

September 18, 2017

Greetings, colleagues.

Westminster will be hosting a policy debate tournament Saturday, November 18, through Monday, November 20, 2017. Registration is open on Tabroom.com. You will find details in the pages below.

The tournament will be a TOC qualifier at Open finals.

We are excited to have Kevin Hamrick from Montgomery Bell Academy returning to run our tab room again this year.

We have a large campus with the space to provide many competitive and educational debates in Open, JV, and Novice – but an early idea of numbers will help us and other entries plan accordingly.

Looking forward to seeing you in November,

**Jordana R. Sternberg, JD**

**Director of Debate**

**Westminster**

# DIVISIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

* The Open division will be a qualifier for the Tournament of Champions at finals.
* Novice debaters should be in their first year of high school competition and debating their first topic at the high school level. There will be some level of disclosure in advance or packet in the Novice division. Details to follow, but the [Georgia Novice Packet](http://www.gaspeechanddebate.org/novice/) is a good starting guide.
* JV debaters should be in no more than their second year of high school competition and debating their second topic at the high school level. Debaters with less experience than this are welcome to compete in the JV division.
* There is not currently a limit on number of entries per school, and we have a lot of classroom space, but if interest is higher than anticipated we may have to start a wait-list.
* Westminster students will compete. They will be eligible to debate in elimination rounds but they will not be eligible for speaker awards.

# DEBATES

* All divisions will follow the 8-3-5 format and debate the following topic:

**Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.**

* Pairs competing in the Open division will have ten minutes of prep time per round.
* Pairs competing in the Novice and JV divisions will have eight minutes of prep time per round.
* Speaker points will follow a 30-point scale, allowing tenth points, in all divisions.

# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – all divisions

* We expect to begin Open elims with octafinals. If the field is large enough, we will hold double-octafinals, which may mean two elims on Sunday night.
* Novice and JV elimination rounds are likely to begin at quarters or semis. Depending on number of entries, **the younger divisions may be able to conclude on Sunday night**. There is some possibility Novice and/or JV will have five prelims rather than six.

**Friday, November 17**

4:00 pm – 10 pm:            Online registration/confirm on-site

**Saturday, November 18**  (**all times will be pushed earlier when possible)**

7:30AM Breakfast available on campus for all participants

7:45AM Pairings, Rounds 1 & 2

8:30AM Round 1

11:00AM Round 2

LUNCH

2:00PM Pairings Round 3

2:30PM Round 3

5:00PM Pairings Round 4

5:30PM Round 4

 **Sunday, November 19 (times pushed earlier when possible)**

8:15AM Breakfast available on campus for all participants

8:30AM Pairings Round 5

9:00AM Round 5

LUNCH

12:30PM Round 6 Pairings

1:00PM Round 6

AWARDS

4:30PM First elimination round

**Monday, November 20 (at hotel) (times pushed earlier when possible)**

8 AM Second elimination round

11 AM Third elimination round

2 PM Fourth elimination round

5 PM Fifth elimination round (if needed)

# JUDGING

* Judges in all divisions are expected to act as responsible educators during the tournament, especially when interacting with students.
* Judges should feel comfortable with intervening in or stopping a debate in which someone engages in conduct that would reasonably result in disciplinary action, or be stopped by a teacher, in an ordinary high school classroom setting.
* In order to facilitate the mutual preference system, **we ask that you provide four rounds of qualified judging per team in the Open division for the preliminary rounds.** If this presents difficulty for you, please contact me.
* Some hired judging will be available at the rate of $50 per round. Please notify us of your hired judging needs by November 3, 2017.
* Every judge is committed to judge one round beyond the school’s elimination from the tournament.
* All judges should have an up-to-date judging philosophy posted at <http://judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com/> or [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com)

# REGISTRATION

* All competing students should be accompanied by an adult chaperone authorized by their school.
* Online check-in will open on Friday, November 17 at 4:00 pm, closing at 9 pm.
* After you arrive in Atlanta, log in to Tabroom and follow the steps to confirm that everyone in your group has arrived and that you have no changes to your entries and judging.
* Please do not check in online until everyone in your party is physically in Atlanta.
* If you are delayed, or you are missing someone who is en route, or have other obstacles to confirming by 9 pm that your entire party is present, please contact Jordana Sternberg at 404-964-8399.

# MEALS

* Entry fees include breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday for all participants.
* There will be a judges’ lounge with snacks. Snacks will also be provided for competitors.
* We anticipate that competition will conclude each evening in time for you to enjoy some of the dining options Atlanta has to offer, including many that are within walking distance of the tournament hotel.
* Westminster is located in the “Buckhead” area of Atlanta, which offers many dining options as well.
* Dining options near the hotel:
<http://www.marriott.com/hotelwebsites/us/a/atlrb/atlrb_pdf/Renaissance_Waverly_Nearby_Dining.pdf>
* Dining options **in** the hotel:
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-information/restaurant/atlrb-renaissance-atlanta-waverly-hotel-and-convention-center/>

# FEES

* The entry fee in Open is $110 per team.
* The entry fee in Novice and JV is $80 per team.
* There is no “hotel fee” or “school fee.”
* If these fees are preclusive because of your program’s limited resources, please contact me.
* Please make checks out to:

The Westminster Schools

1424 West Paces Ferry Road

Atlanta, GA 30327

Attn: Jordana Sternberg – Debate

# HOTEL

* We have secured a $99 rate at the Renaissance Waverly, a large property that is connected to the Cobb Galleria Conference Center and has more than 20 dining and shopping options within walking distance, including the Cumberland Mall and Costco (by pedestrian bridge). Link to list and map above, under “Meals.”
* Internet and on-site self-parking is included with your hotel stay.
* Our contract does not require us to assess a “hotel fee.” However, at this time, we have only contracted for 50 rooms. If this block fills early, we expect to be able to add rooms, but the hotel, while optimistic, cannot guarantee rooms at this same rate later.
* All reservations should be made directly with the hotel no later than Friday, November 3.
* You can book online with this link: [Book your group rate for Westminster Schools Debate Conference](http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=Westminster%20Schools%20Debate%20Conference%5Eatlrb%60weswesa%6099.00%60USD%60false%604%6011/17/17%6011/20/17%6011/3/17&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes)
* To book by telephone, call Marriott Reservations at 1 (888) 391-8724.

# LOCATIONS

* Debates will take place on campus at Westminster on Saturday and Sunday.
* Westminster’s street address is **1424 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30327**, but the campus is very large and has several internal roads, so **once on campus you will need to follow signs to get to the appropriate buildings.** We will send out information about parking and buildings as the tournament date approaches.
* Monday elims will take place at the Renaissance Waverly, 2450 Galleria Pkwy, Atlanta, GA 30339.

# TRANSPORTATION

* Westminster is about five miles from the Renaissance Waverly. There is plenty of unrestricted parking on campus.
* Given the proximity of the hotel to so many dining options, it is probably feasible to rely on taxis or a shuttle service rather than a rental car while you are here – contact me if you need additional information about this.