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# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Valley Invitational Tournament

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Forensic Friends,

The Pellissippi Forensics program would like to cordially invite you to attend its 8<sup>th</sup> annual *Tennessee Valley Invitational Forensics tournament* held on Pellissippi's Hardin Valley campus in Knoxville, Tennessee on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7, 2026.

On Friday, we will feature the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) and NPDA Debate with four preliminary rounds and appropriate out rounds. On Saturday, we will feature the 11 American Forensics Association (AFA) individual speaking events.

Lunch and snacks will be provided for all competitors, coaches, and judges free of charge on both days of the competition. A preparation room may or may be available for schools. Guest Wi-Fi is available once you arrive on campus.

Thanks to Dr. Barnes (UTK) and Dr. Richey (MTSU) for running the tab room. The staff will be using SpeechWire.

- All judging ballots will be electronic.
- All IPDA debaters and judges and IE speech judges will need an active SpeechWire account and an electronic device to submit their ballots.
- It is recommended that coaches add the email address for each judge and competitor from their SpeechWire account before the student and competitor creates an account.

If we can help by answering any questions or if we can do anything to accommodate your visit, please do not hesitate to ask us. We have included pertinent information in this invitation, so please read carefully. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brian Long, Instructor of Communication Studies (Coach)

Hallie Workman, Instructor of Communication Studies (Coach)

Dr. Shaq Marsh, Director of PSCC Forensics (somarsh@pstcc.edu)

# Tournament Information

## Registration and Tournament Information and Deadlines

All entries should be emailed to tournament director, Dr. Shaq Marsh, at [somarsh@pstcc.edu](mailto:somarsh@pstcc.edu) by Monday, March 2, 2026. Entries may be altered until 5 pm (EST) on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Alterations should be emailed to [somarsh@pstcc.edu](mailto:somarsh@pstcc.edu). After this deadline, all add and drop fees will be enforced. The tab room staff needs time to put everything in place before the tournament starts.

### 1. Entry Fees/Judge/Drops Information

**\$40.00 per IPDA debater with requisite judges (one judge covers four debaters)**

**\$10 per individual speech event entry (1 judge covers six entries)**

Uncovered IPDA Debate Entries- \$30 (plus entry fee)

Uncovered Individual Event Entries- \$20 (plus entry fee)

Debate competitors drops between Wednesday 03/04-Thursday 03/05- \$60 (plus entry fee per team)

Debate competitors drops on Friday 03/06- \$80 (plus entry fee per team)

Dropped Debate Judges between Wednesday 03/04- Thursday 03/05-\$60 (plus uncovered fee per entry to be covered)

Dropped Debate Judges on Friday 03/06- \$80 (plus uncovered fee per entry to be covered)

IE Drops between Wednesday 03/04-Friday 03/06- \$15 (plus entry fee)

IE Drops on Saturday 03/07 \$30 (plus entry fee)

Dropped IE Judges between Wednesday 03/04-Friday 03/06 \$20 (plus uncovered fee per entry to be covered)

Dropped IE Judges on Saturday 03/07 \$30 (plus uncovered fee per entry to be covered)

All fees must be paid before or on upon your arrival at the competition unless approved by Dr. Shaq Marsh in writing via Pellissippi email ([somarsh@pstcc.edu](mailto:somarsh@pstcc.edu)).

If a school does not pay upon arrival at the competition, Dr. Shaq will drop the school from the competition, the team will be asked to leave the school, and Dr. Shaq will send the school an invoice for the fines for the late drops. It is expected that all schools pay upon arrival.

### 2. To pay for your tournament fees, please write a check using the information below.

**Pellissippi State Forensics Team**

**10915 Hardin Valley Road**

**Knoxville, Tennessee 37933-0990**

Pellissippi State is a cashless institution. We prefer checks.

If you need to pay in cash, please email Dr. Shaq Marsh at [somarsh@pstcc.edu](mailto:somarsh@pstcc.edu).

3. We will be using International Parliamentary Debate Association rules. Violation of rules could result in removal from the tournament by the tournament director.
4. We will be using the American Forensics Association rules. Violation of rules could result in removal from the tournament by the tournament director.
5. AI Statement- This tournament prohibits the use of Artificial Intelligence for individual speech events. We ask that you disclose if you are using Artificial Intelligence to your competitors and judges for debate rounds.
6. There may be tournament observers at the competition. All tournament observers will engage in appropriate audience etiquette. Any complaints from anyone at the tournament about a tournament observer, coach, and/or debater could be subject to removal with assistance from the Pellissippi Police department. All concerns should be reported to Dr. Shaq Marsh immediately.
7. If anyone objects debaters or IE competitors object to an audience, it will become a closed round. A round may also limit the number of people in the audience if determined requested and determined reasonable by the tournament director.
8. No one is allowed to video or sound record a round without the explicit consent of everyone in the room. If one person objects, it will not be recorded. Any recording that involves a minor must have the written consent of a legal guardian. This will be enforced.
9. The tab room is closed to coaches, judges, and competitors. This will be enforced. Removal from the tournament is possible for individuals who enter the tab room with explicit verbal consent from the tournament director.
10. Please bring judges. All schools will be required to judge one round past their highest finisher. Competitors who do not advance in IPDA may be used as judges in the out-rounds.

## **Awards Information**

IPDA-Top five speakers in each division (Novice and Varsity)

Quarterfinalists, Semifinalists, Runner-Up, and Champion

NPDA- Top five speakers in each division (Novice and Varsity)

Semifinalists, Runner-Up, and Champion

Individual Speech Events- Pentathlon awards for top five speakers in at least 5 events

Top five speakers in each event

Top novice speaker in each event

-Sweeps Awards- Top three 4 year and 2-year schools in IPDA and IE

Top 2 Overall Community College Award

Overall Grand Champion (IE IPDA)

To earn the last two awards, your team must be entered in IPDA and IE.

Sweepstakes will follow the season-long sweepstakes formula for IPDA:

All wins and byes will be awarded 1 point. Each person breaking to out-round will receive 1 point. Out-round victories will receive 2 points.

Novice and Varsity will count toward the tournament sweepstakes. There is no limit on entries, but only the top three competitors in each division will count toward the sweepstakes.

IEs

6<sup>th</sup> place- 2 points

5th place – 4 points

4th place – 6 points

3rd place – 8 points

2nd place – 10 points 1st place – 12 points Individual Events will follow AFA-NST

guidelines. To keep a timely schedule, competitors can enter up to **four events per flight of competition**. A student is allowed to enter two separate duo's as long as the person has two different pieces of literature with two separate duo partners.

## **Tennessee Valley Invitational Flights and Event Rules**

### **Flight A Events**

Extemporaneous Speaking

Persuasive Speaking

Poetry Interpretation

Prose Interpretation

Programmed Oral Interpretation

After Dinner Speaking

### **Flight B Events**

Impromptu Speaking

Informative Speaking

Communication Analysis

Dramatic Interpretation

Duo Interpretation

## **Flight A Event Rules**

### **Extemporaneous Speaking:**

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

### **Persuasive Speaking:**

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

Criteria for evaluation generally centers around the strength of advocacy, including logic in argument development and focus within the development of the problem. Students should provide reasonable solutions that address each problem outlined in the speech.

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes

### **Poetry Interpretation:**

A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit: 10 minutes including introduction.

### **Prose Interpretation:**

A selection or selections of prose material of literary merit which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time: 10 minutes including introduction.

### **Program Oral Interpretation:**

A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre). Use of manuscript is required.

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes including original introduction and/or transitions.

### **After-Dinner Speaking:**

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

## **Flight B Event Rules**

### **Impromptu Speaking:**

For this event, each student will receive the same topic. 7 minutes is allocated for preparation and speaking time, of which at least five minutes must be devoted to speaking. All contestants in a section will address the same quotation.

### **Informative Speaking:**

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

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes including introduction.

### **Communication Analysis:**

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

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes

### **Duo Interpretation:**

A cutting (scene) from a play (either humorous or dramatic in tone) which involves the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event and no costumes, props, lighting, etc. are to be used. The presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. A contestant may enter two duos with different partners. Duo only counts once for Pentad competition.

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes. Time limit includes original introduction.

## Hotel Recommendations

If you plan on staying in Knoxville, below, you will find some recommendations for hotels.

Hampton Inn Knoxville-West at Cedar Bluff  
9128 Executive Park Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
865.693.1101

Sleep Inn and Suites West Knoxville  
1341 Campbell Lakes Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37934  
865.392.8090

Country Inn and Suites by Radisson  
9137 Cross Park Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
865.233.6651

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Knoxville-Farragut  
816 North Campbell Station Road  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
856.966.2500

Holiday Inn Knoxville at Cedar Bluff  
9134 Executive Park Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
865.693.1011

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott Turkey Creek  
11763 Snyder Road  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
865.392.1122

# Tournament Schedule

## Friday, March 6 - IPDA (Topic Drop Times Listed)

8:00 am Team Registration (Clayton Performing Arts Center, Lamar Alexander)  
9:00 am IPDA Round 1  
10:15 am IPDA Round 2  
11:45 am Lunch  
12:30 pm IPDA Round 3  
1:45 pm IPDA Round 4  
3:00 pm IPDA Coaches Review  
3:30 pm IPDA Quarterfinals  
5:00 pm IPDA Semifinals  
6:30pm IPDA Finals  
8:00 pm Awards Ceremony (Goins Auditorium)  
Or ASAP

## Friday, March 6 – NPDA Debate

8:00 am Team Registration (Clayton Performing Arts Center, Lamar Alexander)  
9:00 am NPDA Debate 1  
10:15 am NPDA Round 2  
11:45 am Lunch  
12:30 pm NPDA Round 3  
1:45 pm NPDA Round 4  
2:30 pm NPDA Semifinals  
3:45 pm NPDA Finals  
5:30 pm Awards Ceremony (Goins Auditorium) or ASAP

## Saturday, March 7

7:00 am Team Registration (Clayton Performing Arts Center, Lamar Alexander)  
7:45 am Extemp Draw  
8:00 am Round 1, Flight A  
9:45 am Round 1, Flight B  
11:15 am Extemp Draw  
11:30 am Round 2, Flight A  
12:45 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm Round 2, Flight B  
3:00 pm Finals Flight A /Extemp Finals  
4:30 pm Finals Flight B  
6:15 pm Awards Ceremony (Goins Auditorium) or ASAP





### Judges

Please type the information, not handwritten.

First and Last Name	Please indicate if: IPDA Judge IE Judge

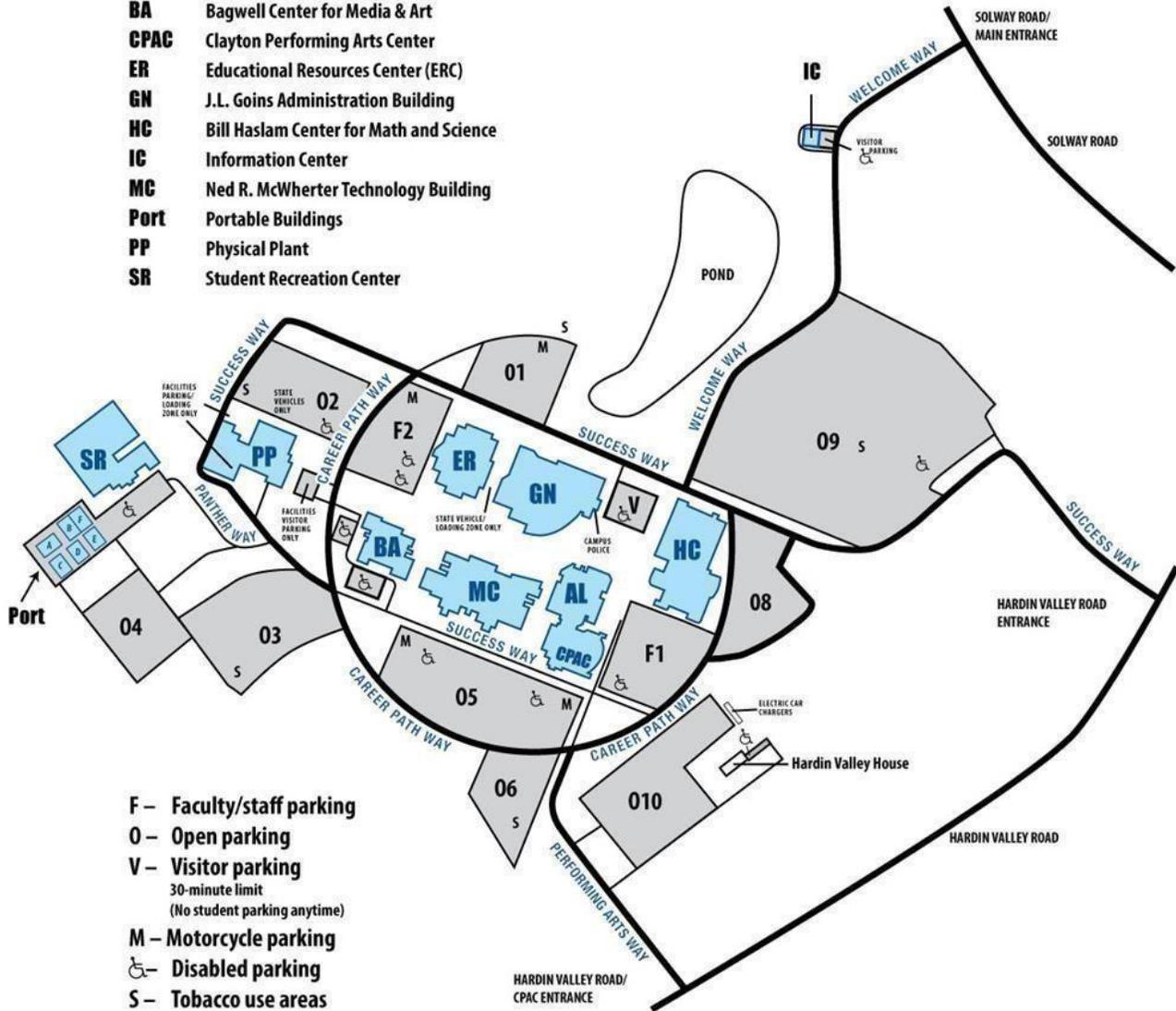


**PELLISSIPPI STATE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Hardin Valley Campus**

10915 Hardin Valley Road, Knoxville  
865.694.6400

- AL** Lamar Alexander Arts & Sciences Building
- BA** Bagwell Center for Media & Art
- CPAC** Clayton Performing Arts Center
- ER** Educational Resources Center (ERC)
- GN** J.L. Goins Administration Building
- HC** Bill Haslam Center for Math and Science
- IC** Information Center
- MC** Ned R. McWherter Technology Building
- Port** Portable Buildings
- PP** Physical Plant
- SR** Student Recreation Center



- F** – Faculty/staff parking
- O** – Open parking
- V** – Visitor parking  
30-minute limit  
(No student parking anytime)
- M** – Motorcycle parking
- Disabled parking
- S** – Tobacco use areas