

National Christian College Forensics Invitational

"Let your speech always be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." - Colossians 4:6

Dear NCCFI Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you and your team will join us for the 13th annual National Christian College Forensics Invitational to be held March 5-7, 2010 at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio. The tournament is open to schools who are members of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities or schools that have a mission statement that is supportive and sympathetic to the mission of Christian higher education. This tournament is a unique opportunity to celebrate our heritage as Christians in forensics.

In addition to reading the remainder of this document, here are the steps that each school should complete in order to attend the NCCFA Championship Tournament.

- ___ Secure airline tickets (as necessary) into either Columbus International, Dayton International, or Cincinnati International Airport.
- ___ Contact the Hampton Inn in Springfield, OH (contact information follows) to make room reservations.
- ___ Submit your team's entry to the tournament via www.forensicstournament.net by **Wednesday, February 24th, 2010**.
- ___ Submit judging philosophy forms by February 24th for all debate critics by using the form found on the NCCFA website.
- ___ Submit topics by the entry change deadline (Email: skiprutledge@pointloma.edu).
- ___ Consider submitting a bid to host NCCFI. The bid forms are available on the NCCFA website.

Please note that this year's tournament is a Friday - Sunday tournament, including a Sunday morning Worship Service. To allow for Readers Theatre (RT) and Lincoln Douglas (LD) debate and still try to provide a more *wellness focused* tournament schedule, we will offer LD and RT Friday morning, with the general assembly beginning closer to noon. Teams without RT or LD competitors need not arrive early.

All tournament participants are required to utilize the Tournament Hotel (Hampton Inn in Springfield). The hotel is freeway close and surrounded by a wide variety of dining choices, including CRACKER BARREL. Ideal airport choices include Dayton International, Columbus International, and Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airports.

A \$45.00 meal packages will be required for each participant (judges, coaches, and students) and will provide for lunch each day, nutritious refreshments and snacks throughout the day, and a nice banquet in conjunction with Sunday evening's Awards Ceremony.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. It is our pleasure to serve you and are eager to make this a special tournament. We look forward to seeing you at Cedarville University in March!

Dr. Skip Rutledge
Pt. Loma Nazarene University
NCCFA President

Professor Konrad Hack
Concordia University, Irvine
NCCFA Tournament Director

Professor Derrick Green
Cedarville University
NCCFA Tournament Host

I. Information about NCCFI

At the 2004 NCCFI, the assembled schools passed a constitution that created the National Christian College Forensics Association. As the constitution notes, membership is open to all schools who are full members of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), with a forensics program that competes at the national tournament during the current or preceding three years. In addition, schools that support the Christian faith are allowed to participate. While not all historic church bodies subscribe to a creedal declaration of faith, the tenets of the Christian faith that schools are asked to support are as detailed by the Nicene creed. For further data on the organization please look to <http://www.nccfa.org/>

The National Christian College Forensics Association (NCCFA) is not an attempt to isolate Christian College programs from the regular circuit. Rather, the goal of the NCCFA is to provide Council based programs the opportunity to gather once a year and celebrate our faith while we engage in an activity we all love. We apologize to any individuals or institutions that may feel marginalized by our admittedly inexact effort at defining membership parameters.

Are you wondering whether you or another school can be part of the NCCFA? Contact: Dr. Skip Rutledge, President of NCCFA: SkipRutledge@pointloma.edu or 619.849.2391 after reviewing the organization's homepage designed to provide helpful information.

II. Entry Information:

There are some changes this year as far as entries, sweepstakes points, and methods of entry are concerned. **Please read this information carefully!**

A. Tournament Entries

Entries will be received electronically at <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. You will be able to enter and make changes on the website.

Entries will be due Wednesday, February 24th. **All changes (though no new adds) must be made by Monday, March 1st.** This is when fees will be calculated. After March 1st, please email changes directly to Konrad Hack. After March 1st, a drop fee of \$10/slot fee will be assessed (in addition to entry and uncovered judge fees that may already be due).

Tournament Director Questions: Professor Konrad Hack – konrad.hack@cui.edu
Office phone: (949) 854-8002 x1805; Cell phone: (949) 444-1204

Tournament Host Questions: Contact Professor Derrick Green – greend@cedarville.edu
Office Phone: (937) 766-3451; Cell Phone (937) 532-9242

Organizational Questions: Dr. Skip Rutledge - skiprutledge@pointloma.edu
Office Phone: (619)849.2391; Cell Phone (619)655.0112

B. Novice/Open Definitions:

1. **NOVICE:** A novice I.E. competitor is any student in her/his first year of college competition. We use the AFA guidelines; one semester of competition is 3 or more tournaments of competition. A student who has attended a previous NCCFI or other national tournament is not a novice and must enter the open division. For NPDA and NFA LD debate, the tournament uses NPDA division guidelines.

To be classified as junior varsity:

- The student should be in the first four semesters of intercollegiate debate.
- The student should not have advanced to elimination rounds more than 3 times in junior or open division.
- Once the student has advanced to more than three elimination rounds in junior division (or higher), the student should be advanced to open.

To be classified as novice:

- The student should have no significant high school debate experience.
- The student should be in the first two semesters of collegiate debate.
- Once the student has advanced to elimination rounds more than 3 times, the student should be advanced to the junior or open division.

- 2. OPEN:** This division is open to all tournament competitors. Any student who is in at least his/her third year of college competition must enter the open division as long as they have not already expended up to four years of eligibility, measured either by 8 semesters or 4 National Years (a year the student competed at any intercollegiate forensics National Championship) whichever is more restrictive.

C. Individual Events: Due to the room and schedule situation, we will have two flights this year. Students may triple-enter, however, they are responsible for getting to rounds on time. Students wishing to do extemporaneous speaking may do no more than one other event in that time block. Students will have 75 minutes to get to all of their rounds; we strongly encourage students to move promptly from round to round.

1. Patterns:

Flight A: Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, After Dinner Speaking, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, and Interpretation of Faith Literature.

Flight B: Impromptu Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Communication Analysis, Dramatic Interpretation, Programmed Oral Interpretation and Duo Interpretation.

There will be open and novice divisions in each event. We will only collapse divisions with less than 6 students. There is no limit on the number of students a school may enter in a given event.

- 2. Event Definitions:** All events will follow AFA guidelines, with the following exceptions:

- a. Impromptu:** Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selections varied by round. In the spirit of the tournament, however, the topic committee will develop quotations which may consist of Psalms or Proverbs, quotations from famous religious figures (i.e. Martin Luther, Mother Theresa, Billy Graham, etc.), or regular quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted

- b. Extemporaneous:** Questions will be mixed with at least one question per round being value, religious, or moral oriented. The topic committee will generate questions from a variety of sources.

The NCCFI will also offer two additional events:

c. Interpretation of Faith Literature: 8-10 minute time limit. A selection or selections of interpretation material emphasizing faith issues. Content could reflect a variety of faith perspectives. This may be a single selection or may be developed from more than one source in any genre. Solo performances only, no Duos permitted. Presentation should follow traditional guidelines for an interpretation presentation including an introduction which establishes the theme and tone of the piece. The use of a manuscript is required.

d. Readers' Theater: A group performance of literature, involving more than two performers with a single or compiled program on a discernible theme or concept. Scripts must be perceived, but not necessarily referenced at all times. Props, set pieces, music, singing and other theatrical accouterments must be perceived as enhancing rather than substituting for the performance options. 25 minute time limit includes set up and take down of set and audience reaction.

3. Use of Materials - No material used at NCCFI should have been used in competition prior to September 1, 2009.

D. Debate: The tournament will offer NPDA Parliamentary Debate and NFA Lincoln-Douglas debate.

1. Guidelines for both divisions of debate:

a. Both debate formats will offer open, junior and novice divisions. Divisions will only be collapsed when there are six or fewer entrants.

b. All divisions will utilize the NPDA guidelines as far as novice and junior are concerned (see earlier in the invitation for definitions).

c. Determination of elimination rounds:

1. The number of competitors in each event will determine the number of teams advancing to elimination rounds. The tournament will use the following guidelines:

- up to 7 entrants = finals
- 8-14 entrants = semifinals
- 15-28 entrants = quarterfinals
- 29-57 entrants = octafinals

As specified in the bylaws, brackets **will** be broken.

2. The criteria used to establish breaks in NPDA Debate will be:

- a. Number of Wins
- b. Adjusted Speaker Points
- c. Total Speaker Points
- d. Opposition Record

3. The criteria used to establish breaks in NFA LD Debate will be:

- a. Number of Wins
- b. Total Speaker Points
- c. Adjusted Speaker Points
- d. Opposition Record

2. Guidelines for Parliamentary Debate:

a. All NPDA debate topics will be done via mass topic announcement. – please be prompt. Preparation time will be 20 minutes total, which includes the time required to walk to the furthest room. There is a five minute forfeit rule which will be strictly enforced. The five minute forfeit rule IS the grace period. Arrival at 25:05 after topic announcement is necessarily an automatic forfeit.

- b. To remain consistent with the theme of the tournament, NPDA Debate propositions will vary in content. Some propositions may reflect a value, moral, religious, or ethical intent wherein students may feel free to integrate their faith into their arguments. **All schools participating in NPDA debate should submit five potential motions for debate by the entry change deadline.** Coaches MAY encourage students to participate in the topic submission process.
 - c. Given the fact that we have a wide variety of denominational backgrounds and theological preferences represented in the NCCFA, the tournament desires to be inclusive of a wide variety of faith traditions. We encourage judges and students to respect other viewpoints - even if they are not their own - and to encourage that respect within the rounds and on the ballots. We also encourage judges if they have definitive theological biases that they cannot set aside to contact the tournament staff as soon as possible, certainly prior to the beginning of the debate round.
3. **Lincoln-Douglas Debate** will follow the NFA time limits and use the 2000-2010 resolution, found at: <http://www.nationalforensics.org/nfa-ld.html>

E. Judging

1. **Qualification** - All judges must have experience judging intercollegiate forensics competitions and be qualified to judge the events assigned to them. All Open competition judges **MUST** possess a college degree. Non-degree holding judges **MAY** be used for Novice division competition **ONLY** if they have intercollegiate forensics experience. Judges without a college degree **should be noted with the entry.**
2. **Limitations** - Please note all events and/or rounds a judge is **NOT** qualified or able to judge on the entry form. As always, we prefer your judges to your money!
3. **Obligations** - Each school will be required to provide judges as follows:
 - a. One I.E. judge for every 5 IE entries per pattern (10 total slots possible per judge)
 - b. One RT judge for every 2 Readers' Theaters.
 - c. One NPDA judge for every 2 NPDA debate teams
 - d. One LD judge for every 2 LD debaters.
4. **Mix and matching:**
 - a. Individual Events judges may also judge NPDA and Readers Theater, but not LD.
 - b. An LD judge may also judge NPDA, but not Readers Theater or Individual Events.
 - c. Readers Theater judges may also judge NPDA and Individual Events, but not LD.
 - e. **PLEASE** be careful not to overbook your judges. Tournament days can be very long and breaks are rare if judges are committed to covering every thing possible.
5. **Philosophies** - All NPDA debate judges are required to submit a copy of the Parliamentary Debate Judge Philosophy form at the time of the initial team entries, with forms to be found at: <http://www.nccfa.org/judgephilosophy.pdf>.
6. **Commitment** - All judges are expected to judge one round beyond the point their students are eliminated from competition. IE schools would be expected to judge in either time block of finals. **Please help the tournament run on a timely basis by fulfilling your commitment.**

III. Scoring

Sweepstakes points will be accrued by both novice and open speakers in IEs and novice, junior and senior speakers in debate in the following manner:

A. Debate

1. 3 points will be earned for every preliminary round win for each debate team. Byes will be counted as wins for purposes of points.
2. Preliminary round points may be earned for up to 4 teams per division, per school. Elimination round points may be earned for all teams from a school in each division.
3. Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:
 - First Place - 20 Points
 - Second Place - 15 Points
 - Semifinalists - 9 Points
 - Quarterfinalists - 6 Points
 - Octofinalists - 3 Points

B. Individual Events

1. Preliminary round points will be earned on the following scale: 1st place in a round earns 3 points, 2nd place in a round earns 2 points, 3rd place in a round earns 1 point.
2. Preliminary round points may be earned for up to 4 students per school, per division. Elimination round points may be earned for all students per school per division.
3. Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:
 - First Place - 12 points
 - Second Place - 10 points
 - Third Place - 8 points
 - Fourth Place - 6 points
 - Fifth Place - 5 points
 - Sixth Place - 4 points
 - Semifinals - 3 points

C. Readers' Theater

1. 3 points will be earned for each preliminary round win. Byes will be counted as wins for purposes of points.
2. Preliminary round points may be earned for as many as 4 Readers Theaters per school. Elimination round points may be earned for all Theaters from a school.
3. Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:
 - First Place - 24 Points
 - Second Place - 20 Points
 - Third Place - 16 Points

IV. Awards

A. Individual Tournament Sweepstakes: We will offer awards for the top overall competitor at the tournament in Open and Novice divisions.

1. **Open speakers** must be entered in at least 4 events. The student must be entered in platform (limited prep or public address) and interpretation events to be eligible. Readers' Theater counts as an interpretation event with points halved. LD and NPDA debate count as a limited preparation event, with NPDA points halved.
2. **Novice speakers** must be entered in at least 3 events. The student must be entered in both platform (limited prep or public address) and interpretation events to be eligible. Readers' Theater counts as an interpretation event with points halved. LD and NPDA debate count as a limited preparation event, with NPDA points halved.

- 3. Number of Events** - If a student enters more than the minimum number of events required (4 or 3, respectively), then their best 4 or 3 events will count.

B. Individual Events Speaker: We will offer awards for the top Individual Events speakers in both novice and open division.

- 1. Open speakers** must be entered in at least 4 events. The student must be entered in platform (limited prep or public address) and interpretation events to be eligible. Readers' Theater, LD debate and NPDA debate do not count for this award.
- 2. Novice speakers** must be entered in at least 3 events. The student must be entered in both platform (limited prep or public address) and interpretation events to be eligible. Readers' Theater, LD debate and NPDA debate do not count for this award.
- 3. Number of Events** - If a student enters more than the minimum number of events required (4 or 3, respectively), then their best 4 or 3 events will count.

C. Individual Debate Speaker: We will award the top 10 speakers in open, junior and novice NPDA debate. Since NFA LD Debate is a one person event, no speaker awards will be given.

D. Debate Team Sweepstakes

- The tournament will offer three team trophies in each of two divisions of debate: large entry and small entry.
- The breakdown between divisions shall be such that a minimum of 40% of the entries fall into each division, unless a "natural break" occurs that would modify the 40% rule. The breakdown will be based on the number of entries at the time registration closes or the time the tournament starts, whichever is higher.
- The guiding principle behind this rule is that a team that brings a few debaters that do both LD and parliamentary debate will likely be a small entry; as paraphrased, 'If your teams fit in a minivan, they are likely in the small entry division.'
- For purposes of entries, NFA LD and NPDA both count as 1 entry each.

E. Individual Events Team Sweepstakes

- The tournament will offer three team trophies in each of three divisions of individual events: large entry, medium-size entry, and small entry.
- The breakdown between divisions shall be guided by "natural breaks." The intent is to have approximately 1/3 of the teams in each of the divisions. The breakdown is based on the number of entries at the time registration closes or the time the tournament starts, whichever is higher.
- For purposes of entries, Readers Theater will count toward Individual Events sweepstakes at the rate of 1 Readers Theater = 2 Individual Events entries

F. Team Quality Awards Sweepstakes

- The tournament will offer one quality award trophy. This trophy is designed to award the team that has the greatest success per entry.
- The quality award will be calculated by adding all points that the school's entries earn, and dividing by the number of entries.
- Readers Theater will count as 2 entries for purposes of quality awards.

F. Overall Team Sweepstakes

1. The tournament will offer three trophies to the top overall schools. In order to be eligible, a school must enter individual events and debate. RT is considered an individual event.
2. The overall team award shall be determined as follows:
 - a. Calculate the percentage of all possible points a team earns in IE
 - b. Calculate the percentage of all possible points a team earns in Debate
 - c. Add the two percentages together (to two significant digits)
4. Example: Assume there are 1000 possible IE points, and 800 debate points. A school earns 100 IE sweeps points, and 96 debate sweeps points. Their score would be $10\% (100/1000) + 12\% (96/800) = 22\%$.
5. If there is a tie, the tie will be broken as follows:
 - a. Total combined place ranking in IE and debate (i.e., 2 + 2)
 - b. Total number of breaks in all events
 - c. Number of 1's in all events
 - d. Coin flip

V. Financial Information: *Please note: Even if a school drops its entry after the deadline, it will still be responsible for paying drop fees.*

A. Entry fees: Each school will be assessed a \$45.00 fee per participant (Coaches, Judges and Participants and Observers) to help provide food available during the tournament.

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Each Individual Event Slot: \$9.00 | 3. Each NPDA Debate team: \$45.00 |
| 2. Each NFA LD entry: \$30.00 | 4. Each RT entry: \$30.00 |

B. Judging fees: For each uncovered entry, the following fees will be assessed:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Individual Event slot: \$10.00 | 3. NFA LD Debate slot: \$60.00 |
| 2. NPDA Debate slot: \$100.00 | 4. Reader's Theatre slot: \$60.00 |

C. Meal Packages:

As mentioned earlier, Cedarville and NCCFA will have food available for lunch on all three days, the Sunday night Award Banquet and snacks/refreshments all three days. If anyone on your squad has a dietary restriction, please contact Derek.

VI. Host Information:

A. Hotel: This year, we will be using the *Hampton Inn in Springfield, OH*, which is located at 101 W. Leffel Lane, Springfield, OH 45506. Their phone number is 937-325-8480. The NCCFA has secured 50 "double-queen" rooms and 25 "single-king" rooms, each at a rate of \$65.00 per room per night. Each morning, breakfast is provided. When reserving, please mention that you are with the NCCFA National Championship. The hotel is located within walking distance of several fast-food restaurants and two sit-down restaurants, including CRACKER BARREL ☺.

B. Airport arrangements: For those teams requiring flights, Cedarville may be reached by Dayton International Airport (closest), Columbus International Airport, or Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (farthest).

C. Directions to Cedarville University from the Hampton Inn:

- Exit the parking lot of the Hampton Inn, turning right onto Leffel Lane and travel east toward South Limonite Street (State Highway 72).
- Turn right (south) onto Limonite Street and travel for about ten (10) miles until you see Cedarville University on the right. Use the main (second) entrance of the university.

D. Future Tournament Hosts for 2012 and 2013:

If you are interested in hosting NCCFI, please contact Dr. Skip Rutledge. Note that you still have to fill out a bid proposal in order for the tournament to be officially awarded. Without a host, the tournament dies!! Please pray about the possibility of hosting the NCCFI on your campus. Ideal locations have a large enough campus for 50-60 rooms at a time, a location fairly close to a major airport, located in a town with some large hotels with decent rates. Hosts typically spend less than it might take them to fly to a location several hours away.

National Christian College Forensics Invitational

2010 Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, March 5th, 2010

11:00-2:00	REGISTRATION - Location TBA
10:00-11:15	Round One: NFA LD and Reader's Theater
11:15-12:30	Round Two: NFA L/D and Reader's Theater
12:30-1:45	Round Three: NFA L/D and Reader's Theater
2:00-2:45	OPENING CEREMONY - Location TBA
3:00	Extemp Draw
3:15-4:30	Round One: Pattern A (EXT, INF, ADS, PRO, POE, FLT)
4:40	Topic Announce: Round One
5:00-5:45	Round One: NPDA Debate
6:00-7:15	Round One: Pattern B (IMP, PER, CA, DRA, POI, DUO) Round Four: NFA L/D Debate
7:25	Topic Announce: Round Two
7:45-8:30	Round Two: NPDA Debate

SATURDAY, March 6th, 2010

8:00	Extemp Draw
8:15-9:30	Round Two: Pattern A (EXT, INF, ADS, PRO, POE, FLT)
9:40	Topic Announce: Round Three
10:00-10:45	Round Three: NPDA Debate
11:00-12:15	Round Two: Pattern B (IMP, PER, CA, DRA, POI, DUO) Quarterfinals: NFA L/D Debate
12:00-1:00	LUNCH SERVED - Location TBA
12:55	Topic Announce: Round Four
1:15-2:00	Round Four: NPDA Debate
2:15	Extemp Draw
2:30-3:45	Round Three: Pattern A (EXT, INF, ADS, PRO, POE, FLT)
3:55	Topic Announce: Round Five
4:15-5:00	Round Five: NPDA Debate
5:15-6:30	Round Three: Pattern B (IMP, PER, CA, DRA, POI, DUO) Semifinals: NFA L/D Debate
6:40	Topic Announce: Round Six
7:00-7:45	Round Six: NPDA Debate

SUNDAY, March 7th, 2010

8:00-8:45	WORSHIP SERVICE - Location TBA
8:55	Topic Announce: Octofinals
9:15-10:00	Octofinals: NPDA Debate
10:15	Extemp Draw
10:30-12:00	Semifinals: Individual Events
12:10	Topic Announce: Quarterfinals
12:30-1:15	Quarterfinals: NPDA Debate
1:00-2:00	LUNCH SERVED - Location TBA
1:45	Extemp Draw
2:00-3:15	Finals: Pattern A
3:25	Topic Announce: Semifinals
3:45-4:30	Semifinals: NPDA Debate
4:45-6:00	Finals: Pattern B and NFA L/D Debate
6:10	Topic Announce: Finals
6:30-7:15	Finals: NPDA Debate
7:30 or ASAP	AWARDS BANQUET - Location TBA