

New Member Debate Team Application

Student Name: _____

Grade Level in 2022-2023 School Year: _____

Class & Team Expectations

Listed below is a summary of the MINIMUM expectations for students desiring to participate in the NCS Debate Class and on the Debate Team.

1. Desire to learn communication, argumentation and critical thinking skills and to practice these skills in front of other peers and adults.
2. Ability to work independently on assignments and in preparation for tournaments outside of class.
3. Desire to compete in tournaments in debate and public speaking events against other public and private high schools.
4. Required to compete in a minimum of five (5) tournaments during the school year, which are held on Friday and Saturday (in order to be selected for out of town tournaments, students will need to compete at more than the minimum five tournaments).
5. Willing and able to participate in practice rounds after school in preparation for tournaments.
6. Willingness to be part of a team and support other team members.

Questions

1. Please check all that apply about why you want to be on the NCS Debate Team:
 - a. Because I have an interest in Debate & Public Speaking _____
 - b. Because I did not want to take Communication Applications _____
 - c. I want to compete in Debate & Public speaking events at tournaments ____
 - d. I want to improve my communication and critical thinking skills _____
 - e. I enjoy talking about current events (i.e. politics, economy, foreign policy) ____
 - f. Because I want to participate in theatre/acting events such as Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic, Duet Acting, etc. _____
 - g. My parents are making me take Debate _____
 - h. I need an extracurricular activity _____
2. I understand and can meet all the Minimum expectations above. Circle: YES or NO
3. List all of the NCS and non-NCS extracurricular activities (i.e. Sports [list which sports], trainer, Musical, Academic Meets) that you will be participating in next school year.

4. Explain why you would like to be on the NCS Debate Team and what you hope to accomplish. Please be specific and thorough!

****Please note that the teachers of all new team members wishing to join the team will be sent a confidential evaluation form. This will help assess if students are capable of keeping up with the demands required of a class with a lot of individual work time. ****

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, World Schools, 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.**

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 (TOC, 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. Students must be qualified to TFA State in order to compete at TOC.
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 _____