

## The Awards Ceremony - Be a Good Sport!



1. **If you receive an award, be proud of your achievement.** In some instances, students have looked disappointed when they received an award that was a lower rank than they deserved. No one likes a spoiled sport and seeing that on full display during the awards ceremony will leave other teams with a bad taste. When your name is called, if you look dejected, then you look ungrateful and arrogant. Be positive and grateful when you accept your award!
2. **Respect the one-clap rule.** There is a rhythm to the awards, and the clap should be done in synch and quickly.
3. **Refrain from screaming.** Parents, friends, coaches, and competitors cannot hear the names of who was just given an award when the audience screams. This is especially problematic when 2nd place is called, and it becomes apparent who the winner is. For example, if you are aware that your best friend just won Storytelling, and you scream over the 2nd place speaker's name, it's unfair and unbecoming.
4. **Clap for every event** – not just the ones your school has entered! When an energetic school doesn't have finalists for a specific event and they are not cheering for the kids from other schools, it feels awkward, as though some events don't count! Keep up your enthusiasm, have respect for all events, and clap/cheer for all the winners!
5. **When your event is called to stand "in the wings," get to the side of the stage quickly and quietly.** Remember, this is someone else's moment in the spotlight (the event before you) so be quiet and respectful as you wait for your event to be called to center stage.
6. When you line up center stage for your event, **you should step forward when your name is called.** (It really helps the person who is handing out trophies and trying to find you!) After you receive your award, step back or go to the end of the line, as per instructed.
7. **Don't applaud for yourself.** Instead, allow the rest of the audience to do the clapping. In the case of a whole team award (the kind of award given to a whole team at State, for example), every team member has an opportunity to show discipline and good sportsmanship by sitting quietly and soaking in the applause that the rest of the community provides.
8. We want you to have fun and cheer on your teammates and friends from other teams, but **don't become a distraction to others** who want to watch the ceremony. And keep in mind, judges are watching awards. When you act "crazy," you are cementing the idea that you (and your team) are unprofessional.
9. **It is always a sign of respect and good sportsmanship to stand and clap for the first-place winner**, no matter who it is - no matter what team he/she is on. It's a sign of respect for the activity itself and it says, "I am proud to be part of the speech & debate community!"
10. **Shaking hands with other competitors is never a bad thing!** It says good game, good round, good effort, good job, good tournament!

