

Dear Colleague:

Samford University Debate cordially invites you and your students to this year's Bishop Guild Debates, Samford University’s High School Debate Tournament, to be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday January 12, 13, & 14, 2018. The tournament is hosted in Birmingham, home to numerous historic sites.

We are excited about the prospect of bringing qualified and talented students to the Birmingham Area to compete in debate. This year we will be offering competition in Policy Debate (varsity and novice), Lincoln-Douglas (Open), and Public Forum (Open).

Appropriate awards will be presented to those teams that reach elimination rounds. Speaker awards will also be presented to individuals in each division. The number of elimination rounds and speakers will be determined by the size of the divisions. Finally, the Tournament of Champions has recognized our tournament as a qualifier for teams reaching the semi-finals in policy debate.

Following on last year’s success, we will continue to make extra efforts to provide superior judging. Our goal is that you leave our tournament thinking that you enjoyed the best judging you have had all year.

We have also included several meals in this year’s tournament price to expedite meal breaks. We hope that this added convenience improves your tournament experience. If the increased fee poses a financial hardship, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you. I would love to talk with you about Samford University or the tournament itself.

Sincerely,

Ryan Galloway

Tournament Director

(205) 726-2695 (office)

(205) 253-4367 (cell phone)

(205) 726-4280 (fax)

rwgallow@samford.edu

# Tournament Information

Varsity Policy Debate: The varsity division is open to any two-person debate team. The format will be 8-3-5 with 8 minutes of preparation time. There will be six preliminary rounds with elimination rounds to follow. We have enough space to have each school bring up to ten teams.

Novice Policy Debate: Novice policy debaters are those who are competing in their first high school year on their first high school debate topic. Participation in middle school debate does not count against someone competing as a novice. Novices enjoy all of the same rules as varsity policy debate. We have enough space for each school to bring up to five teams, with additional teams being placed on a waiting list. High school seniors with policy debate experience can judge novice debate.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: The LD division is open to middle and high school students of any experience level. LD debate will use the January/February topic. There will be six double-flighted preliminary rounds with elimination rounds to follow. We have enough space to have each school bring up to five entries. Additional entries may be placed on a waiting list and will be accepted on a space available basis.

Public Forum Debate: The public forum division is open to middle and high school students of any experience level. PF debate will use the January topic. There will be six double-flighted preliminary rounds with elimination rounds to follow. We have enough space to have each school bring up to five entries. Additional entries may be placed on a waiting list and will be accepted on a space available basis.

Judging: One judge must be provided for every two entries in an event. Each judge will be assigned to one school. Any judge with additional conflicts should note said conflicts on the entry form and on tabroom.com. Judges who “NO SHOW” will cost the school that hired them a penalty fine of $50.00 per round. In addition, please take care to provide judges qualified to judge the divisions and events your school is entered in. This includes having a judge philosophy posted in policy debate, though one is preferred in other events as well. This is the only way to guarantee that the judging is of the highest standards and ensure that students can adapt to judge expectations. All judges are expected to remain available for all rounds until one beyond the time that their team is eliminated.

Judges must register for a Tabroom.com account, as we will use this system to distribute pairings and submit ballots. Paper ballots will not be distributed. Judges may wish to bring a device that will allow them to complete online ballots, such as a laptop.

Parking: On Friday, you should park in a commuter lot: we will include a parking pass in your packet. There is a commuter lot behind Brooks and another across the quad near Samford Hall. After 4PM on Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday, campus safety will not be ticketing and you can park in any open lot.

Internet log-in: We’ll include internet log-in info in your opening packet, and the code should be good all weekend. If you are having problems, you may want to try logging into Samford’s guest network.

Meals: The tournament will be providing breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday for all participants in Brooks Hall. On Friday, for students, we will provide pizza after round 2. We will also provide lunch for students on Saturday. On Sunday, no lunches are provided, but we are happy to recommend local restaurants and delivery options. For coaches, meals, coffee, and snacks will be served in the SIM Forum in Brooks Hall (135) throughout the tournament. Skip Coulter is hospitality guru for the coaches, so please let him know if you have any dietary restrictions or special requests.

Prelims: Six preliminary rounds, first two will be pre-set. Rounds 4 & 5 will be lag paired Saturday morning.

Decision time limits: Judges are expected to give their decisions in a timely manner. Please submit or turn in the ballot before giving oral comments or walking back to Brooks Hall.

Breaking brackets, elim sides, hybrids, and mavericks: We will not break brackets in elims. Sides in elim rounds are decided at random, unless teams have previously met, when they should switch sides. We allow hybrids and mavericks, and they are eligible for speaker awards, but may not clear at the tournament. Mavericks are only allowed if the team entered as a team, and one partner is ill or unable to compete after entry.

Rules:The NSDA policy debate topic will be used. Prep time in policy debate is **8 minutes** in both open and novice. Mutual preference judging will be used in Varsity Policy debate. The tournament is a semi-finals TOC qualifier for Varsity policy debate. Judges must vote for one and only one team each debate. Speaker points are on a 30 point scale with decimal places and no ties in points.

**Fees**

Policy Debate Teams $70.00 per team

Lincoln Douglas Debate $35.00 per entry

Public Forum Debate $70 per team

Hired Judges $150.00 per hired judge

Late Drop Fee $50.00 per drop

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Samford Debate.**

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### Deadlines

Entries will be taken on a first come, first served basis up until the wait list point. Teams will be taken off of the wait list on a space-available basis. When the buildings are full, we can take no more entries.

All entries must be finalized by Monday, January 8th, 2018. After that point we will start assessing fees. The bill for changes after that date is $5.00 per change until Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Changes made after that time will be assessed a $50.00 fee. A lot of work goes into planning a tournament, and space limitations guarantee the space that you take up is denied to someone else. We realize that situations may arise--but we want to avoid last minute changes.

## Judging Responsibilities

Each school is expected to supply one judge for every two entries in each event category. We prefer not to hire "half-judges" although in special conditions we will try to hire a round or two to coaches who wish to see one of their teams. If you ask us to hire a judge for you and then end up finding one of your own, we will not subtract that judge's payment from the amount that you owe us. Instead, we will be happy to hire that person on a per round basis--and you can make arrangements for that person to rebate you out of the money that they receive. Samford is a small team, so we work hard to recruit qualified judges, and often they travel from outside of the Birmingham area. UNDER NO CONDITIONS CAN JUDGES BE HIRED OUT AT REGISTRATION.

## Tab Room

The tab room will be run electronically on tabroom.com. We will be using mutually preferred judging in varsity policy and random judge placement in other divisions. Pairings will be done according to the schedule designations.

## Schedule

Registration will occur in Brooks 102 from 11AM-12PM. We will begin competition at 12:30 p.m. We will have three rounds on Friday, and rounds will begin again at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. All elimination rounds for LD and PF will be held on Saturday, and in Policy elimination rounds will be on Sunday starting at 8:00 a.m.

## Directions

Samford is very easy to find. If you are coming from the South into Birmingham, I-65 provides the easiest access to the campus. Take I-65 until you come to the Lakeshore Drive Exit. Take the exit and take a right when you reach the stoplight. You will be on Lakeshore Drive. Continue through the light at Greensprings Highway. At the next light, about a mile down the road, take a left into the Samford Campus. Most of the debates will be in Brooks hall. To get to Brooks hall, take a right at the top of the hill when you pull into the driveway. You will circle the campus until you reach the upper right corner. Brooks hall is the building that is next to the University Chapel.

Coming from the North is just as simple. Take I-65 through the city until you come to the Lakeshore Drive exit. At the top of the exit take a left. Continue through the Greensprings Highway light and go about a mile to the next light. Samford will be on the left.

Parking is always a problem on the Samford campus. Fortunately, once you find a legal parking space, it is unlikely that you will have to move during the day. Please park legally—there is nothing I can do to get you out of a ticket.

## Housing

There are many hotels within a mile of the Samford campus. Let us suggest a few.

Holiday Inn

492 Wildwood Circle North

Homewood, AL 35209  
(205) 942-6070

La Quinta

60 State Farm Parkway  
Homewood, AL  
(205) 290-0150

Country Inn & Suites

485 Wildwood Circle North,

Homewood, AL 35209

Phone:(205) 451-4000

# TownePlace Suites Birmingham Homewood

500 Wildwood Circle, Homewood, AL 35209

205-943-0114

**To Enter the Tournament**

This year we are taking entries only at www.tabroom.com. Please go to the website and enter your teams on-line. If you are having difficulties with this process, please contact [rwgallow@samford.edu](mailto:rwgallow@samford.edu) and we will make sure you get registered for the tournament!

Please Make Checks Payable to: Samford Debate.

Tentative Schedule

# Friday, January 12, 2018

11AM-12 PM Registration, Brooks Hall 102

12:30 PM Round 1 Start Time

2:45 PM Round 2 Start Time

5:00 PM Dinner Break

6 PM Round 3 Start Time

# Saturday, January 13, 2018

7AM Pairings/Breakfast Available

8:00 AM Round 4 Start Time

10:15AM Round 5 Start Time

12:30PM Lunch Break

1:30PM Round 6

4:30PM Awards Assembly, Brooks Auditorium

5PM ` First elimination round – All LD and PF elims to follow

# Sunday, January 14, 2018

7AM Pairings/Breakfast Available

8:00 AM Policy Second Elimination Round Start Time

11AM Policy Third Elimination Round Start Time

2PM Policy Fourth Elimination Round Start time

An additional elimination round may be scheduled in policy debate if entries warrant breaking to double octofinals. In the past few years, the tournament has cleared to partial-octofinals.