Marsh serving as the Assistant Tournament Director. We are still looking for a social media chair, someone with great Instagram and Facebook skills who can help us promote the event and also provide important information prior to and during the tournament. If you are interested in this position, or know someone who is, please contact a member of the committee.

We invite interested schools to bid to host the AFA-NST. The AFA-NST National Committee has voted to employ an "open" bid system for the location of the national tournament site. The National Committee is committed to moving the AFA-NST around the nation as much as possible. Anyone wishing to be considered as host for the 2025, 2026, or 2027 AFA-NST should prepare a bid package including the Bid-To-Host Form (found at the afa-nst.org website) and submit all documents to both the AFA-NST Chair, Nance Riffe, and Tournament Director, Amy Martinelli, no later than **MARCH 13, 2023**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your District Chair or me. Contact information for tournament and district officials is included in this invitation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nance Riffe
AFA-NST Chair
University of North Carolina Charlotte

Dr. Amy Martinelli
AFA-NST Tournament Director
University of Florida

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

District: 1

Geographic: CA, NV, HI

Tournament:

District Chair: David Hale, East Los Angeles College, HaleDR@elac.edu

District: 2

Geographic: OR, WA, ID, MT, AK, CSU Humboldt

Tournament:

District Chair: Joe Gantt, Lewis and Clark College, jgantt@lclark.edu

District: 3

Geographic: OK, KS, TX, MO, LA, AR Tournament:

District Chair: Randy Cox, University of Texas-Austin, mrcox@austin.utexas.edu

District: 4

Geographic: ND, WI, MN, SD, NE, IA

Tournament:

District Chair: Jennifer Torres, Doane University, jennifer.torres@doane.edu

District: 5

Geographic: IL, MI, IN, OH, Truman State, MO Tournament:

Tournament:

District Chair: John Stanley, North Central College, jrstanley@noctrl.edu

District: 6

Geographic: GA, TN, FL, AL, NC, SC, MS, KY

Tournament:

District Chair: Ben Pyle, University of Alabama, bspyle@ua.edu

District: 7

Geographic: VA, MD, NJ, DE, PA, WV, DC, Ohio University, University of Akron

Tournament:

District Chair: Sam Ohrenberger-Hopkins, Seton Hall University, Sam.Hopkins@shu.edu

District: 9

Geographic: UT, WY, CO, NM, AZ, El Paso, TX, E. Montana College

Tournament:

District Chair: Sarah Hinkle, Colorado College, shinkle@coloradocollege.edu

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE¹
American Forensic Association
2023 National Speech Tournament

Friday, March 31	Santa Ana College
9:30-11:45 & 1:00-4:00	NST Committee Meeting TBA
9:30-11:45	Student Reps Meeting TBA
5:00 PM	Registration in Johnson Student Center Patio
7:00 PM	OPENING ASSEMBLY in Large Gymnasium G-105
8:30	Late registration (if needed)/District Meetings
Saturday, April 1	Santa Ana College
7:45-8:00 AM	<u>E-Ballot Help and Information Tables</u>
8:30 AM	Extemp Draw Cesar Chavez A-210
9:00 AM	Round 1 B Events (DUO, POI, PER, EXT)
10:30 AM	Round 1 A Events (IMP, PRO, INF)
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Round 2 A Events
3:00 PM	Round 1 C Events (Poetry, CA, ADS, DI)
4:30 PM	Round 3 A Events
6:00 PM	Extemp Draw
6:30 PM	Round 2 B Events
Sunday, April 2	Santa Ana College
8:00 AM	Extemp Draw
8:30 AM	Round 3 B Events
10:00 AM	Round 2 C Events
11:30 AM	Round 3 C Events
12:30-2:00 PM	Lunch
2:30 PM	Quarterfinals of A Events—Postings to take place outside of the Johnson Student Center
4:00 PM	Extemp Draw Moved to Cesar Chavez A-108
4:30 PM	Quarterfinals of B Events
6:00 PM	Quarterfinals of C Events
Monday, April 3	Santa Ana College
8:00 AM	Extemp Draw for Semifinal
8:30 AM	Semifinals for B Events
10:00 AM	Semifinals for A Events
11:30 AM	Semifinals for C Events
12:30-1:45	Lunch
1:30 PM	Extemp Draw for Finals
2:00 PM	Finals Group B Events
3:30 PM	Finals Group A Events
5:00 PM	Finals Group C Events
7:30 PM	Awards (or as soon as possible) in Large Gymnasium G-105

¹ Please note that locations are subject to change. Pay close attention to all emails, signs, and social media posts for the most up-to-date information.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Registration:

Registration will take place on Friday, March 31, from 5:00-7:00pm at the Johnson Student Center Patio.

Entries must be submitted to Speechwire on or before Monday, March 13, 2023. Drop fees begin on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

Hotel Information:

We have reserved a block of rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton. The Group Code rate is \$169 and includes hot breakfast for four people and reduced price for parking.

You can book online using the link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/staocdt-afn-51d75433-7cb0-42c6-ad6b-85cd3fec3c9/>

The block will be held until **March 9, 2023**, so please book beforehand.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Santa Ana-Orange County Airport
201 East MacArthur Blvd, Santa Ana, CA 92707
714-825-3333
Rate \$169 includes hot breakfast

Travel Information:

The DoubleTree provides a free shuttle for guests from the John Wayne Airport (SNA). Travelers may also fly into Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) or Long Beach Airport (LGB), though these are farther from Santa Ana and travelers will need to make arrangements for transportation between cities.

Meal Information:

All meals are "on your own." There will be Food Trucks on the Santa Ana College campus for all guests and multiple locations for food within walking distance of the tournament at the Bristol Marketplace Shopping Center. Coaches who wish to order food for their teams should do so on their own accord.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

Subscription Fee:

Schools wishing to participate in District Tournaments and the 2023 AFA-NST must pay a \$30.00 subscription fee (\$50 will be assessed after December 1, 2022). No fees will be accepted after registration ends for your district qualifier tournament. Subscription fees should be sent to your respective District Chairperson.

Every school must have an individual AFA member at their institution in order to register for the NST.

AFA Membership Requirement:

All schools attending the NST must include at least one person on their roster/staff/faculty that is a member of the AFA. This is not NST membership, but membership to our parent organization: the AFA. Membership can be obtained as follows: a) the director/coach can join for \$85 with the journal; b) any student on the team can join for \$25 as either an undergraduate or graduate. Membership can be obtained through the AFA website at

<https://www.americanforensicsassoc.org/shop/> . **Entry into the NST will require the name of the school's AFA member.**

Failure to provide this information will result in a \$50 fee assessed, in addition to the \$85 AFA fee in order for the school to attend.

Student Enrollment Verification Form

Each school participating at the AFA-NST must submit the Student Enrollment Verification Form for all students competing at the AFA-NST. The form can be found on the AFA-NST website. **Verification forms should be sent to your District Chair alongside qualifications.** If you have questions about the student verification process, as it may vary from campus to campus, please direct those to your district chair.

At-Large Qualification:

Please keep a complete record of all necessary data required on the At-Large Qualification Form. The At-Large Qualification Form is available on the AFA-NST website. A separate form should be kept for each of your students. Remember that the At-Large Qualification Form must be submitted to your District Chair **and should arrive no later than one week before your District Qualifier.** Submission of the At-Large qualification form does not constitute an official entry. Official entries must be submitted through Speechwire Tournament Services. At-large qualifications must be earned by March 5. Tournaments hosted after March 6 will not count for qualifications. Recognized national or international tournaments hosted after March 6th will count – check with Amy Martinelli if you have questions.

AFA-NST ELIGIBILITY:

1. Schools:

- a. Any accredited (or pursuing accreditation) two or four-year college/university shall be eligible to send participants to the AFA-NST.
- b. To gain eligibility, participating institutions must be in good financial standing with the financial requirements established by the AFA-NST Committee and the Board of Trustees.

2. Students:

- a. PARTICIPANTS IN THE AFA-NST MUST BE FULL- OR PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX HOURS. The minimum of six hours of required academic work must be taken at the institution the student is representing at the NST. A student must be pursuing a program of study or an associate or baccalaureate degree at the institution they are representing at the NST.
 1. A part-time student at an institution may not represent that institution at the NST if they are also pursuing an associate or baccalaureate degree at another institution.
 2. A student who has completed the requirement for an associate degree at an institution is no longer eligible to compete for that institution. A person is considered as possessing an associate degree upon his/her completion of requirements toward that degree and having been approved for graduation by his/her respective school.
 3. An appeal for a waiver of these provisions may be made using the same procedures as outlined in the by-laws for students who have received bachelor's degrees.
- b. Students possessing a bachelor's degree WHO HAVE NO FORENSIC EXPERIENCE may request a one-year waiver of the undergraduate rule. Requests should be made to the NST Chair.
 1. An undergraduate is defined by the AFA-NST Committee as an individual who has not received a bachelor's degree. (A student is considered as possessing a baccalaureate upon completion of requirements toward that degree and having been approved for graduation by her/his respective school).
 2. No person shall be allowed to participate in more than four years of national Speech Tournaments (including PRP, PKD, DSR-TKA, AND NFA) as a contestant.
- c. No student who has competed in eight or more six-month periods (July 1-December 25, or December 26-June 30) in three or more tournaments per period of time will be eligible to compete in the AFA-NST.
- d. If a participant qualifies for the AFA-NST while eligible under the above requirements and then graduates during the academic year they will be permitted to compete in the NST for that year. (Mid-year graduates may not compete at District Qualifiers.)

- e. A student may not pursue at-large qualification after the final day of the term in which he/she has met the requirements for graduation and has been approved for graduation by the student's respective school.
- f. An undergraduate who judges in the open division of a forensics tournament, (a division which qualifies for AFA-NST at-large legs), permanently forfeits his/her eligibility to compete at the AFA-NST District or National Tournaments.

Title IX Training:

All participants at the NST (including students, judges, coaches, tournament officials, etc.) must complete Title IX training provided by the NST. More Information will be provided to District Chairs and on our website.

Number of Rounds:

There shall be three preliminary rounds followed by quarterfinals, semifinals and a final round in each of the events. In preliminary rounds, a mechanical pairing system will be used so that as far as possible, contestants from the same school will not meet each other. The elimination rounds will be paired on a schematic system.

Judges:

Two judges shall be used per section in the preliminary rounds; multi-panel judges will be employed in the elimination rounds. In determining elimination round contestants, the lowest rank and rating (not necessarily on the same ballot) will be dropped from the cumulative total of prelim scores.

Ballot and Ranking:

The AFA-NST will use e-Ballots provided by Speechwire Tournament Services. Judges must provide their own device (laptop/tablet/phone) to fill out ballots; all competition rooms will have outlets for judges to charge their devices. The Information Table will provide assistance for judges who have technical difficulty.

The ballots will use a ranking of 1 to 5 with 1 being the top performance in the preliminary rounds. In the elimination rounds, the ballots will use a ranking reflecting the total number of competitors in the round with 1 being the top performance; no ties will be allowed. The ballots shall use a rating graduated from 1 to 25 points, with 1 being the lowest rating and 25 being the highest rating. Points will be grouped as follows: 1 to 5--Poor; 6 to 10--Fair; 11 to 15--Average; 16-20--Excellent; and 21-25--Superior.

Awards:

Individual awards will be presented to those contestants advancing to the elimination rounds. These awards are based on preliminary and elimination rounds. The following point system will be used: 3 points for each 1st, 2 points for each 2nd, and 1 point for each 3rd place ballot received during preliminary rounds; and elimination round points based on the following scale: 6 points for each 1st place, 5 points for each 2nd place, 4 points for each 3rd place, 3 points for each 4th place, 2 points for each 5th place and 1 point for all other places. The student must be eligible and compete in four AFA-NST events at the National Tournament before being considered for the Individual Sweepstakes awards. Twenty awards will be offered in this category.

School Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top twenty schools based on results of performance in preliminary and elimination rounds. The top three students from each school in each event will be awarded points for the team based on the following system: 3 points for 1st, 2 for 2nd and 1 for 3rd. The points are then cut in half. Elimination round points are awarded based on the same system as the individual sweepstakes points outlined in the above paragraph. A "Top Community College Sweepstakes Award" will also be given when a minimum of five community colleges are

participating.

The top 5 schools with 15 or fewer entries will be recognized.

General Rules:

- a. A student may be entered in two dramatic duos if both have qualified. The student, however, may not enter another event in that conflict block--two duos count as two events.
- b. All rounds of Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking will be timed by the judge or the judge panel and time signals will be given to contestants unless otherwise specifically requested by the contestant.
- c. A contestant may not use the same cutting/content or any portion of that cutting/content in more than one event at any given tournament.
- d. In Extemporaneous Speaking, attendance in the preparation room is restricted to monitors appointed by the Tournament Director and the contestants in the event. Because Extemporaneous Speaking is an individual event, contestants are expected to prepare speeches on their own without consultation with others.
- e. Coaches and/or students must have available at the District and National NST tournaments original scripts for all interpretive events and texts of speeches for all original events including a bibliography of all sources cited.
- f. All final rounds will be videotaped.
- g. Any research conducted at the NST must be approved. Contact the NST Chair for further information.
- h. All materials used in competition shall not have been used by the student in interscholastic competition prior to September 1, 2022.

AFA-NST Ethical Use of Literature Policy:

- a. Contestants may not rewrite a prose, a poem, or a dramatic text so the work differs from the original text.
- b. Contestants may not add or reassign scenes or lines to the performed cutting. Although an occasional line might be added, especially if a character has been deleted. This practice should be discouraged.
- c. Contestants may not rewrite the ending of a work.
- d. Contestants may not rewrite lines to change the gender or person of a character.
- e. Contestants may not perform a text in a genre for which it has not been written.
- f. Protests should be filed according to AFA-NST Charter Bylaws Section X.

AFA-NST 2022-2023 Description of Events

A EVENTS

Informative Speaking: An original, factual speech by the student on a realist subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.

Prose Interpretation: A selection or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

B EVENTS

Persuasive Speaking: An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Program Oral Interpretation: A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Dramatic Duo: A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted. Student will speak in listed order. Postings of topics will be staggered.

C EVENTS

After Dinner Speaking: An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic, coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforced the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Communication Analysis: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Drama Interpretation: A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. A primary focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Poetry Interpretation: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

INVOICE 2022-2023
American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament

Subscription Fee for the American Forensic Association's National Speech Tournament. Payment due by December 1, 2022. Please note that this is not the same as your membership fee to AFA. This is your subscription fee to the NST, which is separate.

If you have not yet paid this, then you will need to do so by your Spring District Qualifier.

Amount due: \$30.00 (\$50.00 if postmarked after December 1). Remit Payment to: **DISTRICT CHAIR AFA-NST**

Subscribing School: _____ Coach: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Consult the information section on District Tournaments for the name of your District Chairperson. Make checks payable to your District Chairperson. If you have received an invoice from your District Chair, ignore this request for payment.

Last updated 2023 Amy Martinelli

Entry Form: AFA-NST 2023

The AFA-NST entry form has been deleted from this invitation. You will need to go directly to Speechwire to register. Once at Speechwire, you will be asked to create an account using a password you choose. Registration and payment will take place on site at the Santa Ana College.

Should you have any questions about your account or Speechwire, please feel free to contact support@speechwire.com.

All Schools are *REQUIRED* to use Speechwire to register for the AFA-NST.

All Entries must be received by Monday, March 13, 2023.

Drop fees will begin on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES PER SCHOOL AT THE AFA-NST IS CAPPED AT 66 SLOTS.

For Emergencies,
contact:

Amy Martinelli
University of Florida
352-682-4473
acmart@ufl.edu
