



**THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM
75 BRONX SCIENCE BOULEVARD, BRONX, NY 10468**

August 1, 2017

Dear Moderators:

The Bronx High School of Science Speech & Debate Team cordially invites you and your team to join us at the Forty-Seventh New York City Invitational Tournament. We are delighted to continue our longstanding tradition of offering a challenging and competitive tournament early in the Speech & Debate season calendar.

This year's tournament will take place from Friday, October 13th through Sunday, October 15th, 2017 at the Bronx High School of Science and at our neighboring school, PS/MS 95 which we used last year. The New York City Invitational features varsity competition in Public Forum Debate, Policy Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and, on Saturday and Sunday, Congressional Debate, Dramatic Interpretation of Literature, Duo Interpretation of Literature, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation of Literature, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation and Prose & Poetry.

With the use of the nearby tournament site, we expect to host more students in every division. However, in order to ensure a fair allocation of slots, all entries will automatically be placed on a waiting list until approximately September 5th. The entries will be reviewed and cleared based upon several factors, including geography and diversity of entries. This will most fairly distribute the available slots. Additional slots, if any, will be assigned after all schools have been considered.

Public Forum debaters will debate the September/October 2017 Public Forum Debate topic. Policy debate teams will debate the 2017-18 National High School topic on Education Reform. Lincoln-Douglas debaters will debate the September/October 2017 National Speech & Debate Association LD topic. Congressional Debate legislation will be released prior to the tournament.

Bronx Science remains a qualifying competition for the National High School Tournament of Champions (TOC) in all four debate events: octafinalists in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, octafinalists in Public Forum Debate, quarterfinalists in Policy Debate and finalists in Congressional Debate. The NYC Invitational is a bid tournament for the TOC in all speech categories.

We anticipate that the New York City Invitational will be a maximum-points qualifier to the National Debate Coaches Association (NDCA) National Championships in both Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate.

Registration opens on tabroom.com on August 13, 2017 at 12:00 pm NY time. We encourage you to register early. Full tournament details are posted at nyc.tabroom.com. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at speechanddebate@bxscience.edu.

We very much value your continued support of our school and the tournament and hope to have the opportunity to personally express our appreciation and welcome you and your team at Bronx Science this October.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Donahue '77, Ph.D.

Principal

The Bronx High School of Science

Kirby Chin '88

Co-Tournament Host

Bronx Science Speech & Debate

Robert Levinson '80

Co-Tournament Host

Bronx Science Speech & Debate

Registration, Fees and Judging

Registration

Registration will open on August 13, 2017 at 12 noon NY time. All entries will be placed automatically on a wait list. Acceptances will start at approximately September 5th, and earlier depending upon the circumstances. All entries will be reviewed and cleared based upon several factors, including geography and diversity of entries, with the intention to most fairly distribute the available slots. Additional entries, if any, will be assigned after all schools have been considered on September 5th. After that time, to the extent there are available slots in any event, entries will be accepted using the same factors noted above.

Each student entered at the tournament must represent their currently enrolled high school. Independent entries that satisfy specific requirements (posted on the website) will be considered. In Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate and Duo Interpretation, both team members must be currently enrolled at the same high school. Each school must designate one adult moderator who must be present for the duration of the tournament and who will be responsible for any issues related to the school's entries. The tournament may require supportive documentation verifying all of these items.

Tournament Fees

School Fee \$40 per school

Registration Fees

Event	Fee (per entry)
Public Forum Debate	\$120
Policy Debate	\$110
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	\$90
Congressional Debate	\$40
Dramatic Interpretation	\$35
Duo Interpretation	\$50
Extemporaneous Speaking	\$35
Humorous Interpretation	\$35
Original Oratory	\$35
Program Oral Interpretation	\$35
Prose & Poetry	\$35

Judging Obligations

Public Forum Debate	1 full time judge for every 3 teams
Policy Debate	1 full time judge for every 2 teams
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	1 full time judge for every 3 debaters
Congressional Debate	1 full time judge for every 7 debaters
Speech	1 full time judge for every 6 entries

Judging Fees & Other Information

There is a limited pool of hired judges available at \$300 per judge for the Lincoln-Douglas, Policy and Public Forum Debate; \$200 per judge for Congress; and \$150 for speech events.

School affiliated judges are obligated for all preliminary rounds, the first elimination round, all elimination rounds when your students are competing and one additional elimination round beyond the last elimination round of your student's competition. A runoff round, if any, is not an elimination round.

All LD and Policy judges are required to post judging philosophies by 5:00 pm NY time on October 9, 2017. Failure of a school to fulfill a judging obligation will require the tournament to impose a fine on the school and may result in the inability of students to compete at the tournament.

All judge hire requests must be received by September 24, 2017. Once a school's requests for a hired judge is fulfilled, the school will be required to pay the assessed judging fee. Unfortunately, the tournament cannot allow a cancellation once a hired judge request is fulfilled.

Any school-affiliated judge that misses a round will be assessed \$60 per missed round.

Schools making judge changes in Policy, LD or Public Forum after 5:00 p.m. NY time on October 9, 2017 will risk having those judges ineligible (thereby incurring a missing judge penalty) since the tournament will release MPJ and strike sheets shortly after that time.

All ballots in Policy, LD and Public Forum will be online. Accordingly, all such judges are strongly encouraged to have their accounts set up before registration and certainly no later than the commencement of the tournament. All judges must provide a cell phone or email where they may be reached during the time they judge at the tournament.

Fee Assessment

All accepted entries will be set by 9:00 pm NY time on September 24, 2017 and schools with accepted entries are assessed final fees at that time. Any drops after this date will **not** reduce the assessed final fees, even if a school drops all of its entries.

While this date may seem early, we have found that many schools will still have wait-listed entries. This deadline will provide us the ability to accommodate some of these entries, especially schools that need to make travel arrangements to attend the tournament. Entries accepted after the time noted above are assessed final fees at 9:00 pm NY time on October 12, 2017.

Schools may continue to make online student name changes until 9:00 am NY time on October 13, 2017. Given the size of the tournament, we encourage all schools to finalize changes at or prior to this time. Changes thereafter may be made only in person at registration on Friday (or Saturday, for Congress and Speech entries). All changes, whether a name change for a student or judge or a drop in entry, after the time noted above will result in an assessment of \$30 per change which must be paid by the school before the school's entry will be accepted into the tournament.

Payment

Final fees (including any assessments) must be paid in full before the commencement of the tournament. Any school failing to pay the assessed fees in full before the deadline will not be permitted to compete. Final fees are payable regardless of attendance (drops or otherwise) at the tournament.

Schools may pay via Credit Card and all schools paying *their entire fee* via credit card will have their school fee waived. Unfortunately, we cannot waive the school fee for schools only paying part of their fee via credit card.

Please pay via credit card [HERE](#) or visit goo.gl/saADpS.

Schools can pay via check made payable to ***The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation, Inc.*** Please write *Big Bronx* in the memo line. ***Unfortunately, the tournament cannot waive the school fee for schools paying via check.*** Checks can be mailed to (and must be received prior to the commencement of the tournament):

Bronx Science Speech & Debate
The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation

75 Bronx Science Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10468

Other Information

Hotels accommodations, transportation, directions and other information related to the tournament will be released on nyc.tabroom.com.

We ask communications with the tournament to be limited to the school's adult moderators. Should schools have any questions, please email speechanddebate@bxscience.edu. We look forward to seeing everyone in October!