

THE HILL COUNTRY SWING

Texas State University
The University of Texas at Austin

Dear Colleagues:

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to join us in San Marcos, Texas for the **38th edition** of the Hill Country Swing. Both of this year's contests will be held on the campus of Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, on September 19-20, 2026. Both tournaments will offer competition in all AFA-NST individual events. Depending on entries and tournament need, students from Texas State University and UT Austin may compete on hosting days. The host school will not be eligible for team sweepstakes awards on Saturday or Sunday.

Awards will be presented to finalists in all events, as well as individual and school sweepstakes. An overall swing sweepstakes trophy will be awarded to the top institution attending both tournaments.

We hope you've had an enjoyable summer and that you will kick off your season with the Hill Country Swing.

Sincerely,

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Tournament Information

Entries: Please submit entries via SpeechWire by 5:00pm on Monday, September 14, 2026 (even if you only plan to attend one half of the swing). Fees will be calculated at 5:00pm on Wednesday, September 16th. Adds or drops after that time are subject to regular fees as assessed plus a \$15.00 nuisance fee for each change. There is no limit on the number of students a school may enter per event. Students may enter no more than three events per pattern at each half. Students entered in multiple events are responsible for notifying their judges, and judges will not wait past the scheduled times for students who are cross-entered. Events with 45 students or more will advance to a semi-final round.

Judges: Please try to cover your entry. One judge can cover a total of 8 slots across IE patterns. A very limited number of hired judges will be available for uncovered individual event slots. Judges who fail to pick up their ballots will render all contestants from their school ineligible for elimination rounds.

Fees: Entry fees for Individual Events (including duo) are \$10.00 per slot per tournament. Each judge covers 8 individual event slots per tournament. Hired judges are \$20.00 per uncovered individual event slot. Judges dropped after Wednesday, September 16th at 5:00 PM will incur a \$100.00 nuisance fee plus all fees for uncovered slots. **We only accept cash or check for fee payments.**

Tournament Rules: No prepared event may have been used in competition prior to this academic year. AFA-NST descriptions govern the following events: Prose, Poetry, Informative, Persuasive, Dramatic, Duo, After-Dinner, Communication Analysis, Extemporaneous, Impromptu, and POI.

Pattern A: Extemp, Persuasion, ADS, CA, DI, Poetry

Pattern B: Prose, Informative, Impromptu, POI, DUO

Sweepstakes Points

First Place:	10 Points
Second Place:	7 Points
Third Place:	5 Points
Finalist:	2 Points
Semi-Finalist:	1 Point

Tournament Headquarters: Both tournaments will be headquartered in Centennial Hall room 205 on the Texas State University campus. Registration and light refreshments throughout the tournament will be located on the second floor just outside of room 205. The first-floor lobby outside of the Teaching Theater (CENT 157) will be the main common area throughout the tournament.

Lodging: **There is a home football game against North Texas on our weekend, so please make your arrangements as soon as possible.** There are many hotel options in San Marcos to meet the needs of just about every budget. In addition to your favorite online reservation resource, the San Marcos Visitor and Convention has some information at <https://www.visitsanmarcos.com/places-to-stay/hotels/>. Please contact Wayne Kraemer at 512-245-2331 directly if you have questions or need additional hotel information.

Driving Directions and Parking: From Interstate 35 take the Aquarena Springs exit. Follow the service road to Aquarena Springs and turn right (or left if you are coming from the south). Proceed on Aquarena Springs until you cross the San Marcos River. Once you cross the river, turn right on Sessoms. Follow Sessoms up the hill and the second traffic light will be North LBJ. Make a left on North LBJ to enter the campus. Texas State is usually a closed campus, but on weekends you do not need to stop at the North LBJ entrance guard booth to obtain a parking permit. Go one block to the stop sign and you will see a parking garage. The garage is attached to Centennial Hall. When searching for directions, use "Pleasant Street Garage" in San Marcos, Texas.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Part 1, Texas State, Saturday, September 19, 2026

Pattern A: Extemp, Persuasion, ADS, CA, DI, Poetry

Pattern B: Prose, Informative, Impromptu, POI, DUO

8:00 AM Registration
8:30 AM Extemp Draw
9:00 AM Round I Pattern A
10:30 AM Round I Pattern B
12:30 PM Extemp Draw
1:00 PM Round II Pattern A
2:30 PM Round II Pattern B
3:45 PM Extemp Draw
4:15 PM Finals Set 1
5:45 PM Finals Set 2
ASAP Awards Assembly

Part 2, UT-Austin, Sunday, September 20, 2026

Pattern A: Extemp, Persuasion, ADS, CA, DI, Poetry

Pattern B: Prose, Informative, Impromptu, POI, Duo

8:00 AM Registration
8:30 AM Extemp Draw
9:00 AM Round I Pattern A
10:30 AM Round I Pattern B
12:30 PM Extemp Draw
1:00 PM Round II Pattern A
2:30 PM Round II Pattern B
3:45 PM Extemp Draw
4:15 PM Finals Set 1
5:45 PM Finals Set 2
ASAP Awards Assembly
