

How NITOC 2016 Can Be the Best Ever -- Parent Judging

It's Simple! WE NEED YOU!



Simple Truth: WE NEED YOU

We have some amazing families in Stoa! Those with true servant hearts! The Stoa Board is grateful to God for all the wonderful families in Stoa. Many of you will be traveling to NITOC this year. The only way we can make an all-volunteer event like NITOC a success is if the family of every NITOC competitor commits to filling parent judge slots commensurate with their competitor's/competitors' speech and debate events. In other words—WE NEED YOU! The team in Springfield has done their best to recruit as many judges as they possibly can, but we still need you parents to serve as judges! That's the only way we can get over 3,000 ballots taken care of! When you think about it – it is a good problem to have!

Just like at all the other Stoa speech and debate tournaments, and NITOC is no different, volunteering as a parent judge helps to provide the best possible competitive environment and experience for our speakers and debaters, while keeping costs down.

Simple Premise: WE NEED YOU

Parent judges will need to fill the majority of all judging slots

- Judging needs are based upon the number of events entered by each competitor
- Therefore, the more events each student enters, the more judging by you is needed

Simple Action: WE NEED YOU

Preliminary Speech and Debate Rounds:

1. Each family registering for NITOC must provide a judge for a *minimum* of 8 preliminary rounds of judging.
2. Families with multiple students, or students in multiple events, may have an increase in their judging responsibilities based on the following formula:

Each Speech event (IE) = 2 rounds of judging

Each LD debater = 4 rounds of judging

Each TP debater = 2 rounds of judging

Each Parli debater = 2 rounds of judging

- For example:
 - A family with three children in one speech event each will need to judge the minimum 8 preliminary rounds because the calculation only comes to a total of 6 preliminary rounds (2 for each student).
 - A family with two students in two speech events each will need to judge 8 preliminary rounds because the calculation equals a total of 8 rounds (2 IE x 2 for student #1 + 2 IE x 2 for student #2).
 - A family with three students in one speech event each, one in Lincoln Douglas, one in Team Policy, and one in Parliamentary debate will need to judge 14 preliminary rounds (6 for IE + 4 for LD + 2 for TP + 2 for Parli).

Speech and Debate Out rounds: WE NEED YOU

1. In addition to the preliminary round requirements, each family has the following out round requirements:
 - Speech = 1 speech out round
 - LD debate = 1 debate out round
 - TP debate = 1 debate out round
 - Parli debate = 2 debate out rounds
2. Each family registering for NITOC needs to also provide a judge for **one** round of Breakout Impromptu

Parents: Every student must provide or enlist enough judges to meet the minimum preliminary round and out round judging needs they create. We know that for those of you with multiple children or with children competing in multiple events, this will mean you have a heavy judging load. Here are some ideas to help you meet your judging requirement:

1. Bring additional family members to help meet your requirement.
2. Coordinate with other parents in your club that are not required to judge as many rounds.
3. Contact alumni and request help for meeting your judging need.

If you are lucky enough to enlist the help of a friend to judge for you, be sure that they know that your requirements are in addition to their own judging responsibilities. (I would recommend either a lot of chocolate or a spa day when they get back OR BOTH!)

So, as you can see—WE NEED YOU! We are looking forward to working together with all of you to give our students a wonderful championship experience, with plenty of new and different judge feedback! Please keep in mind that this is an all volunteer event- only if all of us do our parts can we make NITOC 2016 the best NITOC EVER for our competitors!!

WE SIMPLY NEED YOU:

At NITOC, please be as available as you possibly can! WE NEED YOU!

Our Springfield Team has done their best recruiting as many community judges as possible, but **WE** still **NEED YOU** to check in with the ballot table every time you are able to judge to let us know that you can take a ballot. This is the only way to ensure that our tournament will **RUN ON TIME!** No one wants our days to be too late. No one! It would not be good for the competitors (Or their parents!) to have super long days! So, what **WE NEED** is **YOU!** Every chance you can—please come and check with the ballot administration table (Or what we like to call Ballot Give), because **WE NEED YOU!**

What WE are trying to do for YOU: Our number one priority (Besides **running on time**) is to get your competitors as much exposure to new judges and new comments on their ballots as possible in an effort to make them the best speakers and debaters in the country! Wouldn't it be great if Washington debaters had Georgia judges? Or imagine our Tennessee speakers going home with some ballots from our Hawaiians? Just think about it! Normally that is too cost prohibitive during the normal tournament season, but not here at NITOC! That is what NITOC is all about! Let's take advantage of the fact that we are all here from all over the country!

This may just be wishful thinking on our part... but if by Wednesday we have continually run out of ballots, but not out of people willing to take them-- and you have had a chance to judge every other round already, we may ask you to step aside and let someone else who hasn't had a chance yet. Please remember... we are all in this together! We have the same goal—it's all about OUR KIDS! This is their NITOC—let's make it THE BEST one ever!

Simple Process: What WE NEED YOU to do

So, please, every day (And before every round that you can☺), **WE NEED YOU** fabulous judges to pick up a ballot: Wear your nametags containing your club code and judge number to the ballot table to help us help you.

Judges will then be handed a ballot:

- **Without an obvious conflict** (Someone you gave birth to or someone in your own club).
- At that point, PLEASE double check the names for us and if there is a conflict- let us know.
- If no conflict, then you are good to go and your judge number will be written down.

That's it! You're off to go be amazed by the talented kids Stoa has!

Simple Rules: Judge Eligibility:

1. Judge must be age 19 by January 1, 2016
2. Judge must not have competed in high school forensics during the 2015-2016 tournament season

General Judging Guidelines (all rounds):

Judges may

1. Judge students from their state/region
2. Judge the same student in multiple speech events
3. Judge the same debate student/team in different debate events

Judges may not

1. Judge their own children or relatives, or students from their club
2. Judge students they have coached
3. Judge the same speech event more than one time
4. Judge a debate student/team more than once in each form of debate

To all Judges

1. DO NOT DISCLOSE speech results to anyone during the tournament
2. DO NOT DISCLOSE debate decisions to anyone during the tournament

Please remember to never discuss the round with other judges before (or after) turning in your ballots...

Guidelines for Semifinals and Finals:

1. Parents may not judge events in which their child is still competing
2. Alumni may not judge events in which their sibling is still competing
3. Coaches, parents, alumni may not judge events in which a student they coach is still competing

Guidelines for Parliamentary Debate

1. Coaches, parents, and alumni may assist teams during preparation time and then judge other teams for the same debate round, through the Quarterfinal round of the tournament
2. Coaches, parents, and alumni may not judge during the Semifinal or Final Rounds if they help any team during preparation time

And, of course, for all rounds ballots will be preferentially distributed to community and alumni judges first. Please be praying for lots of community and alumni judges!!!

The tournament director/ballot administration staff reserves the right to sacrifice any of the guidelines in order to keep the tournament running on time! We promise to do our best for YOU!

With YOUR help, because WE NEED YOU—NITOC 2016 will be the best ever!

Can't wait to see y'all in Springfield!

The Stoa Board of Directors & NITOC 2016 Staff