Randy Pierce Winter Classic

December 11th-12th, 2026



The Pattonville High School speech and debate team is proud to invite you and your team to the 51st annual Randy Pierce Winter Classic. This tournament will be held at Pattonville High School on December 11th and 12th. We are thrilled to announce that we are a ***TOC Speech qualifier tournament*** and again a ***NIETOC qualifier tournament***, and we plan to offer ALL MSHSAA and main NSDA events, pending entry numbers.

We saw a lot of interest last year, and in the hope of having spots for as many schools as possible, and managing our judge pool, we will restrict schools to **3 entries per event and division**. Please register through SpeechWire by **Friday, December 4th at 5:00pm**. No additional entries will be accepted after this time. Names can still be changed after this time, and drops can be made, but no switching of divisions or new entries after this time. If, at this time, entry numbers are low, we will possibly collapse things. We will also evaluate space and waitlisted entries at this time. Preference will be given with fairness in mind, meaning if two schools each have waitlisted entries, and only two spots open, they will not be awarded to the same school.

We are asking that coaches be available to judge as needed, especially on Friday for debate round 1 when a lot of parent judges may not be available yet. **We ask that you have 1 judge available minimum at all times, and an additional for every 8 debate entries and 12 speech entries**. Parent judges are welcome, please have any of your judges fill out the linked form. Please register yourself as a judge to help us in that regard.

Hope to see you at Pattonville,

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Cady Levy
Assistant Coach

Sam Riggs
Assistant Coach

Pattonville Speech & Debate Executive Board Members:
Shannon Li, Alex Isaac, Grace Bagsby, Sophia Fernandez

Events and Awards

Some event categories have been collapsed from past years, to reflect previous low entry numbers. Teams may enter **up to 3 entries in each division.** Note that students in Congress may not cross-enter in other speech events. **Awards** will be given to the **top six** in any speech event, including Congress. Debate will have awards for **all breaks**. Entries are $10/each. Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top 3 schools.

For Novice events, the student or team must be entirely in their first year of any high school speech and debate competition to be entered. This division is about supporting our new students, and I will not hesitate to DQ people to preserve this.

For Reg Debate, please enter post-novices, or novices looking to take a step up. No one in Reg should have made the state or national tournaments for that event, or be in their third or fourth year in that event.

Novices in Policy cannot use Kritiks and must use a case from the following novice case areas: Medicare for All, Revise/Expand the Affordable Care Act, and Single Payer Option to Replace Private Health Insurance.

Speech Events (3 rds prelim, break to finals)	Debate Events (4 rds prelim, break to SF)
Champion Congress Champion Domestic Extemp Champion Dramatic Interp Champion Duet Acting Champion Duo Interp Champion Humorous Interp Champion Informative Champion International Extemp Champion Original Oratory Champion Poetry Champion Program Oral Interp Champion Prose Champion Radio Speaking Champion Storytelling Novice Congress Novice Domestic Extemp Novice Informative Novice International Extemp Novice Original Oratory Novice Radio Speaking	Champion Lincoln-Douglas Debate Champion Policy Debate Champion Public Forum Debate Regular Lincoln-Douglas Debate Regular Public Forum Debate Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate Novice Policy Debate Novice Public Forum Debate **Sweepstakes Rules (results tabbed as of Awards)** Debate Advance to final = 8 pts Advance to semifinal = 6 pts Speech 1st = 10 pts; 2nd = 8 pts; 3rd = 6 pts; 1 pt less for each place after (e.g. 4th = 5pts, 8th = 1pt)

Schedule

Friday

4pm Debate Round 1

5:30pm IE 1 Draw/ 6pm Speech Round 1

7:30pm Debate Round 2

Saturday

7:30am IE 2 Draw/8:00am Speech Round 2

9:30am Debate 3 (power-matched)

11am IE 3 Draw/11:30am Speech Round 3

1:00pm Debate 4 (power-matched)

2:30pm IE Finals Draw/3:00pm Speech Finals Round

4:30pm Debate Semifinals

6:00pm Awards

Debate Finals immediately after Awards

Judges

We are asking that coaches be available to judge as needed, especially on Friday for debate round 1 when a lot of parent judges may not be available yet.

We ask that you have 1 judge available minimum at all times, and an additional judge for every 8 debate entries and 12 speech entries. Any obligation not met could result in the dropping of entries.

Parent judges are welcome, please have any of your judges fill out the linked form. **Please register** yourself on this form as a judge to help us in that regard. You will be the lowest priority judge, but we may need you.

Any varsity members who do not advance are welcome to contact us during the tournament to be added to the pool. Please remember that students must be in their second year of competition with at least 150 NSDA points to judge.

More information for judges can be found on our judge hub.

General Rules, Guidelines, and Information

Students need to respect the classrooms they enter and return them to how they found them previously. We had teachers mad at us for rooms that were rearranged and furniture broken. Please instruct your students to use furniture appropriately, and DO NOT MOVE teacher podiums. Please also instruct students NOT TO WRITE ON WHITEBOARDS. I know this is counter to most tournaments, but codes and names are written on debate ballots and master ballots in speech. The process of writing on whiteboards wastes time, wastes ink, and has led to the wrong thing being written on, with minimal benefit. The only things that should move *temporarily*, are student desks. If we have teachers come back on Monday to messy rooms, it makes it much harder to get them to continue to allow us to use their rooms!

Students should remain in the cafeteria and commons area when not competing. **Under absolutely no circumstances should students be in one of the gyms.** Teams found to be in violation of this may not be invited back next year. When waiting outside a room, REMAIN QUIET IN THE HALLWAYS to respect the students competing.

The Pattonville PTO will be operating a concession stand and will have a card reader!

Please have everyone enter by the drop off ramp in front of the pool, NOT THE BRIDGE. This leads straight into the commons and cafeteria. Buses should park in the bus loop on the other side of the building. Buses are welcome to arrive as early as 2:45. Please refrain from going in or dropping off until about this time. We get out at 2:18, and it takes a little while for everything to clear.

ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUPERVISING COACH (PER MSHSAA REQUIREMENTS) PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT as well as the number of judges required by the entry.

A student may enter up to two speech events OR student congress. Debaters may not enter more than one debate event: Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum. Extempers may not enter more than one division: International or Domestic. Except for a change necessitated by a double entry, contestants are expected to speak in the order assigned. In Extemp, speaking order will take precedence for those double-entered. Extemp speeches will be given FIRST. Any student more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit participation in that round (provided the delay is not the fault of the tournament). DOUBLE-ENTERED STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE BOTH PERFORMANCES IN THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR EACH ROUND. Double-entered students are expected to inform their judges that they may be late prior to the start of the round.

The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. Please review the MSHSAA rules regarding this issue, **and the new rule against AI use in round**. While the internet will be attempted to be provided, reliable access is not guaranteed. Students should prepare accordingly. There will be no access to printers on site.

All rounds will allow for spectators. All individuals in the room are expected to adhere to community health norms and reasonable requests. If these cannot be followed, the tournament reserves the right to remove spectator access.

Events Specific Rules

DEBATE RULES:

- We will default to MSHSAA Rules for all MSHSAA Events.
- Email chains should be set up and offered to all competitors and judges before the round begins.
- Advancing will be determined by:
    - Win/Loss record
    - Head to head
    - Record of opponent lost to
    - Total opposition record
    - Oppositions' opposition record
    - Total speaker points if needed
- Per MSHSAA guidelines, debate prep time is as follows.
    - Policy: 8 minutes per side
    - Lincoln Douglas: 4 minutes per side
    - Public Forum: 3 minutes per side

Policy Debate—Two-person teams will debate the NSDA/MSHSAA topic: Resolved: **The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.** 8 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. No mavericks.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate—Individuals will debate the November/December NSDA/MSHSAA topic: Resolved: **De-extinction is unethical.** 4 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per speaker. Per MSHSAA rules, we will NOT be using the Novice LD topic. All students should prepare the Nov/Dec topic.

Public Forum Debate—Two-person teams will debate the November/December NSDA/MSHSAA topic: Resolved**: European members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.** 3 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. Teams will flip each round even if they have met before. The winner of the coin toss can choose either side (pro or con) OR the speaker position (first or last). The coin toss loser has the other choice.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RULES:

- We will default to MSHSAA Rules for all MSHSAA Events. Non-MSHSAA events will use NSDA rules.
- Advancing 6 to finals will be determined by:
    - lowest total cumulative ranks
    - Reciprocals from the round
    - Total speaker ratings from the round
- Final placings will be determined by:
    - Lowest total cumulative speaker ranks
    - Judges' preference (2 way ties)
    - Reciprocals from the round
    - Total speaker ranking from the round
- We will follow all MSHSAA rules and use the MSHSAA ballots for MSHSAA speech events. For POI and Congress, we will follow NSDA rules and use NSDA ballots

Original Oratory—An original persuasive speech is written by the contestant, containing no more than 150 words of quoted material. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Informative Speaking— An original informative speech is written by the contestant. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. The goal is to educate, not to advocate. Visual aids are allowed. Please read the RULES Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Domestic and International Extemporaneous Speaking—Contestants must report to draw before draw is scheduled to begin (if possible). Students will draw three topics and will tell the draw chair what they select. They will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech. They must remain in the draw room for prep. They will be dismissed from draw to speak in a staggered manner. Speech time limit is 7 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation—Memorized selections from published material of literary merit are presented. Movement below the waist should be limited. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Duo Interpretation—A memorized selection of any published source of literary merit is performed by two students. Performers may stand in any arrangement suitable. Offstage focus should be used. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Duet Acting– A performance of a piece of literature by TWO people. The contestant's goal is to use his or her voice, gestures, face, and posture to draw you into the scene or story. The selection must be memorized. The on-stage focus should be used, and each actor can only portray one character. Time limit–10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Prose– One contestant will present a selection from published literature (prose); such as a short story, novel, diary, or essay.Using their voice, facial expressions, and gestures, students should make the story come alive. The selection must include an introduction that gives enough information for a listener to understand the selection. Time limit– 8 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Poetry– One contestant will present a selection from published literature (poetry): one or several poems connected by theme or author. Using their voice, facial expressions, and gestures, students should make the story come alive. The selection must include an introduction that gives enough information for a listener to understand the selection. Time limit– 8 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI) – Students create a theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization. They draw on selections from at least two of the following: prose, poetry, and/or drama. A manuscript must be used and the pieces must be properly introduced. **NSDA rules** **will be used**. Time limit – 10 minutes

Storytelling – Students narrate a published story originally intended of children using a combination of their own words and original essential phrases. The story will be presented using bodily movement and characterization. The contestant must keep her/his derriere in contact with the seat of the chair or stool, throughout the entire performance, using the stationary chair or stool provided by the tournament host/site. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit–8 minutes maximum, no minimum.

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

Congress—We will be running an **NSDA-style Congressional Debate**. There will be three preliminary sessions in which judges will rank their top 8 competitors after scoring the complete session. Please note that we have seen some odd behavior in Congress recently, so for clarity, ***any PO that goes past the hard stop time for the round, will be ineligible for awards. Additionally, any students trying to amend the rules for Congress to do things against the NSDA rules, may be disqualified.*** Running the tournament on time is incredibly important, and we will not hesitate to handle these issues. Please warn your students.

There will be one super session with 12 – 15 students. Depending on the number of entries, we will advance between the top 2 – 5 students in each chamber if they receive the lowest cumulative rank across the three sessions.

- Advancing to supersession will be determined by:
    - Lowest total cumulative ranks within chambers
    - Total preliminary reciprocals
    - Total preliminary speech scores
- Final placings will be determined by:
    - Lowest total cumulative ranks within the chamber
    - Judges' preference
    - Final round reciprocals
    - Speech score totals in finals
    - Speech score totals from preliminary rounds
- **For legislation,** we will use the Eastern Missouri docket. Chambers will default to AUTHORSHIP speeches but will allow SPONSORSHIP speeches if there is no authoring school in the room.