

NCS DEBATE TEAM MEMBER COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS

The purpose of this document is to clearly articulate what is expected of a member of the NCS Debate Team. Being a member of the NCS Debate Team is a privilege, requires a time commitment, hard work, and self-discipline. *****Please read all expectations.*****

Debate Class Course Description

As a student in the Debate Class, you become a member of the nationally recognized Northland Christian School Debate Team. The Debate and Public Speaking curriculum is designed to balance lecture with skills development in a practical, fun environment. As a member of the NCS Debate team, you will compete against public and private schools locally, throughout Texas, and at national tournaments in other states. The course and competition focuses on specific debate and public speaking events, such as, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Public Forum Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oratory and Impromptu Speaking. The course is designed to foster critical thinking and argumentative abilities, which are crucial to success in college and beyond. Students will develop various reasoning, research, organizational and persuasive skills. Through debate and public speaking practice and competition, students will develop communication techniques that will ultimately be utilized in the academic, social and workplace settings. Students are required to attend a minimum of five tournaments during the school year.

Students receiving honors level credit are expected to set the example of Best Effort and to serve as leaders and mentors to other team members while advancing their own skills to a higher level.

NCS DEBATE TEAM MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

1. Exhibit a Christ-like attitude and attributes on and off the NCS campus, at debate tournaments and during competition as demonstrated through your words and actions.
2. Be a Christian leader on campus by making a difference through your words, actions and taking the initiative to utilize the public speaking gift that God has given you to share God's word in Chapel, in your classes and with fellow students.
3. Give Best Effort!
4. Be able to work in an autonomous environment, which will be demonstrated by class participation and completing all event assignments in preparation for tournaments on time.
5. Attend a minimum of five tournaments. Team members must be able to compete through the duration of the tournament on Saturday in order to be able to attend a tournament. Attending the minimum does not guarantee selection for out of town tournaments.
6. Participation at tournaments with entry limits will be based upon work effort in class, and tournament preparation.
7. Participation in practice rounds after school will be required in preparation for tournaments.

8. Team members will remain at the tournament through the completion of the awards assembly, **unless special permission has been given by Coach Court.**
9. Dropping out of a tournament after the entry deadline has passed will result in the team member paying for any drop fees incurred.
10. Some NCS team members will have an opportunity to compete in out of town tournaments. Team members would be responsible for their own air fare associated with out of town tournaments. The debate program will provide scholarships, as needed. **In order to travel, students must maintain all As, Bs and Cs.**
11. Team members will be asked to pay \$150 per school semester to cover tournament related expenses. The debate program will waive this fee, as needed.
12. Competing and representing NCS at a tournament is a privilege. Exceptional behavior and adherence to team rules is expected.
13. All assignments in other NCS classes will be completed or arrangements made with the respective the teacher prior to missing class for a tournament.
14. NCS Debate Team participation is evaluated at the end of each tournament season. Participation on this school years team is not a guarantee of inclusion in future school years. Prior year best effort, work ethic, attitude, desire, team support, tournament participation and other extracurricular activity conflicts will all be taken into consideration on team selection.
15. At tournaments where students will have to “debate each other”, we will use the order that the tournament ranks students in to determine who will take the “win” and who will take the “loss”. Students will not debate each other. At NSDA Districts, if students are required to debate each other, we will determine who gets the win and the loss based on the best effort they have had throughout the year, seniority, coaches input, each member’s records throughout the year and the ability they have at NSDA Nationals. Any questions about this can be directed to Coach Court.
16. For tournaments that qualifications are required for attendance (The Tournament of Champions, NIETOC, etc), a student must be fully committed to debate in order to compete at the invitational tournament. Simply qualifying does not guarantee the right to compete. If you have specific questions, please let me know.
17. All team members are expected to support one another through their actions and words.

By signing below you acknowledge the fact that you have read and have full understanding of your commitment and the expectations of you as a member of the NCS Debate Team.

NCS Debate Team Member _____ Date _____
 NCS Debate Team Parent _____ Date _____