**2017 Wake Forest Fall Classic Invitational**

**October 21-23, 2017**

High school policy and public forum debate programs are invited to enter teams in the 2017 National Earlybird for Policy hosted by Wake Forest University from October 21-23, 2017

**HOSPITALITY**

If the return of the gloriously large and filled snack-tent, smiling faces, smart judges, phenomenal opponents and quality classrooms wasn’t enough. 2017 promises to open a new backdrop – the North Carolina autumn. We aren’t the only ones who think that Wake is the most beautiful fall campus in America. (<http://www.bestcollegevalues.org/50-most-beautiful-colleges-in-the-fall/>).

Food Provided!!!! Once again we will provide breakfast, lunch, dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Hot drinks and snacks are provided throughout the day

**GREAT COMPETITION**

***Whole Squad Experience*** *–* Whether on a squad of two teams or twenty, bring them all! We anticipate squads having the unique opportunity to travel to a competitive tournament where both their best senior debater and their hard-working sophomore debater can be part of the experience. With our JV BREAK-OUT division both in Policy and Public Forum; every round can count! We will initially have a waiting list and squad caps until a final room list can be established. We anticipate letting everyone in.

***Policy Debate -*** In the Policy Division, we will once again be a quarterfinals qualifier for the Tournament of Champions. **Both the 2017 NDCA and 2017 TOC Champions** competed at at the Wake High School tournament last year. We do not recommend the policy division for students who have not competed for at least one year in policy debate. We will employ a category mutual preference system of judging similar to years past.

***Public Forum Debate -*** In the Public Forum Division, we are not a Tournament of Champions qualifier this year. We look forward to welcoming a large number of teams from the North Carolina area and beyond. There will be a limited number of judge strikes for teams who wish to use them.

**ALL ONLINE**

All entries, pairings, and ballots will happen through tabroom.com. Please make sure all of your judges have a registered tabroom.com account linked to an email address. We encourage your students to sync their texts and/or emails as well with their account. A few paper copies of pairings will be available for coaches outside Carswell Hall. There will be judge voting assistance booths in each building in the event a judge does not have access to a computer or faces other technical difficulties.

**A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT**

The central message of Wake Forest is “Pro Humanitate” roughly translated as for the good of humanity. In recent years, Wake Forest has been ahead of the curve on two issues that matter to the administration of debate tournaments. We would also like to speak briefly about creating a welcoming climate after conversations with high school coaches over the past few years.

Bathroom Access – To put it most simply HB2 (N.C. anti-trans bathroom bill) does not apply to Wake Forest because we are a private institution. We will publish a list of gender neutral restrooms on campus. The Wake Forest Administration has issued an [official statement](http://news.wfu.edu/2016/03/25/media-advisory-wfu-statement-on-recent-nc-legislation/) that staunchly opposes the measure, the faculty Senate overwhelmingly passed a [resolution](http://news.wfu.edu/2016/04/11/media-advisory-wake-forest-university-faculty-adopt-resolution-against-hb2/) opposing the law, and a number of Wake Students, including debaters, stood in solidarity on chapel steps and attended other rallies.

Accessibility – We will use the first floor of Carswell Hall as our hallway for static rooms. If you have a student who needs *limited room movement*, please check the box on tabroom and double-check at registration. If you are a coach/judge in need of static rooms let us know if golf cart transportation would be sufficient or if a static room is needed. We will have a *quiet room*. If you do have students whom are anticipated to use the quiet room, please let us know to ensure close access. If there are additional needs, please ask; we are confident we can make it happen.

Interactions – We think debate is awesome. As a result, we recognize the vast majority of interactions between competitors, coaches, and/or judges are enjoyable and positive; that’s why we do this! We would like to make clear a couple of expectations of those who attend to prevent negative interactions. We encourage coaches to talk with coaches and students to talk with students when conflicts arise. To our knowledge, the Wake Forest tabroom has never overturned a judge’s decision in a policy debate. The tabroom would much prefer to have parties resolve any dispute. In the unfortunate event of violence, threats of violence, illicit or illegal substance use, and/or cursing out a student by an adult may result in removal from the tournament and campus. These have been few and far between over the years. One request we have of everyone is to talk with at least one new person.

**TOURNAMENT HOTEL**

Our tournament hotel will be the Hawthorne Inn (420 high street, Winston Salem, NC, 27101), a short distance from campus in downtown Winston-Salem. Doubles and Kings will be $105 a night, and there are a limited number of Double Suites available for $155 that will sleep six (including a sofa bed) and have a living room for a meeting area. These rates include a complimentary hot breakfast.

To reserve rooms, you can call: 336-777-3000 or use [www.hawthorneinn.com](http://www.hawthorneinn.com/). Go to “Reserve Online” link…Enter your arrival/departure dates and your group code 26R826. Your reservation will automatically be calculated at your discounted group rate. We recommend doing this early. The rate may not be honored if the block fills up or if it is too close.

**REGISTRATION AND FEES**

*Fees*

Open Teams: $140 per team of two

Hired Judging: $30 per round

Free Drop Date: Any team not dropped by Monday October 16th will need to pay the entry fees. There are no additional drop fees.

Urban Debate Schools and new and emerging schools. Send us a backchannel.

*Payment by check:*

All checks should be made payable to “Wake Forest Debate” or “Wake Forest University”

Debate c/o Justin Green

Department of Communication

1834 Wake Forest Road

Winston-Salem, NC 27109

*Payment by credit card:* A chip-secure credit card reader available to take entry fees via credit card. There is no surcharge.

*Verifying Arrival:* We will utilize the on-site verification button on tabroom. Once you either arrived at the airport or an hour out if driving, please click the button to verify your arrival. Reminder emails/texts will be sent out the morning of arrival day. If you have any changes, please contact debate@wfu.edu, or text Justin Green at 703-855-6177.

*In Person Registration:* No matter the technological advancements, we don’t want to give up the option of the Wake welcome. If you have a moment and wish to say hello on Friday night, we’d be happy to see you at the Hawthorne between 8-9:30 PM. We can answer questions, collect fees, provide receipts, and listen to the tales of questionable student actions.

*Saturday morning Registration:* If you cannot join us Friday night, we will have a registration table set up in the lobby of Carswell Hall to collect payment (including credit cards) and provide receipts. If possible, we would strongly prefer this be handled during a debate as opposed to before or after on day 1.

*Invoices/Receipts:* We will use tabroom.com as our accounting platform. Feel free to use the invoice from the site if your school allows. If something different is desired, please let us know. Anyone who wishes to arrange payment ahead of time, please email debate@wfu.edu . We can provide an invoice and W-9.

*Contact us:*

Justin Green is the Tournament and Tabroom Director. All registration correspondence should happen with debate@wfu.edu

Jarrod Atchison is the Director of Debate and can handle all non-tabroom related questions during the event. You can find him near the tent.

**JUDGING**

*Obligations:* Each team in policy requires 3 rounds of judging. Each team in Public forum requires 2 rounds of judging.

*Expectations:* All judges are expected to:

* Show up on time. Vote for one team within decision time.
* Empower and constructively educate, not belittle.
* Be graduated from High School and/or possess a GED.
* Are obligated for the First Elimination round + One round beyond when their team is eliminated.
* *(POLICY ONLY)* Must have experience with policy debate. Prior experience not needed for Public Forum.

*Hired Judging:* $30/roundPlease request to hire from the tournament. There is no maximum on number of rounds you can hire. Our Wake debaters and undergraduates sell their time and labor in the form of hired judging so they can have nice debate things, like traveling to tournaments. We don’t offer a hiring exchange; we don’t hire outside judges.

*Pre-tournament Conflicts:* A judge should conflict themselves from judging a team if one of the following is true:

* Debated on the same squad at the same time as the debater
* Had a coach-debater relationship
* Coached at the school a debater attends within the past 2 years
* Had/have a romantic relationship
* Spent significant time teaching lab together at summer workshops
* Familial/long-term relationship amongst coaches
* Clarification: Judge beliefs about debate pedagogy are not grounds for a constraint.

*Protests/Ethics Challenges:* Judges make decisions as to who win or loses, our tabroom does not. The tabroom has overturned 2 decisions in 10 years. One involved a “I pushed the wrong button” problem. We are willing to offer frameworks for guidance to any new judge who finds themselves in a unique spot. All decisions must be completed by decision time.

*Replacement Judging:* If a judge is removed or becomes unavailable we will ask other members from that school to increase their commitment.

**FORMAT and TEAM ENTRY RULES**

We will use the 2017-18 NSDA resolutions for each event.

Open Debate Championship: Each school may enter up to four two-person teams, prepared to debate both sides of the National High School Topic. Schools may request a fourth or fifth team in Open. We anticipate being able to accept nearly all 4th and 5th teams. If space allows, we may accept beyond 5. Policy will break to double octas. Public Forum will break to an appropriate elimination round based upon entries.

Junior Varsity Debate Break-out: We will have up to a quarterfinal break-out elimination tournament for those students who have no more than 1 year of debate experience. We will offer separate speaker awards and elimination trophies. Debaters who qualify for this distinction should have either debated the year before or attended an extensive summer workshop. We do not encourage those with no debate experience to attend.

**COMPUTER USE**

*Public Forum Rules:* We will follow National Speech and Debate Guidelines. Laptop use is permitted. During the debate it is the requirement of the debater to disable any network connections.

*Policy Rules:* We will follow National Speech and Debate Guidelines, except that network communications are permitted as long as they do not involve communication with a 3rd person (ex. in-round research and partner communication).

At Wake Forest, we use the honor code. Students are assumed to be trustworthy; if they violate that trust, the consequences can result in expulsion. The tabroom wishes not to get involved. If someone accidentally left their wireless network on in Public Forum or a Policy debater receives an email from a coach that says “meet by Carswell Hall after the debate”, we hope to give people the benefit of the doubt. However, if there is clear malicious intent, forfeits, removal from the tournament, and notifications to host school administrators are possible penalties.

**ADULT CHAPERONES/INDEPENDENT ENTRIES**

All entries (independent or not) are allowed assuming there is an adult school personnel or family member of one of the students, not affiliated with the Wake Forest Debate Team, who assumes any and all responsibility and liability for the participants. That adult should have their contact information entered on tabroom. It is the responsibility of the entrant to create a school and register on tabroom. We will prioritize safety and accountability in reviewing these special cases. (List them as a coach)

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

FRIDAY

8:00-9:30 PM: Registration at Hawthorne Inn (Room 302)

9:00 PM Special session on debating at Wake Forest/admissions. Open to everyone. Location TBA.

SATURDAY

7:00 AM: Coffee and breakfast items at the tent.

7:15 AM: Pairings Rounds I & II

8:00 AM: Round I

10:30 AM: Round II

Lunch provided by tournament at the tent assuming no rain.

1:30 PM: Pairings, Round III (if possible, we may speed up the release times of the pairings)

2:00 PM.: Round III

4:15 PM: Pairings, Round IV

4:45 PM: Round IV

Dinner provided by tournament at the tent assuming no rain.

SUNDAY

7:15 AM: Coffee and breakfast items at the tent

7:30 AM: Pairings Released

8:00 AM: Round V

10:30 AM Pairings Round VI (earlier release if possible, later release of pairings if necessary)

11:00: Round VI

Lunch available in tent starting middle of Round VI

TBA PM: Awards Ceremony in Carswell 111

TBA PM: Pairings, Double Octas (Open) and Quarters (Junior Varsity)

TBA PM: First Elim

Dinner on your own.

ASAP: Second Elim

MONDAY

7:45 AM: Coffee at the Hawthorne Inn

8:00 AM: Elim Pairings

8:30 AM: Elim Begins Begin

ASAP: Elims Continue

We welcome all to attend at the invitation of Wake Forest University and Wake Forest Debate.