**Great Pumpkin Colorado NSDA**

**Novice Tournament and Congress**

**October 25, 2025**

**At Castle View High School**

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2025 Great Pumpkin Colorado NSDA District Novice Tournament and Student Congress on October 25, 2025. The tournament will be held at Castle View High School.

**Events:** We will host three (3) rounds of novice competition in Drama, Humor, Poetry, Program Oral Interpretation, Oratory, Informative Speaking, National Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Duo Interp, Cross-Examination Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate. We will also host Congressional Debate at the varsity and novice level. There is no double-entering allowed.

**Debate Resolutions:** We will use the 2025-26 NSDA CX topic (the Arctic), the September-October NSDA LD topic (UK-EU-Brexit), and the September-October NSDA PF topic (plea bargaining).

**Congressional Debate:** The docket is set and is posted at [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com).

**Entries:** Each school may enter a maximum of 5 entries in each event and 20 entries in Congress. Entries will be handled on a first-come, first served basis. Registration will occur online at [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com). Registration will close on October 20, but may close sooner based on entries received.

**Student Judges:** Each school is expected to provide 1 student judge for each 5 events entries and 1 student judge for each 2 debate entries. Student judges will need Speechwire accounts and to be entered by name in Speechwire. Student judges should be entered by Tuesday, October 21.

**Entry Fees:** Fees are $7.00 per student, based on pre-registration numbers as of Monday, October 20. **Please make checks payable to the Colorado NFL District**. Please mail fees to Marti Benham, Cherry Creek HS, 9300 E. Union Avenue, Greenwood Village, CO, 80111.

**Registration and Schedule:** Check-in will be held from 8:00- 8:15am. All schools must check-in by 8:15am. Rounds will begin promptly at 9:00am. Awards are scheduled for 3:00pm.

**Mission, Vision, Inclusion, Harassment, and Discrimination:**

At Colorado NSDA Speech and Debate Tournaments, we embrace and support the mission of our school district, the vision of our school, the CHSAA Speech and Debate Inclusion Statement, and the NSDA Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please review the attached document.

**Rules:**

* Each school (administration, teachers, and/or coaches) is responsible for ensuring they have proper parental permission for students to participate in the tournament and to use the designated competition platforms.
* A responsible coach must be available ONSITE and VIA CELL at all times.
* Competition is open to 9-12 grade students representing the school in which they are officially enrolled and doing so with the permission of their school administration and/or coaches.
* We will use CHSAA rules in all events, except Congressional Debate. We will use NSDA rules in Congressional Debate.
* In CX, no kritiks or counterplans are allowed.
* In CX, we will employ the NFHS Novice case limits, meaning that all teams should limit themselves to these case areas:
  + Exploration:
    - Early Warning Awareness: The U.S. should deploy sensors, drones, submarines, and/or satellites to improve early warning systems and monitor geopolitical threats in the Arctic.
    - Research Cooperation: The U.S. should restore scientific cooperation programs with Russia and/or China in the Arctic.
  + Development:
    - Renewable Energy Infrastructure: The U.S. should develop wind, solar, and geothermal energy projects in the Arctic to provide sustainable power for Arctic communities.
    - Oil and Gas Drilling: The U.S. should significantly increase offshore oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic
* In Original Oratory and Informative Speaking, scripts are optional.

**Awards:** We will award numerous superior and excellent ribbons and some seasonal prizes. Awards are scheduled for 3:00pm.

**Judges' Certification Clinic:** We will host a clinic for adults interested in learning how to judge. This will be held from 10:00am-12:00pm.

**Site:** The tournament is being held at Castle View High School, 5254 N Meadows Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80109, 303-387-9000.

**Questions and Concerns:** Please feel free to contact Marti Benham at Cherry Creek High School, 720-554-2216 (school), 303-921-9411 (cell), [mbenham@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:mbenham@cherrycreekschools.org)

**Colorado NSDA Mission, Vision, Inclusion, Harassment, and Discrimination**

**At Colorado NSDA Speech and Debate Tournaments, we embrace and support the mission and vision of the NSDA, the CHSAA Speech and Debate Inclusion Statement, and the NSDA Harassment and Discrimination Policy.**

**NSDA MIssion and Vision**

Mission: The National Speech & Debate Association connects, supports, and inspires a diverse community committed to empowering students through speech and debate.

Vision: We envision a world in which every school provides speech and debate programs to foster each student’s communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creative skills.

**CHSAA Speech and Debate Inclusion Statement**

The CHSAA Speech and Debate community believes inclusion is vital to our community. We are committed to providing a safe and equitable learning and competitive environment that fosters a mindset of empathy, respect, and belonging for all involved in Speech and Debate, including, but not limited to students, coaches, judges and community members. We honor differences including races and cultures, genders and sexual orientations, abilities and aspirations, identities and affiliations, socioeconomics and worldviews. Embracing our diversity prepares our community to thrive. Individuals found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

**National Speech & Debate Association Harassment and Discrimination Policy**

The National Speech & Debate Association is 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 NSDA 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. 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.

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**Extemporaneous Speaking Topic Areas**

National Extemp

Round 1 - U.S. Economy

Round 2 – U.S. Politics

Round 3 – U.S. Foreign Policy

International Extemp

Round 1 - Russia

Round 2 - India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan

Round 3 - China

**Congressional Debate**

The Congressional Debate Dockets have been posted at www.speechwire.com on the Files for Download tab. The Docket order is set for each session.

* Congress will have three rounds or sessions.
* There will be a new PO for each session.
* Precedence will start over for each session.
* We will use direct questioning during the session.

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate – 2025 September/October Topic**

Resolved: In the United States criminal justice system, plea bargaining is just.

**Public Forum Debate – 2025 September/October Topic**

Resolved: The United Kingdom should rejoin the European Union.

**Policy Debate – 2025-2026 Topic**Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.

Novice Case Limits for the 2025-2026 Policy Debate Topic

* + Exploration:
    - Early Warning Awareness: The U.S. should deploy sensors, drones, submarines, and/or satellites to improve early warning systems and monitor geopolitical threats in the Arctic.
    - Research Cooperation: The U.S. should restore scientific cooperation programs with Russia and/or China in the Arctic.
  + Development:
    - Renewable Energy Infrastructure: The U.S. should develop wind, solar, and geothermal energy projects in the Arctic to provide sustainable power for Arctic communities.
    - Oil and Gas Drilling: The U.S. should significantly increase offshore oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic.