

MARQUETTE INVITATIONAL

FEBRUARY 13TH – 14TH, 2026



DEAR SPEECH & DEBATE COMMUNITY,,

We are pleased to invite your team to our annual Invitational held at Marquette High School on February 13-14, 2026. Registration for the tournament is handled through SpeechWire, and will be open from Tuesday, January 13th, through Friday, January 23rd. We will accept a maximum of 4 entries in each event and 4 entries in both varsity and championship debates. Depending on the success of judge recruitment, we will try to accommodate the waitlist on a first-come, first-served basis.

Events Offered - All Open Competition

- Original Oratory
- Informative Speaking
- IX and DX Speaking
- HI
- DI
- Duo
- Prose/Poetry
- POI
- Radio
- Storytelling
- Congress

Debates Offered:

- LD, Policy and Public Forum - Varsity & Championship

Please note, instead of mandatory judging obligations for each school, we are simply asking that each school provide judges for 5 rounds. Please use the judge Google form, and not the option to add judges to SpeechWire. Coaches will be used when needed, so please fill out a judge form for each coach and assistant coach attending the tournament. We understand the drudgery in recruiting judges, especially when you have your own tournament and districts on the horizon. We hope this helps ease the burden, but by all means, feel free to sign up more judges! Please use this [Marquette Invitational Judge Form](#) link to access the sign-up for all of your judges, including coaches. Depending on registrations and judge recruitment, the decision may be made to combine events.

We are looking forward to hosting your team! If there are any questions not answered by the information in this packet, please call or email me.

Cate Sanazaro - Head Coach, sanazarocate@rsdmo.org or 573-259-7779

Connor Gleason, Omar Elbeshbeshy, and Audrey McGhee - Tournament Managers

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REGISTRATION:

Registration will begin at 3:45 pm on Friday, February 13th. Please have your teams enter on the left side of the entrance where the theatre is located. Registration tables will be set up just inside the doors. **We are in school that day. Please do not arrive before 3:45, as buses will still be loading and the parking lot will be closed.** If your team is competing in Events only, Registration will begin at 7:15 am on Saturday.

JUDGING OBLIGATIONS:

All schools are kindly asked to recruit 5 judge rounds for the tournament. All Coaches and Judges please use the [Marquette Invitational Judge Form](#). Thank you in advance; if you have questions, please contact me at sanazarocate@rsdmo.org or call/text 573-259-7779.

SCHEDULE:

All competitors should arrive at their competition room 10 minutes before the start time. Do not enter the room until a judge is present.

FRIDAY:

Registration - 3:45 pm
Debate Round 1 - 4:30 pm
Events Round 1 - 6:45 pm
Debate Round 2 - 8:15 pm

SATURDAY:

Event Registration - 7:15 am
Events Round 2 - 8:00 am
Debate Round 3 - 9:30 am
Event Semifinals -
Debate PF/LD Quarters & CX Semis - 1:15pm
Event Finals - 3:30 pm
Debate PF/LD Semis & CX Finals - 5:15 pm
AWARDS CEREMONY - 7:15 pm
PF/LD Finals - 8:00 pm

DEADLINES:

REGISTRATION	ENTRIES
Registration opens on Tuesday, January 13th, and closes on Friday, January 23rd, 2026, at 5 pm. No tournament registration after this time.	Registered schools may make debate and speech event entries until Wednesday, Feb 4th. Drops will be allowed until Wednesday, February 11th at 5 pm. Drops after this time may incur a drop fee.

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JUDGE SUBMISSIONS

All judges and coaches must be entered on the [Marquette Invitational Judge Form](#) by Friday, February 6th, 5 pm.

Eligible Judges Include:

- Adult community members (no experience required).
- Your MSHSAA-required supervisory coach is on STANDBY for ALL rounds. Coaches should mark as much availability as possible.
- Varsity students **may not** judge at this tournament since there are no novice divisions.
- Any alumni can judge varsity/championship divisions in their second year after graduating or more

TOURNAMENT AND COACH HUBS:

Please instruct your students to log into the Tournament Hub before the tournament or when arriving that day, and encourage them to read through the preliminary info posts. Almost all of the information that any competitor may need will be found in the Tournament Hub. The hubs will be updated frequently with announcements, updates, and breaks so we can keep everyone informed and up-to-date. Please do not allow any student access to the Coach Hub.

Tournament Hub: bit.ly/mhstournament26

Coach Hub: bit.ly/mhstournament_coacheshub26

GENERAL RULES:

1. There must be one school-employed supervisor on campus at all times per MSHSAA rules.
2. A student may enter only two speech events; no triple speech entries. Congress entries may not enter a second speech event.
3. A student may enter only one format of debate: Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, and Policy.
4. Students may enter either International or Domestic Extemp, not both.
5. Entries must be made in SpeechWire. The host reserves the right to drop any entries without names by February 5th.
6. The tournament will operate with all MSHSAA rules and regulations. In the event MSHSAA does not cover an event, NSDA rules will apply.

[MSHSAA Speech & Debate Manual](#)

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EVENT SPECIFIC RULES:

Debate Rules:

1. Advancing will be determined by:
 - a. Win/Loss Record
 - b. Head-to-head
 - c. Record of opponent lost to
 - d. Total opposition record
 - e. Opposition's opposition record
 - f. Total speaker points if needed
2. MSHSAA prep times to be used as each team/debater sees fit:
 - a. Lincoln-Douglas - 4 minutes
 - b. Policy Debate - 8 minutes
 - c. Public Forum - 3 minutes
3. Contestants are held to MSHSAA rules and regulations.
4. All contestants are expected to keep track of their own time.
5. Policy and Public Forum tie-breakers:
 - a. Win/Loss Record
 - b. Speaker ranks
 - c. Record of opponent lost to
 - d. Total of opposition record
 - e. Opposition's opposition record
6. Lincoln-Douglas tie-breakers:
 - a. Win/loss record
 - b. Record of opposition lost to
 - c. Total opposition record
 - d. Opposition's opposition record
 - e. Total speaker points
7. Brackets will not be broken. Coaches whose teams advance to hit each other will be given the option to either debate the round or have the higher seed advance.

Tournament Debate Topics:

Lincoln-Douglas January/February Topic:

Resolved: The possession of nuclear weapons is immoral.

Policy:

Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.

Public Forum February Topic:

Resolved: The Federal Trade Commission should establish a federal regulatory framework for sports betting.

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Student Congress Legislation:

The tournament will be using EastMo District legislation; it is available in the Files for Download section on SpeechWire. All legislation besides the Finals Legislation (listed below) is reserved for the Preliminary Rounds.

The Finals Legislation consists of the following:

- A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Abolish the Senate (Ladue)
- A Bill to Repeal the One Big Beautiful Bill (Parkway South)
- A Resolution to Commit to the Repatriation of Arts and Relics to Correct Imperialist Injustices (Parkway West)
- A Bill to Restore Cougars to the Eastern United States to Promote the Health of the Ecosystem (Capital City)
- A Bill to Reintroduce the Woolly Mammoth to Restore Ecosystems and Advance Scientific Innovation (CSMB)

Event Rules and Regulations:

1. Any student more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit participation in that round (provided the delay is not the fault of the tournament).
2. Double-entered students are expected to complete both performances in the time allotted for each round.
3. Procedures for double-entered event students are outlined in the Tournament Hub.

Domestic and International Extemp:

1. Students will draw three topics and select one to prepare a speech. Students will have 30 minutes of preparation time. No notes may be used during the speech and students may not consult with others.
2. Double-entered students should perform extemp first and ask the staff in the draw room to move the student up.

Original Oratory:

1. 10 minutes maximum. Students will present an original persuasive speech from memory. The speech may not contain more than 150 words of quoted material.

Informative Speaking:

1. 10 minutes maximum.
2. Students will present an original informative speech from memory. Students present information that the audience may or may not possess and that the student believes

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is important - the goal is education, not advocacy. Visual aids are permitted per the NSDA rules.

Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation:

1. 10 minutes maximum.
2. Students will present a cutting from a published work or quality literature. The cutting may contain dialogue or may be a monologue, and it must be accompanied by an original introduction. The students must present the piece from memory without the aid of costumes or props. Movement should be minimal.

Duo Interpretation (not Duet Acting):

1. 10 minutes maximum.
2. A two-person team of students will perform a memorized selection from a published source of literary merit. An introduction must be provided. Students will use off-stage focus. NFL rules will apply to this event.

Prose/Poetry:

1. 8 minutes maximum.
2. Students will present EITHER a selection of prose OR poetry for this event. At the coach's and students' discretion, students may choose to perform prose for one round and poetry for the next, and so on, if they choose. Students may use a tablet/e-reader, per MSHSAA rules, or they may use a performance binder. This is a combined event.

Program Oral Interpretation:

1. 10 minutes maximum.
2. Students create a theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization. They draw on selections from prose, poetry, and/or drama. Students use at least two different genres. A manuscript (binder) must be used, and the pieces must be properly introduced.

Radio:

1. 5 minutes maximum.
2. Students will prepare and present a script with international, national, and local news, weather, and sports. The copy should be no more than 24 hours old as of the tournament's first round. There should be NO commercials, and students are not to portray multiple characters. Electronic devices are permitted for reading copy and/or as timing devices, so long as they are on silent. Judges should not face presenters. Time limit – 5 minutes. (Presenters should aim for this precise time.)

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Storytelling:

1. 8 minutes maximum.
2. Students will present a published story from memory. The story will be performed from a **seated position**. An introduction must be provided. No props or costumes are allowed. The intended audience for this event is children.

AWARDS AND SWEEPSTAKES:

We will recognize the top six competitors in each event as well as semi-finalists and finalists in debate. In terms of team awards, we will recognize the top 5 teams. Each school's best two entries in each event/division will be tabulated for sweepstakes awards.

Points in Events & Debate will be awarded to the top two entries from each school as follows:

Any Entry.....	one point
Event Semi-Finals.....	five points
Event Finals.....	ten points
Event Third Place.....	five points
Event Second Place.....	ten points
Event First Place.....	fifteen points
Debate Win	five points
Debate Quarterfinals	five points
Debate Semifinals	ten points
Debate Finals	fifteen points

AWARD CEREMONY:

It is planned, at this time, to hold the awards ceremony in the theatre. However, if time becomes an issue, awards may be in the Commons area. **Food & drinks are not allowed in the theatre.** It is suggested that students leave personal items in the Commons.

SPECTATORS:

Spectating rounds is allowed and encouraged. The events are meant to be enjoyed. However, some rules must be followed. All spectators must be mindful of the expected conduct during the round. Communication with those competing is not allowed either by device, orally, or any other method. Spectators may not use any type of device during a round for any purpose. Not being mindful of these expectations will result in removal from the room and being reported to tournament officials.

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TOURNAMENT PHILANTHROPY:

THE MARQUETTE SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE SAINT LOUIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AS OUR TOURNAMENT PHILANTHROPY PROJECT. FUNDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE "DISCOVERIES THROUGH RESEARCH PROGRAM". MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT OUR EVENT. SOME OF THE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE RAFFLES, VALENTINE CANDYGRAMS, A PENNY WAR, AND OTHER FUN EVENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

