



NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY



Being part of the Honor Society helped me understand the importance of integrity, humility, respect, leadership, and service—not only in the speech and debate community but in my hometown community, as well. We are the future, and we have a say in changing the world for the better, which is exactly what I plan to do.”

— *Abigail Onwunali,*
2014 Dramatic Interpretation National Champion

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL PARTICIPATION!

The National Speech & Debate Association's Honor Society has been recognizing student and coach achievements in speech and debate since 1925! Over the last 90 years, the Association has honored more than 1.5 million students, encouraging them to further their education, expand their skill set, and reach their goals.

PARTICIPATION IN THE HONOR SOCIETY:

- Helps establish speech and/or debate programs at your school.
- Attracts support from administrators.
- Recognizes student participation in speech and debate.
- Sparks student achievement.
- Benefits the college application process.



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Recognizing our students for participating in speech and debate activities shows our school administration that we work extremely hard. They can easily see how dedicated our students are to success. In turn, administrators inquire about tournaments, attend events, and find ways to help us succeed. **I can't thank the Association enough for inspiring and unifying my students and community.**”

— Ariana Gonzalez-Green,
coach and teacher

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

The National Speech & Debate Association highlights the academic value of speech and debate activities at your school. Schools are awarded for their commitment to speech and debate activities and the learning opportunities they provide to their students. National Tournament recognition also helps increase local administrative support for your speech and debate program.

Participation in the largest national honorary for speech and debate will increase student engagement and college preparedness, strengthen your school's reputation, and build stronger connections within your community.



Speech and debate participants do better academically across the board. They become engaged, active participants in their education and in their community. Our school has seen great improvements in student culture and spirit since we started our program, and I would highly recommend joining the NSDA to any administrator looking to make a positive impact on school culture and academic performance.”

— Errol A. Evans,
2018 NSDA Middle School Administrator of the Year

EXAMPLES OF SCHOOL RECOGNITION:

- Schools of Outstanding Distinction
- Speech and Debate Schools of Excellence
- Outstanding School Achievement
- Administrator of the Year Award



STUDENT RECOGNITION

The National Speech & Debate Association recognizes middle and high school students for their participation in speech and debate activities. Students earn distinction through competition, community service, public speaking, and leadership. High school students must earn 25 points (Degree of Merit) to acquire lifetime membership in the Honor Society. The more points you earn, the more degrees you obtain.

Earning points in the Honor Society empowers students to expand their knowledge, advance their skill set, and become better students. The skills learned in speech and debate greatly benefit students in the college application process and prepare them for life after high school.

How to Earn Points:

Winning a round of Policy Debate	6 points
Giving a speech to more than 25 people	5 points
Acting in a high school play	5 points



EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RECOGNITION:

- Academic All American Award
- All American Award
- Student of the Year Award
- Speaking and Service Award
- Graduation Honor Cords



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The National Speech & Debate Association Honor Society gave me a chance to be a part of a community of like-minded people who were driven to make a difference in the world.”

— Elena Cecil, 2018 NSDA Student of the Year



The National Speech & Debate Association's Honor Society gives students an avenue for visible achievement. Students are motivated to earn points through competition and service. Additionally, administrators are impressed with the awards individual students and the school achieve as part of the Honor Society. National recognition of speech and debate programs honors schools' achievements!”

—Joni Anker, 2018 NSDA Coach of the Year

COACH RECOGNITION

The National Speech & Debate Association recognizes more than 5,000 coaches for their dedication to speech and debate every year. Coaches earn distinction through team participation, student achievement, public service, and leadership work.

The Honor Society also provides professional development opportunities for coaches. Through the Association's professional development accreditation program, coaches can earn higher distinction within the honorary for expanding their skill set.



EXAMPLES OF COACH RECOGNITION:

- Coach of the Year Award
- Assistant Coach of the Year
- Diamond Awards
- Distinguished Service Award
- National Hall of Fame



CELEBRATE SUCCESS!



HOST AN HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY!

There are many ways to celebrate the success of your program. Hosting an Honor Society Induction Ceremony at your school is a great way to recognize your students, coaches, volunteers, community members, and administration! The Association provides **free certificates, a guide for hosting a ceremony (including scripts), press releases, invitation templates, and more!** As a member, you also have exclusive access to our trophy shop with specialized speech and debate awards and honor cords!

LEARN MORE AT
[speechanddebate.org/
honor-society](https://speechanddebate.org/honor-society)

CODE OF HONOR

“As a student or coach member of the National Speech & Debate Association, I pledge to uphold the highest standards of humility, equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service in pursuit of excellence.”

HUMILITY: A member does not regard oneself more highly than others. Regardless of a person’s level of success, an individual always looks beyond oneself to appreciate the inherent value of others.

EQUITY: A member respects individuals and their individual differences as well as fosters equity, diversity, and inclusion. A member promotes empowerment for people from all backgrounds, including race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

INTEGRITY: A member is honest, ethical, and adheres to the competition and conduct rules of the organization. A member follows the NSDA discrimination and harassment policy and abides by the rules of their schools, tournaments, and localities.

RESPECT: A member demonstrates civil discourse in their interactions with others. A member maintains and contributes to a safe space and welcoming environment for all.

LEADERSHIP: A member is aware their words and actions influence others. A member commits to thoughtful and meaningful words and actions that reflect NSDA core values.

SERVICE: A member exercises their talents to provide service to peers, community, and the activity. At all times a member is prepared to work constructively to improve the lives of others.



I competed for a very small school with very limited funding. The Honor Society was the perfect way to show my school, my district, and competitors that forensics can be dually rewarding, competitively and pedagogically.”

— William Igbowke, alumnus

YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

JOIN THE HONOR SOCIETY TODAY: More Than 1,000 Tools and Resources!



HONOR SOCIETY

Students, coaches, and schools earn points for competition and service activities. Members receive national recognition for local participation, including leadership opportunities and special awards.



COMPETE FOR A BID TO NATIONALS

Each year, members have a chance to compete at their district tournament to qualify for the largest academic competition in the world, the National Speech & Debate Tournament, held annually in June.



WEEKLY COACH NEWSLETTERS

The latest news, resources, recognition opportunities, and updates from the speech and debate community, are delivered straight to coach inboxes.



ROSTRUM MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

Member schools receive a free copy of Rostrum magazine, which shares quarterly news, team profiles, scholarly articles, and national updates.



TOPIC VOTE

Suggest topic ideas and cast a vote to help determine the topics debated by students across the country.



FUNDRAISING

Earn up to \$7,500 with the Big Questions Debate fundraising program and take advantage of discounted services from Edco, the fundraising platform designed for the K-12 community.



EXTEMP QUESTIONS

Prepare for competition or practice sessions with monthly sets of questions for both International and United States Extemporaneous Speaking.



RESEARCH GUIDES AND DATABASES

Utilize free access to HeinOnline, an outstanding research product with millions of pages of legal history normally only available to law students and legal professionals.



TOPIC ANALYSES

Access debate topic resources for Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Policy to build arguments and keep them up to date throughout the season!



FINAL ROUND VIDEOS

Gain insight by watching the best in the nation perform in National Tournament final round videos from our archives dating back to 1985.



For more information, visit www.speechanddebate.org/membership to learn about becoming a member of the National Speech & Debate Association!



401 Railroad Place
West Des Moines, IA 50265-4730

(920) 748-6206

info@speechanddebate.org



www.speechanddebate.org



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National Speech & Debate Association

WHO WE ARE:

The National Speech & Debate Association was created in 1925 to provide recognition and support for students participating in speech and debate activities. While our organization has evolved over the decades, our mission is more relevant today than ever before. We connect, support, and inspire a diverse community committed to empowering students through competitive speech and debate.

MISSION:

The National Speech & Debate Association connects, supports, and inspires a diverse community committed to empowering students through speech and debate.

VISION:

We envision a world in which every school provides speech and debate programs to foster each student's communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creative skills.