

To the Pi Kappa Delta Community and all our forensic colleagues:

It is a distinct pleasure and honor to invite you to the Pi Kappa Delta 2026 National Convention and Tournament, March 18-22, 2026 at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO.

The National Council of Pi Kappa Delta and our local hosts have been working tirelessly to plan a wonderful convention and tournament that embraces the Pi Kappa Delta ideals of pedagogical competition in a healthy and welcoming environment. Convention years are a special part of Pi Kappa Delta, expanding our academic and scholarly offerings to students.

This year's convention and tournament will feature a five-day schedule that supports comprehensive forensic activity in both debate and individual events. We will feature out-rounds in debate and performance showcases for individual events. In addition to the traditional slate of forensic individual events, we will offer events unique to Pi Kappa Delta including To Honor, Discussion, Reader's Theater, and asynchronous Podcasting, Extemporaneous Commentary and Student Scholarship.

In our quest to increase the scholarly footprint of our organization and its members, we are also including a new graduate student division of the Student Scholarship competition. This competition will offer graduate students the opportunity to receive expert peer reviews on their work, and compete for top paper awards.

Our debate offerings have been expanded this year to include IPDA, NPDA, Public Forum, Team IPDA, LD, and CEDA. More information on these events is included in this invitation.

We look forward to seeing you in Springfield in March!

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Tournament Travel in March is challenging. Here are ideas many in the community are *already doing*. PKD suggests these as potential sources of additional funding:

1. Alumni Office

Alums are welcome at all PKD events. They cover judging entries, sure; but there's a lot more for them at this year's Biennial: an alumni Reception, Caucus (a forum to discuss changes/needs) and Showcases. The latter includes *competition* for platform, interpretation & limited prep events, so dust off your lil black books and break out those note cards!

We suggest contacting your alumni offices to find your people in the Southwest Missouri Area. That department might have special funds to distribute. PKD is happy to supply letters or work directly with your alumni-office personnel. Our activities and banquet are perfect places to compete, think and, *of course*, fundraise!

2. Professional Development Funds (Students + Coaches)

Schools can seek funds from existing development programs and Student Councils. The Biennial has a number of opportunities that usually qualify for support, including:

- Professional development panels built into the schedule.
- Faculty & student submissions for proposals and papers to present/workshop.
- Our Student Scholarship event has returned, and expanded to include a graduate student research division. Both undergraduate and graduate divisions include the potential to publish in The Forensic.

3. Admissions

We are offering students the opportunity to learn about PKD's chapters with our Transfer & Graduate Schools Fair. In Arizona, this event sparked hundreds of conversations. In Missouri, we have a huge space for our fair and hope that you will join in by setting up a table and also inviting your students to walk through. We also recommend members contact their Admissions department to see if there are recruitment funds to support team expenditures.

4. PKD Grants

Things happen; budgets get cut. We want to allay your concerns as best we can. Participating schools may submit requests for grants covering participation and tournament slot fees. The grant application and rules will be available on the Pi Kappa Delta website. For more information, please contact Adam Blood at ablood@uwf.edu.

Accommodations

We recommend booking reservations early—PKD has secured special rates available until Feb 15th, but the blocks may sell out.

Hotel information is available at www.pikappadelta.net

III. Procedures, Policies, Practices

Our “Policies and Procedures” document and bylaws are undergoing changes; we have convened a number of committees, sought external guidance and analyzed the results from our massive DEIBA survey. We will redistribute those documents in 2026; but here are a sample of changes made based on member responses:

- A Procedures and Traditions Table at Registration will double-check entry names and pronunciation, hear concerns about accessibility, and provide the space for students, coaches and alums a new space to be heard - conversations, written feedback, etc.
- Name Tags. Participants will be provided with name tags at the registration table.
- We have always encouraged members to remit tournament/convention needs regarding individual accommodations to the Tournament Director. We will do our best to accommodate mobility challenges, and will provide prompts in accessible formats. Because “reasonable accommodation” means a lot of things to a lot of people, we are asking members to consider more broadly all available means to enhance the experience for themselves and students while at PKD-related events.
- New Impromptu/Extemporaneous practices will ensure each are in buildings close to the Help Desk. For Impromptu, (1) a centralized individual will be on hand to distribute prompts in ADA-compliant font and script; (2) a change for better ADA inclusion requires that time does not begin until either a *mandatory :20 reading time* or a verbal cue is issued by competitor.
- The Council will empower an additional step in topic review, including a topic reviewer who will create criteria for limited preparation and debate topics to ensure they reflect the Mission/Vision statements.
- New procedures and guiding documents for judges will involve a judge training session and discussion about everything from facilitating inclusive environments to understanding new events and rules.
- PKD has replaced the generic Title IX requirements with a more active statement of ethics. All participants in Biennial-related events will be asked to review and sign our Code of Ethical Conduct prior to attendance. This will help apply a more equitable set of standards and practices at the tournament/convention.

Tournament Structure

Except for the asynchronous events listed later in this invitation, all competition will be live and in-person as per the schedule listed below. Our three online events (e.g., Podcasting, Student Scholarship, Extemporaneous Commentary) are meant to both help members who are unable to travel to Missouri actively participate in PKD events, and give in-person competitors an additional creative competition outlet.

A reminder that our celebrations at the Biennial are a little different than the National Comprehensive Tournament. To promote the egalitarian principles of our organization, we offer three rounds. From those results, several students from each eligible event will be selected to participate in a Showcase (that process of selection is outlined below). The *Top Superiors* will be invited to participate in a “Super Showcase” where, one after the other, your National Champions present their speeches. Debate events will have out-rounds as usual.

At the Banquet—a formal event, celebration and awards ceremony—the tournament staff will award all Excellent (top 20%) and Superior (top 10%) speakers with awards. All Showcase participants receive additional acknowledgement.

Eligibility

As a reminder, PKD does not use a season-long qualification process—making this an excellent opportunity for all students to compete at a national tournament regardless of what their 2025-2026 season has looked like thus far.

Each competitor must be an undergraduate student in good standing who has not completed eight semesters of forensic participation; none shall have attended any collegiate national forensic tournament for four years prior to the current year.

To become (or renew) membership: click “Join Now” on the PKD website (www.pikappadelta.net); select “Undergraduate Member” from the drop-down menu, and then follow the listed steps.

Each participant must be a PKD member or have filed an application for membership with the national office prior to the start of the tournament.

Each individual member should complete their membership application online because they will be asked to select a username and designate a password. At the end of the process, they select an option on the payment screen. Coaches can pay for a number of

memberships in one payment (check/credit) by selecting “pay by check” on the payment screen and requesting a payment link via email from ablood@uwf.edu or 417-437-1437.

Commitment to Belonging and Accessibility

Creating an inclusive and safe space for all participants is a top priority for Pi Kappa Delta. In addition to those new processes outlined above, we commit to policies as written in PKD’s Constitution:

Discrimination Policy:

Article II.201 Pi Kappa Delta is committed to assuring equal opportunity to all persons, regardless of race, color, religious creed, national origin, physical ability status, age, economic status, gender, sex or sexual orientation. Pi Kappa Delta is opposed to all forms of discrimination and seeks to establish a tolerant atmosphere in which every individual is accorded respect. Mindful of the importance of First Amendment freedoms, Pi Kappa Delta reminds its members of their ethical obligations to audience members and encourages members to refrain from disrespectful or derogatory speech. As an organization dedicated to fostering the development of functional leadership skills, Pi Kappa Delta encourages the participation of individuals from traditionally under-represented groups. Pi Kappa Delta is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Compliance Officer:

Article VI.601 Practices and Procedures Committee. It shall be the function of this committee to uphold Pi Kappa Delta's Statement on Discrimination. The Compliance Officer appointed by the President of Pi Kappa Delta and approved by the National Council will chair this committee. This committee will be responsible for investigating charges of discrimination and recommending appropriate action, if necessary, to the National Council. This committee must maintain the confidentiality of all involved to the maximum extent possible in order to conduct a fair and thorough investigation.

The Pi Kappa Delta Code of Conduct. In compliance with Article II.201, PKD issued a new Code of Conduct in 2024 replacing its previous Title IX requirements. This document will be made available prior to competition via Speechwire. In order to provide the most fair, equitable, and inclusive environment, respecting the Pi Kappa Delta motto of “The Art of Persuasion: Beautiful and Just,” all participants in any PKD-sanctioned event will agree to it. The term “Participant” includes all competitors, performers, judges, coaches, volunteers, observers, and tournament staff. To be in compliance with this policy, please have all participants from your school read the [Code of Conduct](#). To sign the code, have the primary contact (DOF, faculty advisor, team captain) for your school complete [this form](#).

Ombuds. The President of PKD, in compliance with Article VI.601 will appoint an ombuds to serve as tournament/convention. They will remain anonymous; but can be reached at ombudspkd@gmail.com.

Topic Reviewers: To more closely align tournament practice with its discrimination policy, the President of PKD will appoint a panel of readers to vet competition-related documentation (e.g., impromptu prompts, extemporaneous questions, Parliamentary debate resolutions, etc).

* * *

These and other tournament/convention processes will be outlined in the updated PKD Policies and Procedures document on www.pikappadelta.com.

Violations of PKD’s policies will not be tolerated; contact information for the Tournament Ombuds will be provided at the Tournament and Convention for all teams to register their concerns/complaints.

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Though without permanent grounds, Pi Kappa Delta has nonetheless benefited from policies—historical and ongoing—that disenfranchise indigenous populations. Our responsibilities as an academic nonprofit are multifold. First, we recognize this dispossession at the lands on which our tournaments occur. Second, recognizing the experiences of our native members and fellow citizens is essential as our organization continues to collectively engage and improve relationships, garner new community partnerships and further our collective project to advance an *ethics of persuasion*. We are thanking to Missouri State for providing the following statement:

We humbly acknowledge the traditional ancestral territory of the Osage, Sioux, Kickapoo, and Kaskaskia First Nations, which has historically been cared for and inhabited by these peoples and holds significance as part of the Trail of Tears. By honoring the land and its Indigenous caretakers, we recognize and respect the enduring connection these nations have with this territory. With this acknowledgment, we commit ourselves to addressing the injustices perpetuated by oppressive systems that expelled Indigenous peoples from their lands and suppressed their right to self-determination and sovereignty. We pledge to actively learn from Indigenous wisdom, experiences, and resilience. The process of knowing and acknowledging the land we stand on is a way of honoring and expressing gratitude for the ancestral people who were on this land before us. For more information on Trail of Tears, refer to: [Multi-State: Trail of Tears National Historic Trail \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/trailoftears/).

We will attempt to do honor to these histories and work against the pervasive and insidious effects of settler colonialism.

PKD Membership and Fees

All students participating in this tournament must be members of Pi Kappa Delta. Membership is \$50 (process outlined in previous section above). Similarly, all schools participating must be members of Pi Kappa Delta in good standing. Membership fees are as follows, depending on when memberships are submitted and paid:

Before Feb. 13 \$100.00 *After Feb. 13 or at Registration \$150

All chapter dues and student memberships must be paid prior to a chapter registering for the tournament. ***Those not in good standing will have entries dropped prior to the start of the tournament/convention.***

Payments may be processed via the website at www.pikappadelta.net through “Join PKD.”

- Or: For consolidated credit card payments (paying for multiple memberships in a single transaction), send an email request directly to ablood@uwf.edu. You will receive a payment link to enter your credit card information securely.)
- Or: Check payments should be received prior to the tournament and should be sent to:
Pi Kappa Delta
c/o Adam Blood
11000 University Pkwy
Building 36/Room 124
Pensacola FL 32514

Please note that this payment procedure is for student and institutional PKD memberships. The participation, judging, and competitive slot fees will be collected at the registration table at the tournament.

Entry Fees

All tournament entry fees will be collected at registration on site. We will be using a traditional registration table at the start of the convention. If your school requires pre-payment or other accommodations, please contact Adam Blood via the email above.

Participation Fee: Each person (including coaches & judges) attending the tournament will be assessed a participation fee to subsidize food and beverage costs for multiple hospitality events throughout the tournament.

- Participation Fee \$50.00

- Individual Event Entries (per slot) \$11.00
- Unflighted Debate (NPDA, PF, LD, TIPDA, CEDA) \$65.00
- Flighted Debate (IPDA) \$37.00

The following are in addition to the above fees...

- Uncovered IE \$15.00
- Uncovered Unflighted Debate \$120.00
- Uncovered Flighted Debate (per entry) \$70.00

Late Drop Fees

- After February 13 - per drop \$ 10.00
- After February 27 - per drop \$ 20.00
- After March 6- per drop \$ 30.00
- At Registration (18) - per drop \$ 50.00
- Late Fee for Registrations \$100.00

Tournament Entry and Change Deadlines

There will be no charge for name changes. Other uncovered and penalty fees will be assessed as a means of helping to ensure an efficient and accurate tournament. Once fees are assessed, no refunds for any portion of fees will be provided.

Tournament entries are submitted via **Speechwire.com**. To enter go to **Speechwire.com** and find *Pi Kappa Delta – 2026 Biennial*. Instructions follow. Schools **must** enter in this manner.

- Tournament entries must be received by Friday, February 13th. For problems, contact Dr. Jessica Furgerson at jessica.furgerson@uc.edu or (210) 854-7967.
- All changes should be made by 5:00 pm Central Standard Time on Feb. 27 to avoid excessive drop fees. Changes can be made online.
- All **changes on/after March 6th: email directly** to jessica.furgerson@uc.edu.
- A chapter canceling their entry after March 1 will be obligated for full fees assessed as of their time of dropping from the tournament.

Tournament Director's General Notes:

1. Names *and their pronunciation* are important; please utilize Speechwire's pronunciation tool!

2. All participants will be addressed by their preferred name. Any student who feels theirs is or will be misrepresented—or wishes to change theirs independently—is encouraged to do so by reaching out to Dr. Furgerson. Our DEIBA Table at Registration will be available to discuss or double-check concerns related to treatment at PKD-related events.
3. If students, judges or general participants have concerns about accessibility at the tournament or other PKD-related events, we encourage them to reach out to Dr. Furgerson for accommodations.

Judges

All competing chapters are expected to provide qualified judges to cover **a minimum of 50%** of their entries. A chapter must provide...

- *One judge for every **EIGHT** individual event entries*
- *One judge designated solely for asynchronous events.*
- *One judge for every **TWO** NPDA, TIPDA, PF, or LD entries*
- *One judge for every **THREE** IPDA entries.*
- *One judge for every **TWO** CEDA entries.*

****Schools must cover 50% of their entry in NPDA, TIPDA, IPDA, PF, or LD formats of debate, and 100% of CEDA entries (not all debate entries combined). Ex. If a school has four NPDA, two IPDA, and two LD entries, it would need to provide two NPDA judges, one IPDA judge, and one LD judge.****

A judge may cover both individual events and debate events in the following combinations:

- *Individual events, Reader's Theater, and half of any debate entry except CEDA*
- *Individual events & one-full debate entry (except CEDA) as outlined above.*
- *CEDA judges may not be utilized to cover any other in-person events but can be designated as an asynchronous judge in addition to their debate commitment.*

General Judging Notes:

1. Teams utilizing judges to cover both debate and IE entries are consenting to a full day of judging—although we will do our best to give those judges rounds off in appreciation of their service, we cannot make this guarantee.
2. Debate judges are obligated one round beyond the point their students are eliminated. Judging for IE, alumni and Discussion showcase events is by request and experience.

3. Judges should possess a degree or have experience as a forensic judge. We will not consider current undergraduate students regardless of experience unless they have maximized their eligibility to compete. We highly recommend that judges are at least one-year removed from competition.
4. Because of IPDA's Constitution, those debates may utilize undergraduate judges. This will be the only event in which rules on judges' qualifications will be exempted. Any undergraduate judge must be approved by the tournament director. Undergraduate judges may not be entered as competitors in any tournament event—including async.
5. Judges will be considered for events in categories of entries corresponding to their school's entry (i.e. they will be entered in individual events if entered in IEs; in the debate pattern in which their students compete).

A limited number of hired judges will be available; requests for hired judges should be made through the Tournament Director. Hired judges are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Chapters relying heavily on hired judges will be allowed to enter students only insofar as they are available. Chapters in this situation should contact the Tournament Director immediately.

Asynchronous Judging

Each school with entries in the asynchronous events must designate a judge as per the guidelines listed above (all are IEs—one judge will cover 8 entries). Schools may use an on-site judge to meet this requirement; though PKD recommends engaging alumni, school officials and other, non-attending dignitaries, to complete these obligations.

To start or renew an alumni chapter, please reach out to Dr. Adam Blood (ablood@uwf.edu).

The following guidelines will apply to the designated judge:

- Async judges will have the duration of preliminary competition (Mar 18-21), to complete their assigned commitments. Judging ends Saturday, Mar. 21 @ 5pm.
- Depending on the size of the events, judges will receive 1-3 rounds of competition.
- On-site judges who are designated for async rounds will still be responsible for completing their in-person rounds.

Cross Entering and Double Entry

Every effort has been made to include a wide variety of events within a schedule that is humane and limited to four days of competition. Because of our commitment to honor

comprehensive forensics with an extensive slate of events, limitations on the degree to which a student can cross between individual events and debate are necessary.

Students may enter:

- Two individual events in any flight
- One format of debate in each flight
- Two duos, with different partners and each duo counting as an event
- Individual Events and Reader's Theatre and/or Discussion
- Individual Events and any debate format except CEDA
- CEDA and no other events
- Discussion and Reader's Theatre but no debate in the first debate flight
- Reader's Theatre & ONE flight of Debate w/ALL cast members in the same flight
- Student Congress and Discussion

Sweepstakes and Awards

Individual Events (AFA 11 + Interviewing and Broadcast Journalism)

Points will be computed for the top three contestants from each chapter in each event according to the following formula:

Superior	5 points
Excellent	4 points
Good	3 points
Participation	1 point

Debate

Points will be computed from a chapter's top eight debaters. For LD and IPDA, a single slot counts as 1 debater. For NPDA, PF, TIPA, and CEDA each entry contains 2 debaters. (Possible combinations include but are not limited to 3 IPDA entries, 2 NPDA entry, 1 LD entry **OR** 4 NPDA entries, **OR** 8 IPDA entries.)

<i>Preliminary rounds</i>		<i>Elimination Rounds</i>	
Superior	10 points	First Place	10 points
Excellent	8 points	Second Place	8 points
Good	6 points	Semifinalist	6 points
Participation	2 points	Quarterfinalist	2 points

Combined

Combined sweepstakes will be calculated based on your total points from Individual Event Sweepstakes, Debate Sweepstakes, and points earned through participating in PKD Special Events. Schools must enter at least one slot in PKD Special Events to be eligible for Combined sweepstakes.

PKD Special Events (Asynchronous Events, Discussion, Student Congress, Reader's Theater, To Honor, Spanish Language Events, Oral History, etc.)

Points will be computed for the top 20 entries across all PKD Special Events according to the following formula:

Superior	5 points
Excellent	4 points
Good	3 points
Participation	1 point

Individual Awards - Tournament

All elimination and showcase round participants in debate and individual events (including online events) will receive awards based on their final placing in the event. Speaker awards will also be presented in each of the debate events. Since there are no elimination rounds held for Individual Events at the Biennial, participants will receive awards based on their placing as determined by preliminary rounds of competition. Awards in these events are announced in ascending order with the top seed from prelims being announced last.

Individual Sweepstakes: Students entered in five or more events are eligible for an Individual Sweepstakes award. In determining these awards, only the student's best 5 slots in preliminary rounds will be considered. Students must compete in at least two genres (debate, public address, oral interpretation, limited preparation) to be eligible.

1. Contestants earn 3 points for each first place; 2 points for each second place; and 1 point for each third place rank received in the three preliminary rounds.
2. In debate, contestants earn 3 points per preliminary round win.
3. In the event of a tie in Individual Sweepstakes, the tie-breaking procedure will be:
 - a. Number of first place rankings;
 - b. Number of debate wins;
 - c. Number of second place rankings;
 - d. Number of third place rankings.

Individual Awards - Convention

- *R. David Ray* - Outstanding New Chapter (Within Last Five Years)--Chapters are encouraged to nominate themselves for this award. Consideration is given to chapters who demonstrate excellence through service in the forensics community, have done outreach in their communities or have found a way to

make an impact. To nominate your chapter, please send a nomination letter to the Historian, Gina Jensen at jensen@webster.edu.

- *Carolyn Keefe* - Outstanding Alumnus for contribution to the Pi Kappa Delta Community. This award recognizes alumni who have contributed to PKD by giving back to their local chapters or the organization as a whole. These individuals stand out above others for their dedication and service over an extended period of time. To nominate an alumnus, please send a nomination letter to the Historian, Gina Jensen at jensen@webster.edu.
- *All-American Award* - Individual students in their Junior or Senior year of Undergraduate competition are eligible. For the nomination process, navigate to the Convention information below.
- *Two-Year Rising Star Award* - Individual students enrolled in a Community College or in their first/second year of undergraduate participation are eligible. For the nomination process, navigate to the Convention information below.

General Schedule of Biennial Events

General times provided below for both competition and convention-relation events. Many will run concurrently. Times are subject to change.

	Wednesday, MARCH 18
3-6pm	Registration (Late payments and changes; Receive PKD Ribbons, Voting Designations, Name Tags); DEIBA Table
3-6pm	Graduate and Transfer Students Fair
5-6:30pm	Welcome Receptions (#1: Student; #2: Coaches, Judges, Alumni); Food and beverages provided
6:30-8pm	Business Meeting #1 (Roll-Call, Nominations for PKD President, R. David Ray Award, New Chapter Induction, General Business)
8-9pm	Province Meetings

	Thursday, MARCH 19
8am-6pm	General Tournament Competition
10am-4pm	Graduate and Transfer Students Fair
12-1pm	Professional Development Panel #1
	Meet the Presidential Candidates Forum (Voting Begins)
	Student Caucus (Facilitated by Student Representative)
1-2pm	Alumni Caucus (Facilitated by Grad Student Representative)

	Friday, MARCH 20
8am-6pm	General Competition
10am-4pm	Graduate and Transfer Students Fair (Final Day!)
12-1pm	Professional Development Panel #2
6-8pm	Business Meeting #2 (Roll Call, Nominations for At-Large Council representatives; Rising Star student awards, Carolyn Keefe awards)

	Saturday, MARCH 21
8am-6pm	General Competition
12-1pm	Professional Development Panel #3
1-2pm	Meet the Candidates Forum (Voting Begins)
5-6:30pm	Past-President's Dinner (Invitational Event)
6:30-8pm	Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Celebration (Food provided; cash bar) - All are Encouraged to Attend!

	Sunday, MARCH 22
8am-4pm	Debate Elimination Rounds, Individual Event Showcases
10-11am	Professional Development Panel #4
11am- 12pm	Discussion "Showcase" Panel
7-10pm	Pi Kappa Delta Biennial Banquet & Awards

Competition Schedule

Tentative Schedule 2026

Thursday

8:00	Flight A Round 1 (IMP, INFO, PRO, SL, INT)
9:30	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
	Student Congress Round 1
10:00	NPDA Round 1 / IPDA Round 1A / CEDA Round 1 (12:15 decision)
10:30	IPDA Round 1B
11:15	Extemp Draw
11:30	Flight B Round 1 (DUO, POI, PER, EXT)
12:45	Debate Draw - TIPDA
1:15	LD, PF, TIPDA Round 1
	Reader's Theater Round 1
2:15	Debate Draw - TIPDA
2:45	LD, PF, TIPDA Round 2 / CEDA Round 2 (5:00 decision)
3:30	Broadcast Journalism Draw
3:45	Flight C Round 1 (POE, CA, ADS, DI, BJ)
5:00	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
	Discussion Round 1
5:30	NPDA Round 2 / IPDA Round 2A
6:00	IPDA Round 2B

Friday

8:00	Broadcast Journalism Draw
8:15	Flight C Round 2 (POE, CA, ADS, DI, BJ) CEDA Round 3 (10:30 decision)
9:30	Debate Draw - TIPDA
10:00	LD, PF, TIPDA Round 3 /
11:00	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
	Student Congress Round 2
11:30	NPDA Round 3 / IPDA Round 3A / CEDA Round 4 (1:45 decision)
12:00	IPDA Round 3B
12:30	Flight A Round 2 (IMP, INFO, PRO, SL, INT)
1:45	Debate Draw - TIPDA
2:15	LD, PF, TIPDA Round 4 /
	Reader's Theater Round 2
3:30	Extemp Draw
3:45	Flight B Round 2 (DUO, POI, PER, EXT) / CEDA Round 5 (6:00 decision)
5:30	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
	Discussion Round 2
6:00	NPDA Round 4 / IPDA Round 4A
6:30	IPDA Round 4B

Saturday

8:00	Debate Draw – TIPDA
8:30	LD, PF, TIPDA Round 5
	Discussion Round 3
9:45	Broadcast Journalism Draw
10:00	Flight C Round 3 (POE, CA, ADS, DI, BJ) / CEDA Round 6 (12:15 decision)
10:45	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
11:15	NPDA Round 5/ IPDA Round 5A
	Student Congress Round 3
11:45	IPDA Round 5B
12:15	Extemp Draw
12:30	Flight B Round 3 (DUO, POI, PER, EXT)
1:45	Flight A Round 3 (IMP, INFO, PRO, SL, INT)
3:00	Debate Draw – TIPDA
3:30	LD, PF, TIPDA, CEDA Elimination Round 1
4:45	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
5:15	NPDA / IPDA Elimination Round 1

Sunday

8:30	Individual Events Showcase
	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
9:00	NPDA/IPDA Elimination Round 2
10:15	Debate Draw – TIPDA
10:45	LD, PF, TIPDA, CEDA Elimination Round 2
11:00	Individual Events Showcase
12:00	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
12:30	NPDA/IPDA Elimination Round 3
1:30	Individual Events Showcase
2:30	Debate Draw – TIPDA
3:00	LD, PF, TIPA, CEDA Elimination Round 3
3:30	Individual Events Showcase
3:30	Debate Draw – NPDA/IPDA
4:00	NPDA/IPDA Elimination Round 4

Event Rules and Requirements

The rules and requirements for each event will be determined by their home organization (NPDA, IPDA, NFA-LD, AFA, College Public Forum). PKD Statements on these events and general event descriptions for other events can be found below.

Flight Patterns

- A. Impromptu, Informative, Prose, Spanish Language Events, Interviewing
- B. Duo, Extemp, Persuasion, Program Oral Interpretation, To Honor
- C. After Dinner, Communication Analysis, Dramatic, Poetry, Broadcast Journalism

(Async Events: Podcasting, Student Scholarship, Extemporaneous Commentary)

Spanish Language Interpretation/Platform: A student will perform ANY selection of interpretation or platform predominantly in Spanish. The length of this event is 10 minutes (with introduction). Contestants will be judged on their performance in Spanish. The aim of this event is to allow competitors to compete in the language they prefer and to celebrate their Spanish-speaking abilities. As such, translated literature is acceptable. Use of a manuscript is required for interpretation. Manuscripts are not encouraged in platform.

Spanish Language Impromptu: Similarly, students who wish to participate in a Spanish-language limited preparation event may do so. The 7-minute event follows traditional AFA rules; students receive a quotation in Spanish. Students may enter up to two Spanish-Language events; however, they all take place during Flight A and should plan accordingly with regards to the other events. Note the new PKD-specific rule for Impromptu events this year: time does not begin until either a *mandatory :20 reading time* or a verbal cue (e.g., “I’m starting”) is issued by the competitor.

Interviewing: Rounds 1 and 2 will consist of an interview lasting no longer than 10 minutes conducted by the judge utilizing the same question-set for each competitor. Round 3 will have judges evaluate and rank student resumes based on their résumé-writing techniques and the overall strength of their résumé. A rubric will be provided to all judges who participate in the résumé-critique round.

Competitors entered in Interviewing must provide an accessible link to their resume (either Google Doc Dropbox or other similar option) of their résumé **by** registration. Please double check the permissions settings on document links to ensure judges are permitted to view the document.

Broadcast Journalism: A contestant will present a well-organized, clearly communicated radio broadcast. The focus of this event is to demonstrate skill in

selection, organization and presentation of a simulated broadcast news/talk program. Speakers will choose and edit the material to be exactly five minutes in length.

Previous versions of this event focused on tournament staff providing copious written material. To be more mindful of the *actual* processes of contemporary radio news/talk, we have updated the rules to best reflect current trends as a competitive event.

30 minutes before each round, students will receive a randomized list of topics each broadcaster *must* cover. Participants should, then, create an entirely factual account of the topics identified. A portion may be the student's opinion about any of the topics.

Like in Extemporaneous Speaking, each ordered speaker will receive a different set of topics to ensure fairness: Round 1, Speaker 1 might be prompted to provide stories about Central America, the US Congress and Climate Change; Speaker 2 could, then, receive requirements that include European Football, the Chinese Yuan and U.S. Higher Education recruitment policies. While other stories *can be included* to make time, judging criteria will favor those identified in the round's prompt. Judges will be made aware of the topics in advance.

Call letters/radio-platform identification, as well as references to weather, sponsors, programming, etc., are acceptable, but not required.

Reader's Theatre: Reader's Theatre is the interpretation of literature by a group of oral readers who act as a medium of expression for an audience. While Reader's Theatre is both oral and visual, the emphasis is on oral interpretation of the printed word and its resultant effects on the minds, emotions, and imaginations of the listeners/viewers. The audience should have the feeling of a unified whole in which each performer at all times contributes to the total effect desired. The time limitation for the performance is 25 minutes. An additional two minutes shall be allowed for both set-up and takedown of material. Reader's Theatre entries must include 3-14 participants. Students may not enter more than one reader's theatre. Programs (handouts) are *not* permitted.

Mechanics of Presentation are Limited as Follows:

1. The audience must have a sense of production being interpreted from a manuscript. Director, performers, and judges should be allowed freedom to exercise artistic, interpretive judgment; however, manuscripts must be used during the presentation.
2. Suggestions in contemporary or ensemble dress may be used. The literature should determine the nature of this suggestion, although costuming should not be a focus of the presentation.

3. Reading stands, chairs, stools, ladders, platforms, steps, props, and/or lighting effects may be used. However, the limitation of facilities (space, time, equipment, etc.) should govern a director's concept.
4. Readers may sit, stand, or both; they may move from one reading stand or locale to another so long as the movement is consistent with the ideas or moods of the literature and the director's concept.
5. Music/sound effects, recorded or live, are acceptable as background accompaniment and part of the context.
6. A performer whose sole function is to play a musical instrument on or off stage will be counted in the total number of performers.

Student Congress: Each session will be divided into chambers of no more than 18 students each. Sessions will be no longer than two hours each. Parliamentary procedures, as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, will be followed. Speakers are ranked/rated by judges on their speaking and advocacy skills, as well as their understanding and use of parliamentary procedure. Additionally, a top legislator will be selected via peer voting for each chamber. Schools may submit **ONLY ONE** piece of legislation by March 1st. Submissions must be made to Dr. Jessica Furgerson at jessica.furgerson@uc.edu.

NDT/CEDA Debate

The 2026 PKD will offer CEDA debate. The format will be 9-3-6 with 10 minutes prep, using the 2025-2026 labor topic:

Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially strengthen collective bargaining rights for workers in the United States.

We will offer Open, JV, and Novice divisions with eligibility as defined by the [CEDA Constitution](#). Open is available to PKD eligible undergraduates, JV debaters should typically be in their first two years of college competition, and novices should have limited (under 100 rounds of PF, 50 of LD, or 24 of CX policy) or no HS experience.

Novice debaters are requested to use arguments represented in the [ADA novice packet](#), but evidence can come from outside the packet. An exception is made for positions uploaded to NDTCEDA OpenCaseList by Monday, March 9, 2026.

Judges will be placed consistent with PKD placement procedures, not MPJ. Judges should enter constraints to prevent judging programs or individuals where they have an abnormal relationship, and must submit a ballot within 2 hours and 15 minutes of start time.

Participants should conduct themselves consistent with PKD ethics and abide by the CEDA policies against harassment.

Public Forum Debate:

PKD Public Forum (PF) is a collegiate adaptation of the National Speech and Debate Association's (NSDA) Public Forum debate format. PF retains the original structure and timing while incorporating collegiate expectations for argumentation, style, and conduct. One key structural difference: **Grand Crossfire is eliminated** to prioritize structured crystallization and professionalism.

Teams are made up of two individuals of the same school.

II. Speech Format & Timing

Public Forum follows this speech order and time structure:

Speech	Time
Team A Constructive	4 mins
Team B Constructive	4 mins
Crossfire (1st speakers)	3 mins
Team A Rebuttal	4 mins
Team B Rebuttal	4 mins
Crossfire (2nd speakers)	3 mins
Team A Summary	3 mins
Team B Summary	3 mins
Team A Final Focus	3 mins

Team B Final Focus 3 mins

Prep Time (per team) 3 mins

Total Round Time: Approximately 42 minutes

Note: “Team A” and “Team B” are used to designate sides post-coin flip (Pro/Con and speaking order).

Round Procedure

A. Coin Toss

A coin toss determines which team chooses **either**:

- Side (Pro or Con), or
- Speaking order (First or Second)

The opposing team selects the remaining option.

B. Crossfire

- Two **Crossfire periods only**:
 - After Constructives (1st speakers)
 - After Rebuttals (2nd speakers)
- **No Grand Crossfire** following Summary speeches.

Crossfire is a **mutual questioning period**, not a speech or debate extension. It should be civil, purposeful, and strategic. The only individuals allowed to speak during crossfire are the speakers who finished their first speech. For example, Speaker 1 on Team A and Speaker 1 on Team B will engage in the first crossfire, and Speaker 2 on Team A and Speaker 2 on Team B will engage in the second crossfire. No other speaking engagement is allowed from either side during this time, except to hand notes/evidence to one’s colleague. The first speaker in that speech block (Constructive or Rebuttal) will ask the first question.

IV. Rules of the Format

A. Speech Expectations

- Emphasize **clarity over speed**; spreading is discouraged.
- All arguments must be **structured**, with clear **claims, warrants, and impacts**.
- Arguments should **progress across the round** (constructive → rebuttal → summary → final focus).
- Impact calculus and round framing should occur in all speeches.

B. Evidence Rules

- Paraphrasing is permitted, but **evidence must be accurately represented**.
- Cards must be **provided promptly** upon request (physically or digitally).
- Evidence **must include author, date, and source** details.
- Fabrication or distortion of evidence is a **disqualifying offense**.
 - Claims of fabrication or distortion must be stated in the round OR reported to tournament staff within 30 minutes of the round ending.

C. Final Focus Restrictions

- **No new arguments** may be introduced in the Final Focus speeches.
- Only arguments **extended through Summary** may be crystallized in the Final Focus.
- Impact calculus and round framing should occur in both Summary and Final Focus.

D. Technology

- Laptops and tablets are allowed for prep, flowing, and evidence management.
- Stopwatches and the use of phones for timing purposes is allowed. Use of phones for purposes other than timing are **NOT** permitted.
- Internet access during rounds is **NOT** permitted unless it is being used to access previously carded evidence by the competing team (ex. Dropbox, Google Drive) and shared excel flow sheets between debate partners.
 - The use of the internet for the purpose of gathering new evidence in the round is strictly forbidden.
- Competitors must be prepared with their evidence **before the round**.

Topic Selection

PKD PF will use:

- PKD Public Forum topics (semesterly)
- Topics will be released via PKD social media and via email on August 1 (FALL) and December 1 (SPRING)

Topic framing should allow for:

- Policy, philosophical, and real-world engagement.
- Strategic flexibility on both sides.

A Note on Recent Changes to Parliamentary Debate: because we mostly mirror the rules of an event's governing organization, we want to recognize NPDA's allowance of electronic flowing and its affirmation of in-round flex time.

PKD Note on Speeches and Debate: It has long been the policy of the PKD national tournament staff to adopt the rules of an event's governing organization. And though we will continue that tradition, we feel it is necessary to also assert that, following the mission statement of our organization, we hope to inspire a *spirit* within each event that makes room for accessibility, inclusiveness and ethical forms of communication.

We encourage all participants to maintain civic-mindedness throughout the competition in which speakers practice invitational rhetoric—articulated in safe, open, free and valued spaces. Participants using conquest or conversion tactics with the general effects of demeaning or dominating other competitors neither enrich the community nor advance the potential skills of a forensic education.

Persuasion Works

PKD is committed to our motto (“The Art of Persuasion: Beautiful and Just”). We believe the consequences of competition reach far beyond the tournament. Our “Persuasion Works” initiative aims to support student advocacy, voice, and the development of transferable skills that improve lives beyond the competitive atmosphere of tournaments.

Here are our Persuasion Works initiative for 2026:

- Student Scholarship aims to recognize and build critical and scholarly skills among students—especially undergraduates preparing for graduate study, and graduate students building a scholarly portfolio. This year, we are offering both undergraduate and graduate student divisions of Student Scholarship, and encouraging submission of both undergraduate and graduate student manuscripts to The Forensic for peer review and potential publication.
- The Flight A event, Interviewing aims to translate competitive experience into life success. Similarly, the new rules for Broadcasting attempt to more accurately reflect careers in broadcasting. The new Podcasting replicates skills now being standardized in such professional contexts.
- Speech and debate happens everywhere, all the time. Though a place for formal competition helps create opportunities for in-person discussions and effect, PKD believes that the future of speech and debate activities should concurrently exist in diffuse spaces. That's why we've increased the number of available opportunities for asynchronous participation—Podcasting, Extemporaneous Commentary, Student Scholarship.

Asynchronous Events:

All participants must be active PKD members, though do not have to attend the 2026 Biennial in Springfield, MO. Sweepstakes eligibility varies. Student entries will be digitally paired against other participants in three rounds of competition (resulting in at least three ballots).

In addition to entering participants via Speechwire, the process for entering *all* asynchronous events includes:

- Students record and upload video submissions independently. (We recommend using sites with easy-to-share options such as YouTube & Vimeo. Google/Dropbox accounts also work—ensuring the link shared on speechwire.com is accessible/viable and not password protected.)
- Video submissions *open* on speechwire.com, Mar 1, 2026 at 12:00pm EST.
- Video submissions *close* at 6:00pm, March 18, 2026—at the end of registration.

1. Extemporaneous Commentary (Asynchronous; Sweepstakes Eligible):

In a speech not to exceed 7-mins, participants conduct research and record a speech that proposes reform and responds to the following question:

What actions must be taken to ensure that Artificial Intelligence (AI) development reflects human values, not inhuman values?

Because this topic is wide-ranging, it is up to participants to define the central concerns/problems and their reasonable solutions/implementation. Here are some recommendations for participants to consider: LLMs vs. AI, ownership of AI companies, environmental and community impacts of data and server centers, the place of AI in education and civic life, governmental regulation and corporate influence on policy.

We encourage students to think broadly—not all solutions are necessarily national nor political; speeches may consider local, relational, social, communicative and/or economic efforts to inculcate productive change. There is no specific organizational structure for this speech. In fact, we encourage participants to break out of conventional speech patterns and be creative with arrangement. Ask: what format will *best* represent my arguments and evidence?

Judging Criteria Includes: Substance of Proposal / Viability – Proof of Solvency
Feasibility of Plan / Clarity in Explanations and Advocacy

2. Student Scholarship (Asynchronous; Sweepstakes Eligibility Varies):

Undergraduate Division:

In order to foster critical and scholarly opportunities for our students, we are offering a two-part competition. The first part welcomes students from all academic traditions. Students interested in taking their Communication, Forensics or academic work from similar disciplines should consider the second as well.

Part I: Turning Academic Research into Public Presentations (Sweepstakes Eligible): Because it is often difficult for the public to understand research, students competing in the first part of competition will think through the process of **academic translation**. Participants will take research they have already conducted for a class, fellowship, research experience or internship (among many other possibilities!) and present it in a public-facing speech, not to exceed 10 minutes.

There is no preferred organizational structure; however, there are three required elements: (1) a thesis statement or proposed question/hypothesis; (2) an explanation of methodology (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, humanities); (3) principle results.

Judging will reward unique attempts to communicate research. As a pre-recorded event, participants may use presentational software and perform in non-traditional manners (including, but not limited to: place, dress and stance). Participants should ask: *What is the most effective way to communicate this information to a public audience?*

Part II: Critical Feedback (Not Sweepstakes Eligible): A subcommittee of the National Council has agreed to receive copies of student scholarship (in the form of research papers and essays) for additional feedback from scholars in the fields of Communication Studies and Forensics. Further, our current Editor of *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta*—our peer-reviewed journal—will consider top papers for inclusion in future publications. Submissions must be sent to PKD Editor Jack Rogers by March 1: rogers@retiree.ucmo.edu.

Graduate Student Division:

Graduate students at both the Master's and Doctoral level are eligible to submit research in their field for consideration. Those who completed degrees in the last calendar year are also eligible, as long as research submitted was conducted while they were a graduate student. Multi-author works are allowed as long as all authors are graduate students. Our PKD alumni are encouraged to enter! You do not need to be present at the tournament, or affiliated with a currently participating team to enter. Graduate students must submit a full manuscript for peer review. Peer reviewers will be selected from terminal-degree (PhD, EdD) scholars, predominantly in the Communication discipline - but other disciplinary scholars may be sought depending on topics of submissions.

Manuscript Submission:

- Full manuscripts should be submitted through email to: PKDScholarship@gmail.com. Your email should include two attachments: 1) the full manuscript, adhering to preparation guidelines below, and 2) a cover letter with author details, relevant details about the manuscript, and assurance that it is not under current consideration at a journal.
- All submissions should be blinded (author name and other identifying information removed from both manuscript and properties in word processor or other applications).
- Manuscripts should be sent in either .docx or .pdf format.
- Manuscripts should not exceed 25 pages (plus cover page, abstract, or references), and may be formatted in any scholarly style typical of the discipline of student scholarship (e.g. APA, Chicago, MLA).
- Submission deadline: Friday, February 13, 2026, 5:00 p.m. CST
- Further, our current Editor of *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta*—our peer-reviewed journal—will consider top papers for inclusion in future publications. Submissions must be sent to PKD Editor Jack Rogers by April 1: rogers@retiree.ucmo.edu.

Review and Selection of Winners:

- Expert peer reviewers, including many top scholars in the Communication discipline, will serve as reviewers for all manuscripts. Each manuscript will be assigned to three peer reviewers in a double-blind process (author will not know the identities of reviewers, reviewers will not know the identity of authors).
- Authors will receive three expert reviews that are intended to help them advance their work toward conference and journal submission. Reviewers are field experts who regularly review for top journals, and will provide constructive and helpful feedback to assist authors in strengthening their work. Peer reviews will be emailed to student scholars through email, sent after the conclusion of the tournament, to the same email address the corresponding author used to submit their manuscript.
- Reviewers will rank each piece they review on a scale of 1-4 (1: *highest quality scholarship*, reflects work that would be publishable in the relevant field; 2: *high quality scholarship*, reflects work that would be publishable with reasonable revisions; 3: *quality scholarship*, reflects scholarship that would be national or regional conference ready with reasonable revisions; 4: *requires revisions*, reflects scholarship that would benefit from major revisions. Reviewers will also provide “quality points” for each piece to a maximum of 25.
- Pieces will be scored by entering reviewer rankings and quality points into a tabulation system. Top papers will receive awards, and are encouraged to submit their work to *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta* for publication consideration.

3. Podcasting (Asynchronous; Sweepstakes Eligible):

As technological regimes change, education and competition should respond to new innovations. Radio and television remain viable forms for accessing information, but this is quickly changing. In 2022, 424 million people listened to a podcast of some sort (Sullivan, 2023)—representing a 75% increase since 2018. Whereas “niche” can be anathema to traditional media, podcasting often rewards specialty concepts. Such “long tail markets” can often turn niche interests into an economic boon.

In this event, students can—alone, together, or in a team!—showcase their talents while creating a *pitch* for their podcasts. Awards will be provided to entries *not* individuals. Schools may submit multiple entries. Students may participate in more than one podcasting entry—even cross-collaborating across campus!

Ever wanted to start one, but needed the motivation to get going? We hope this event helps inspire you!

Three essential elements are necessary for success in podcasting (i.e., the trailer, guest interview and edited segment). Students will have a single 10-minute block of time in which to stitch together their three elements and submit a single, *audio-only* file.

1. The Trailer - successful podcast trailers should effectively do three things: (1) introduce the topic of the podcast in a compelling way, using their own voice. No props or sound effects (or any extraneous production) other than those made by the speaker's voice are permitted. Remember: hook but never spoil the show! (2) Speaker should make clear the reason and necessity for their podcast; and (3) provide a "narrative arc" for the season/series.
2. The Guest Interview - participants conduct an original interview with one or more individual(s). It should make clear who is participating and why.
3. Edited Segment - students will then provide a final "clip" of their podcast. It may feature elements from both the trailer and interview. It should be representative of the style and flow of a typical podcast episode from the series.

The elements above can be scripted or improvisational, episodic or serial, fast-paced or a slow-burn. Choices, number of participants, subject matter and ultimate audience is entirely up to the participant(s).

The time balance for all three (trailer, interview, edited segment) is also up to the participants. We encourage students to be strategic about divvying up time and to remember: all three sections need to be edited together and submitted as a single audio-only file *not to exceed* ten minutes!

Students can include transitions, but it is not required. Judges will assess the presentation's coherence and viability while offering comments on speech fluidity, engagement and talent. If the podcast is in a language other than English, it will be necessary to additionally provide translated captions.

Synchronous Event

Discussion Debate (Synchronous):

PKD strives to uphold our mission to educate in the art of persuasion, beautiful and just, and the place of persuasion in civic life.

Because of this, our Discussion prompt this year is as follows:

"A Republic, if you can keep it," was Ben Franklin's promise and warning at the close of the 1787 Constitutional Convention: What must be done to uphold the ideal of a democratic republic in the modern U.S.?"

We trust students will enact best practices to create and maintain safe, empathic and productive discussions. The broadness of the prompt is purposeful - individual groups may move in the direction (at the discretion) of their interests and needs.

Discussion groups are encouraged to consider what it means to “keep” a republic in modern terms, the features of democracy and how they are being upheld or undermined in the current system, the roles of public trust and civic education, and how factors like political partisanship and media fragmentation impact political behaviors.

Event Rules:

Each contestant participates in three rounds with the same group, sectioned randomly. Groups follow the decision-making process outlined here:

Round 1: Designate chairperson & recorder. Define the problem; limit & analyze it.

Round 2: Establish criteria for solution; suggest and consider other solutions.

Round 3: Select solution; discuss how to implement and assess its effectiveness.

Each group will have one Resident Judge (the same for all three rounds) and a Visiting Judge (different for each round) who evaluate and rank participants.

Students will receive four rank/ratings, with the Resident Judge evaluating the discussion across three rounds. Each round of discussion lasts no longer than 90 minutes.

Roles:

Chairperson: helps facilitate the flow of discussion and keeps track of time.

Recorder: takes notes and will be responsible for turning in a “report” to the event coordinator, PKD President, Dr. Amorette Hinderaker (a.hinderaker@tcu.edu). She will compile the results and present them to the DEIBA committee who will, in turn, submit recommendations to the full PKD Board for considerations of new policies and procedures.

Professional Development Workshops/Panels

We provide professional development opportunities, scheduled alongside competitive events. These generally focus on subjects of broad appeal and are open to all participants. PKD members may submit proposals and ideas for these sessions; they

may also volunteer to present. The PKD Council will announce titles and summaries in advance; interested parties may register before the tournament so that Tournament Director can plan judging deferments.

We encourage chapters to take advantage of these as many are eligible to use institutional funds—potentially offsetting the costs of travel and tournament participation. Submissions are open (contact Marisa Mayo, marisa.mayo@simpson.edu, or Mary Joseph, christina.joseph@asu.edu, for more information or RSVP).

Graduate and Transfers Fair

Throughout the tournament, an Exhibition will connect students to people and resources that can help secure opportunities within and outside the Forensics community.

Booths and representatives from a wide range of Undergraduate and Graduate University programs will be made available. PKD Chapters looking to advertise grad assistants, transfer or grad programs are invited to participate for FREE.

For more information or to secure your booth, please contact our Graduate Student Council representative, John Wallis (john.wallis@newberry.edu) and/or our Community College councilmember, Kaila Todd (ktodd9@jccc.edu).

Alumni Chapters

We encourage members to start an alumni chapter and incentivize continual participation at PKD events (as presenters, judges, competitors in Alumni Showcases or participants at social events, etc). There is a one-time fee for creating a new alumni chapter. Help transition your students from competitors to lifelong Pi Kappars!

Chapters remain in good standing by submitting a report to our Historian or Archivist at each Biennial. The reports are retained in the PKD National Archives. Alumni chapter presidents have *full voting rights* at all formal events.

This year, there are two Alumni Showcase events: Alumni Interpretation, Alumni Platform/Limited Preparation. To participate, participants will need to create an account in Speechwire and enter in the special Alumni Events section.

For more information, contact COO Dr. Adam Blood (ablood@uwf.edu) or our At-Large Council members Trent Webb (trent.webb@hofstra.edu), Marissa Mayo (marisa.mayo@simpson.edu), or Mary Joseph (christina.joseph@asu.edu).

Convention Events - Explained and Explored

We invite you to take advantage of the Convention portion of the 2026 Biennial Tournament and Convention. As Pi Kappa Delta members, one thing that makes our experience unique within a diverse forensic community is that our members have the opportunity to attend convention events in addition to competing at the tournament.

Pi Kappa Delta includes six provinces that geographically collect our chapters—the Lower Mississippi, the Northern Lights, the Southeast, the Heartland, The Great West, and the Northern Lights, all who come together at the National Tournament and Convention not only for friendly competition but also to do the business of our organization. We hope that you will spend time with us at these very important activities. Please see the descriptions below to learn more about the Convention.

The Welcome Reception—We kick off our convention and tournament by gathering members at a reception sponsored by our local hosts. This event is a great place to see old friends and meet people from around the country. It features hors d'oeuvres and mingling! The Reception immediately follows registration Wednesday afternoon. Come casual; this is a particularly great time to wear your school or team brand.

Business Meetings—Held twice, teams are encouraged to become a part of one of the most memorable parts of the Convention! It all begins with Roll Call. Teams love to get involved by standing up and offering chants/dances/short skits when their chapter is called! Alumni get involved too: after the Undergraduate Chapters are called, Alumni Chapters have their chance. Responses should be brief but enthusiastic. A Texas chapter may sing a line or two from “Deep in the Heart of Texas;” or create your own team cheer. Members will vote on future sites of national tournaments and conventions, receive recognition/awards, and hear speeches from candidates running for National Council. Elected positions include President-Elect and three at-large council members. Additional positions include: community college, student and graduate-student representatives.

Province Meetings—Each province meets Wednesday evening after the Business Meeting. They meet to discuss regional tournaments and other business such as electing officers (including: Province Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Student Lieutenant Governor, Secretary/Treasurer and any other role the Province would like to have in place). Teams are encouraged to bring coaches and students to their meetings. Candidates running for National Council often visit the Province Meetings to introduce themselves, present their platforms, and answer questions.

Professional Development Workshops/Panels—Just like at most conventions, PKD provides 3-4 professional development opportunities, scheduled alongside

competitive events. These generally focus on subjects of broad appeal and are open to all students, judges or coaches. PKD members may submit proposals and ideas for sessions; they may also volunteer to present! The PKD Council will announce titles and summaries in advance; interested parties may register before the tournament so the Tournament Director can plan judging deferments. We encourage chapters to take advantage of these; as many instructors are eligible to use institutional developmental funds—potentially offsetting the costs of travel and tournament participation.

The Banquet—The Pi Kappa Delta Biennial Banquet is a culmination, the crossroads between tournament and convention. Many people will wear formal attire (dresses and three-piece suits for some!); though not everyone dresses quite as formally. The evening begins with the introduction of special guests and remarks from the President. The Historian then presents All-American and Order of Attainment awards. The President-Elect is inducted and delivers their inaugural message. The newly elected National Council is then inducted. We follow dinner and discussion with tournament awards. Competitors who place in the top 30% of their event receive awards in two categories—excellence for the top 30-11% and superior for the top 10%. Awards are presented in a hierarchical order, meaning the last competitor announced is the winner of that event. This approach to acknowledging excellence not only recognizes more competitors for their efforts and talents, but also generates tremendous anticipation and energy with the announcements! Seats are first-come, first-served. Dinner begins after sunset. Ramadan Kareem!

Student and Alumni Caucuses—Students and alumni are invited to talk with the student National Council members during the student caucus and raise issues that they would like to see addressed by Pi Kappa Delta. Caucuses take place during competition days. Hosts will provide food. The Student and Graduate Student representatives of the National Council facilitate discussion and bring the results to the attention of the National Council. Students may elect their next representative at these sessions.

Meet the Candidates Forum—This is your chance to get to know the people running for National Council! There will be two fora, scheduled during competition days. The first provides an opportunity to meet and ask questions of the candidates running for President-Elect. The second is for those running to join the National Council.

Past Presidents' Dinner—The Historian oversees this event, inviting the current president and all living past presidents (and a guest) for a special dinner. There are time-honored traditions that happen at the Dinner, rituals kept secret until a person becomes a Past President.

Hall of Fame Induction—Inducting members into its Hall of Fame is Pi Kappa Delta’s highest honor. Members who have served the organization in exemplary ways are considered for this award. To become a member of the Pi Kappa Delta Hall of Fame, a person must be nominated with a letter to the Historian and the National Council. The nominating person may request letters of support for the nominee if they desire. To be elected to the Hall of Fame, a person must receive a unanimous vote by the current Council. Inductees will be honored at the Biennial during a public ceremony following the Past Presidents’ Dinner.

Order of Attainment—Established in 2007, The Order of Attainment honors local, national and global contributions of Pi Kappa Delta Alumni, reflecting the role of forensics and Pi Kappa Delta in building life-long citizens. Honorees are named at the banquet.

Celebration of Life Ceremony—Pi Kappa Delta celebrated those members who have passed since the last Convention. Names, pictures and remembrances may be sent to Historian Gina Jensen (jensen@webster.edu).

* * *

We are very excited about these events and hope you will take time to enjoy them. Whether this is your first or fifteenth Convention, come celebrate the past and future of forensics alongside Pi Kappa Delta!

Please reach out to our Convention Coordinator, Gina Jensen at jensen@webster.edu or by phone at 314-223-6141 with any questions. You can also ask any National Council member. See you in Springfield!

Pi Kappa Delta National Honorary

*Is proud to request nominations for the
All-American Awards*

For active third- and fourth-year student members of Pi Kappa Delta who exemplify “The Art of Persuasion: Beautiful and Just.”

Description of the Award and Qualifications: Up to ten student members of the Honorary will receive the PKD All-American Award, to be announced at the 2026 Pi Kappa Delta National Convention at Missouri State University. A *Pi Kappa Delta All-American* meets the following criteria:

- Is an outstanding student as evidenced by grades, academic achievements, and recommendations of professors.
- Is a good community-citizen, as evidenced by the applicant’s community service and contributions to the world outside the classroom and forensics competition.
- Is a successful competitor, as evidenced by their record in forensics competition.
- Is a committed squad member, as evidenced by their contributions to their program and to forensics and Pi Kappa Delta.
- Is a special person, as evidenced by the recommendations of individuals outside the applicant’s school and chapter.

Application Process: Each applicant should submit a complete application packet which contains:

1. A current resume.
2. A letter from the applicant discussing their qualifications for receiving All-American recognition.
3. A current transcript from each college the applicant has attended (may be unofficial).
4. List of awards or other documentation of forensics record, community service activities, and squad & chapter activities if not found in their resume.

5. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's Forensic Director or PKD Chapter Sponsor.
6. Letters of recommendation from at least two individuals outside of the applicant's chapter and school who are familiar with the applicant's qualifications and attributes.

The deadline for application is February 1, 2026. Complete application packets should be e-mailed as pdf documents to: Gina Jensen (jensen@webster.edu). All application materials will become property of PKD's National Archive and will not be returned.

Pi Kappa Delta National Honorary

Is proud to request nominations for the

Rising Star Awards

For active first- or second-year undergraduate students (especially members of community college chapters) who are members of Pi Kappa Delta and exemplify "The Art of Persuasion: Beautiful and Just."

Description of the Award and Qualifications:

The Rising Star Award goes to 5 student members of the Pi Kappa Delta National Honorary and will be announced during the second Business Meeting at the 2026 Pi Kappa Delta National Convention at Missouri State University.

Recipients of the Rising Star Award meet the following criteria:

- Is self-reflective and introspective, as evidenced by a cover letter of application.
- Is a team-player and dedicated steward for debate and forensics, as evidenced by their dedication to their team and surrounding area colleges.
- Is a successful competitor, as evidenced by their record in forensics competition.
- Is dedicated to their school, as evidenced by their grades and extracurricular commitments
- Is a special person, as evidenced by the recommendations of individuals outside the applicant's school and chapter.

Application Process: Each applicant should submit a complete application packet that contains:

1. A current resume
2. A cover letter from the applicant discussing their qualifications for receiving award recognition.
3. A current transcript from each college the applicant has attended (may be unofficial).

4. List of awards or other documentation of forensics record; community service activities; and squad & chapter activities.
5. A letter of recommendation from applicant's DoF or PKD Chapter Sponsor.
6. A letter of recommendation from outside the applicant's chapter and school who is familiar with the applicant's qualifications and attributes.

The deadline for application is February 1, 2026. Complete application packets should be e-mailed as pdf documents to: Gina Jensen jensen@webster.edu. All application materials will become the property of PKD's National Archive and will not be returned.