

March 2016

Dear Debate Colleagues:

On behalf of the Speech and Debate Team at St. Joseph Notre Dame, we would like to invite you to participate in our middle school tournament. Competition will be held on April 23rd, 2016 on the St. Joseph Notre Dame campus. St. Joseph is located in Alameda, adjacent to Oakland. It is easily accessible by Interstate 880 and State Route 61. We are offering three divisions in Public Forum Debate.

Divisions: We will have three distinct divisions, please see rules below.

Rookie: This for students who this tournament will be their *first* competitive experience. We are running a Middle School program, where students will be learning Public Forum for the first time. Other students who meet the above criteria can also enter the Rookie division.

Novice: This is for students who are in their first year of competition or have had significant classroom experience or training. Any student with prior tournament experience in debate or speech should enter this division.

Open: This is an open division that any student may enter, regardless of experience. However, students that do not meet the criteria in the other two divisions, should be entered here. We will leave placement decisions to coaches discretion.

Topics: We will be using the April Public Forum topic released on March 1st for the Novice and Open divisions. For the Rookie division we will be using the NSDA teaching topic: Resolved: Interscholastic competitive athletics should be abolished in the US K-12 public education system.

Entry website: Deadline to register is Monday, April 18th, 2016. Register Here:
<http://www.forensicstournament.net/sjndmspf/15>

Notable reasons to attend:

- We're running a one day tournament!
- Simple entry fee structure of \$20 per team.
- AWARDS: Students with winning records will be recognized.
- Limits: Currently we have no entry limits in any division. Novice entries should be in their first year, or second year if they have limited experience.
- Hospitality: We will be serving food and other snacks during the day. For the sake of the tournament, students are advised not to leave the campus for lunch.

We would love to see you in April!

Please contact us with any questions you may have about our tournament. We will do our best to make the event fun and healthy for competitors and coaches.

Sincerely,

Dan Leahy and Christina Arias
dleahy@sjnd.org