

With privilege, comes great responsibility

Updated 8/29/2024 (MD)

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# WELCOME LETTER

Dear Team Members and Families,

Welcome to Thunder Speech, Theater, and Debate Company (“TSTDC”) 2024-2025! TSTDC is more than just a club, IT’S A FAMILY! We are a community of competitors, coaches and parents dedicated to advocacy, discourse, and platform through the development of public speaking skills, critical thinking and teamwork.

TSTDC has an incredible tradition of success with an unprecedented 19 State Championships! The legacy TSTDC has built over the past two decades is the direct result of the dedication of team members and coaches in conjunction with support from team parents. We are looking forward to another amazing year and are excited to have you and your family join us in the pursuit of a 20th State Title.

TSTDC’s mission is to foster a supportive and challenging environment where students can develop their public speaking skills, enhance their critical thinking abilities, and learn the art of debate. We aim to build confidence, encourage collaboration, and cultivate a passion for rhetoric and discourse.

It is important to recognize that TSTDC is a significant commitment for both students and their families. Competitions require extensive preparation on the part of the students and coaches. There are eight local tournaments the team will participate in during the year; the majority of which are all-day events beginning on Friday and concluding Saturday night. These tournaments are team activities, but the team’s success is dependent on active support/volunteer efforts from team parents. Each tournament requires multiple volunteer parent judges to support the number of students registered to compete for TSTDC. Judge training will be provided, and we encourage ALL PARENTS to complete judge training and volunteer for at least TWO tournaments this year.

This handbook is designed to introduce students and parents to the different speech and debate events, the terminology associated with competitions and to outline team rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact us directly at [tstdcassistant@gmail.com](mailto:tstdcassistant@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Michelle Daye, Lead Coach

Amanda Domino, Executive Coach

### TSTDC CORE VALUES

Core values are ethics or ideals that guide each team member when making decisions, building relationships, and solving problems. TSTDC’s core values are *Family, Appreciation, Commitment, and Excellence*.

*Family* – “It’s a Family Thing” is not just an empty slogan. Every student is a part of this evolving family of peers, coaches, alums, and parents working together to prepare the next generation of leaders in our community. We support each other like family, we cheer for each other when we succeed, and we help each other when facing adversity.

*Appreciation* – TSTDC offers students a unique platform to showcase their unique experiences, opinion, and artistic expression to other students and judges. This amazing privilege is made possible by countless people volunteering their time to organize, judge, coach, and fundraise for you. Students must show appreciation by respecting everyone and doing their best to improve speaking, acting, and advocating skills at each practice and competition.

*Commitment* – Each student must commit to a “No Choice” mentality at each practice or tournament. “No Choice” means everyone has NO CHOICE but to give their best, all the time, every time. Students must be committed to give his or her personal best and do what is best for the team.

*Excellence* – Each TSTDC must pursue excellence by improving the “3 Ts” – Time Management, Talent, and Tenacity.

Time Management: Each team member must dedicate significant time and effort to practice and compete. Each member must learn to balance the requisite time and effort to TSTDC while maintaining high academic performance in the classroom.

Talent: Each team member has various levels of talent when first joining the team. Each member must develop his or her talent using resources like coaches, peers, competitors, internet, or camps.

Tenacity: This is the most important of all three “T”s. Students need to be tenacious – they must never be willing to quit and always be ready to give their best.

### THREE BENEFITS OF SPEECH AND DEBATE

1. Improve Academic Success

* Speech and Debate participation increases admission to selective colleges and universities by 60%[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Speech and Debate participation positive effect on SAT and ACT scores.[[2]](#footnote-2) Specifically, debaters outscore non-debaters on every section of the ACT.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* The academic achievements of TSTDC members also support the link between speech and debate and academic success:[[4]](#footnote-4)
* Six (6) DV 2024 valedictorians
* Five (5) 2024 National Merit Finalists
* One Flinn Scholar
* $1.5 million in scholarships in 2023 and 2024
* Average ACT score: 34.1(99th percentile)
* Average AP score: 4.624 with 100% passage rate
* Team GPA: 3.9

1. Enhance Career Opportunities:

* Speech and debate alumni are titans in arts, business, law, technology, government, education, and many other industries.[[5]](#footnote-5) For example, 3 current and one former US Supreme Court Justices were speech and debate alums.
* All of the skills that business and employers prioritize in employees, like communication, character, critical thinking and analysis, and the ability to collaborate in high-pressure situations, are developed through Speech and Debate.[[6]](#footnote-6)

1. Most importantly, Speech and Debate helps you to use your voice to change the world. Whether you are telling a story through an interpretation event or advocating for an issue in debate, Speech and Debate allows you to stand up and take a stand. **Your voice is powerful – use it**.[[7]](#footnote-7)

### SPEECH AND DEBATE EVENTS

Speech and Debate is analogous to track and field competition. Individuals compete in a variety of different events. Team members score team points and receive individual awards for excelling in their individual event(s). The points earned by each team member are combined for each team (school) to determine the final placing for each team at the end of each tournament. Most tournaments allow students to participate in multiple events.

**SPEECH EVENTS**

**Black Book (Acting) -** In Black Book events, competitors have more freedom to talk about issues based on the competitor’s passion or interest. In “Poetry Interpretation” and “Program Oral Interpretation” (POI), the competitor picks a social issue and creates a 10-minute performance made up of poems, articles, books, and scripts. Cutting from one book or script, the competitor can craft his or her one-person performance that can be as funny or sad. [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk_MqUFxuZ4)

**Interpretation (Acting) -** Interpretation, or Interp., is divided into three categories. In the ‘Dramatic Interpretation” category, the competitor performs a piece of literature and creates a monologue-type atmosphere (which includes a lot of sadness and physical display of emotion). In the “Humorous Interpretation” category, the competitor plays multiple characters, each including different voices and dispositions while addressing an underlying theme. In the “Duo Interpretation” category, two competitors act out a story without touching each other or looking in each other’s eyes. [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuxjKYP5k3A)

**Limited Prep. -** Limited Prep., or LP, is the middle ground between Speech and Debate. The competitors have a limited amount of time to create a single speech. There are two events within LP: “Extemporaneous Speaking (extemp)” and “Impromptu”. In Extemp., each competitor delivers a 7-minute speech on a random current event topic with 30 minutes preparation time. In Impromptu, each competitor has 7 minutes to both prepare and deliver a speech on a random and eclectic topic. [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzoUu1fDmWE)

**Platform (Spoken word) –** There are two Platform events; “Original Oratory” is an argument-based speech where the competitor discusses an overlooked problem and proposes a solution to the problem. “Informative Speaking” is where the competitor picks a topic and creates visual aids to help educate the audience on the topic. Both types of platform speech require the competitor to inform, educate, and persuade the audience with a 10-minute memorized speech. [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtN7_9n07Qw)

**DEBATE EVENTS**

**Big Questions Debate (solo) -** As the name suggests, Big Questions (BQ) debaters debate “Big Questions” often asked by spiritual leaders and philosophers. The topic pits opposing worldviews against each other. For example, last year’s BQ topic was “Resolved: Belief in the supernatural is incompatible with belief in science.”

[Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9w7bhapHIE)

**Congressional Debate (solo) -** In Congressional Debate, competitors role-play as members of the U.S. House Representatives or Senate. The competitors debate multiple topics in the form of bills during a session. The bills address wide ranges of domestic and international issues, with competitors take opposite sides during the floor debate. [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USLobWI8BFA)

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate (solo) -** Lincoln-Douglas (LD) Debate incorporates philosophy, current events, and policy argument into one individual event. Depending on the topic, the LD competitors may use the "traditional" method of debate (basing arguments on evidence and issues presented in the round), policy-style arguments (making specific plans about how a bill or resolution should work), or prior-issue debating (focusing on the issues with the resolution and debate in itself). [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFFOLNdSOWE)

**Public Forum Debate (partner) -** Public Forum (PF) competitors debate topics pulled from major news or current events. PF is ideal for competitors who follow world politics and beginners who prefer to focusing on more concrete ideas and not delve into abstract impacts. The competitors also get to work with a partner during the competition. [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUnyLbeu7qU)

**Policy Debate (partner) -** Policy Debate is the most comprehensive and oldest form of debate. It’s a partner event where the competitor can present any argument that has a tie to the resolution. Policy competitors usually talk extremely fast, and elite colleges love to recruit successful policy debaters. Policy competitors will learn and implement effective debate strategies of effective argumentation widely used in various career fields. [Watch an example](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XU92LHHk2Y)

### BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS

**Academic Standards** -Because education is the highest value of this activity, team members will uphold the highest excellence in the classroom. This includes striving for academic excellence, effectively and respectfully communicating with teachers, and being a model student in behavioral standards. Team members will be required to adhere to Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) grade requirements, which requires all students to be passing at the marking period. Because we hold our team members to a higher standard, we require monthly grade checks, due at the first Tuesday meeting of the month. Students will print out a copy of their StudentVue gradebook, which includes their name and the current date, and bring it to the team meeting. Emails with a screenshot will not be accepted. Team members who fail to turn in a grade check or who are failing a class will be suspended from competition until the following grade check. Those who are consistently academically ineligible may be suspended or dismissed from the team with NO refund offered. Students who violate academic honesty policies and/or are found to cheat or aid others in violating the academic honesty policy may be suspended or dismissed from the team with NO refund offered.

**Accountability Standards** – TSTDC believes personal accountability is paramount to fostering a family environment and maintaining competitive success. TSTDC Students should always be accountable for their action by seeking ways to improve. Rather than focusing on the negatives or blaming others, students must stay positive and constantly seek and welcome constructive criticisms from coaches and peers. Students who fail to be accountable will be given chances to improve its behavior. However, students who repeatedly fail to meet the accountability standards will be suspended or dismissed from the team.

**Attendance Standards** - The success of TSTDC depends on the participation of ALL STUDENTS. Students will attend all mandatory meetings, tournament dinners, and tournaments unless excused by the coach. Many TSTDC students are high-achieving students engaging in multiple academic and extracurricular activities, which means occasionally missing a team event is inevitable. It is the student’s responsibility to minimize conflicts with the required team activities. If conflict does occur, the student must timely communicate conflicts in a timely manner to the coach. Failure to attend mandatory events without being excused by the coach will lead to suspension and dismissal from the team.

**Behavioral Standards** - TSTDC students will be held to the highest behavioral standards. Students will adhere to Tempe Union High School District and Desert Vista policies, rules, and regulations, including prohibiting any hazing or harassment. In addition to following district and school rules and regulations, students must also act as ambassadors for the school and model citizens in the community. Students will always do the right thing and help others do the right thing. Students will show mutual respect for all genres, activities, members, parents, and coaches of the team. Any action that violates the TUHSD or DV policies, rules, or regulations or reflects poorly on TSTDC will lead to suspension or dismissal from the team.

**Communication Standards**

Because the focus of this activity is communication, team members are to demonstrate the highest degree of excellence in communication. Team members understand that all informative and administrative information is communicated via the “Remind” app, e-mail, and by our website; it is the team member’s responsibility to be informed on important activities and deadlines. Furthermore, team members will initiate timely communication with the coaching staff whenever there are any conflicts or concerns. Team members are to always copy TSTDCassistant@gmail.com on communication. Team members should not say anything negative about another team, judge, or any person/part of TSTDC. This includes social media or any public forum. Students who fail to communicate effectively may be asked to leave practice and/or dropped from the tournament entry. Those who consistently fail to communicate effectively may be suspended or dismissed from the team with NO refund offered.

**Competition Standards** – TSTDC Students will adhere to all AIA and NSDA rules, regulations, codes of conduct, and ethical standards. The student must strive to do his or her best when competing in a tournament. The student will respect all competitors, coaches, judges, tournament officials, observers, and guests of all teams before, during, and after tournaments, including internet discussion forums and other social media. Students should never blame a judge, the competition, or anything other than themselves for any tournament results. Failure to consistently uphold the competition standards will lead to suspension or dismissal from the team.

**Financial Standards** – TSTDC Students and families should adhere to payment deadlines for club dues. TSTDC believes finance should not be a barrier to participating in speech and debate. Please contact the TSTDC Booster Club regarding financial assistance at [tstdctreasurers@gmail.com](mailto:tstdctreasurers@gmail.com)

**Practice Standards** – TSTDC students are expected to be active participants during team practice. During team practice, students are expected to actively seek guidance from coaches and teammates. In addition to improving one’s performance, students should help coaches and teammates when asked. The students must be positive at practice, complete assignments, as well as follow any instruction from a coach. Failure to consistently uphold the practice standards will lead to suspension or dismissal from the team.

# TEAM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

**Registration and Fee Requirements**

1. Complete and submit ALL registration forms, including: Consent for Emergency Care; Emergency Medical Information Form; Student Transfer Form; Travel Permission Form; Media Opt Out form (if applicable) and the TSTDC Agreement. Registration forms must be submitted to Mrs. Domino by September 18th. Students participating in Congress and attending the Scottsdale Prep Tournament on September 14th must submit registration forms by September 9th.
2. Complete the online Team Member Contact Information form online. The form can be found under the Student Tab at the top of the webpage.
3. Pay the team dues by October 31, 2024. See the “[Financial Requirements](#_FINANCIAL_REQUIREMENTS)” section of the handbook for more information regarding ways to pay team dues.

**Minimum Requirements** - All TSTDC students must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Attend all Tuesday meetings in room C279 from 3:40 to 4:10
2. Attend all tournament week practices
3. Attend all practice sessions during State Practice Week
4. Participate in the State Tournament

While there may be exceptions (with proper communication) to join TSTDC, students must meet the minimum participation requirement above to remain on the team.

**Practice Requirements**

1. Unless excused by the coach, Students must attend all required practice outlined in their event schedule.
2. If students are going to miss a day of practice, they MUST email Michelle Daye at [tstdcassistant@gmail.com](mailto:tstdcassistant@gmail.com) as well as their event captain(s).

**Communication Requirements**

1. Students MUST join the team Remind. All team communication is disseminated through the team Remind. Text “@tstdc2425” to “81010” to join.
2. Students are encouraged, but not required to follow TSTDC on social media.

### 8th HOUR REQUIREMENTS

Signing the TSTDC Agreement serves as the “Syllabus” acknowledgement for 8th hour students.

Students in 8th hour, recognize their grade is based on the following:

- Signing this handbook (aka syllabus acknowledgement)

- Choosing an event by the deadline.

- Creating an NSDA account and a Tabroom account.

- Provide 1 artifact at the end of each week related to their event.

- Competing once in the first semester. \*

- Competing once in the second semester. \*

- Attending Tuesday meetings.

- Attending class daily and following DV rules for absences.

- Showing work completed on a timeline set for their event.

\*Competition serves as a summative grade for each semester. There is no replacement grade if a student does not attend the tournament as a competitor.

### DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

If coaches note a pattern of behaviors that do not align with TSTDC standards and expectations, it will be necessary to address the behaviors with a private conversation to help guide students in the right direction.

**Step One: Meeting with Coach**

Coaches will have an official meeting with the student to remind them of the standards and expectations and have a conversation about certain behaviors. The student may be asked not to attend practice for a time or be dropped from/not considered for tournament entry.

**Step Two: Corrective Behavior Plan**

If the behavior is not corrected, coaches will conduct a second official meeting with the student discussing the violation of team standards and expectations. Official notes will be taken; an action and behavioral plan will be agreed upon; and the student and parent(s) will sign the behavioral plan. The student may be asked not to attend practice for a time or dropped from/not considered for tournament entry.

**Step Three: Suspension or Removal**

If the behavior continues, coaches may suspend or dismiss the student from the team.

The steps outlined above are general guidelines. TSTDC and Desert Vista High School may skip steps or issue other consequences that match the severity of a student's specific negative behavior.

### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION/FAQ

1. **WHAT IS THE 2024-2025 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE?**

Sept 14: Scottsdale Prep (Scottsdale Prep) (Congress and BQ only)

Sept 28: Desert Sun (DVHS Prep Tournament)

Oct 18-19: Jim Fountain Classic (McClintock)

Nov 7-9: Toro Tournament (Mountain View HS)

Dec 6-7: ASDCA Winter Trophy (TBD)

Jan 10-12: Hugh Downs Invitational (ASU)

Jan 17-18: Scorpion Spectacular (Mountain Ridge HS)

Jan 24-25: Mesquite Invitational (Mesquite HS)

Jan 31-Feb 1: Jackrabbit Jamboree (Mesa HS)

Feb 15-17: Harvard Invitational (Out-of-state Travel Tournament)

Feb 22: Desert Moon (DVHS State Prep Tournament)

Feb 28-March 1: AIA State Tournament (TBD)

March 15: NSDA Congress National Qualifier (TBD)

March 20-22: NSDA Debate/IE National Qualifier (TBD)

April 26-28: Tournament of Champions (U. of Kentucky) (Qualified students only)

June 15-20: NSDA Nationals (Des Moines, IA) (Qualified students only)

1. **WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO COMPETE IN A TOURNAMENT?**

- Return the signed TSTDC Agreement to the coach

-Sign up to participate in the tournament using the student’s Tabroom account

(participation is subject to the coach’s approval).

-Demonstrate a positive attitude and dedicated work ethic

-Recruit volunteer judges (parents, grandparents, adult siblings, Speech & Debate alumni)

**3. WHAT HAPPENS AT A TOURNAMENT?**

Tournaments usually last two days and are divided into preliminary rounds and elimination rounds. The preliminary round consists of 3-5 debates or performances. After preliminary rounds, the tournament officials calculate who has the best scores and the best records. Debaters with the best win-loss records and speakers with the highest cumulative ranks will advance to the elimination rounds. Elimination rounds for debate often consist of octa-finals, quarterfinals, semifinals, and then finals. Speech events are held all day Saturday. After initial rounds, Speech tournaments typically only have a semifinal and a final round. At the conclusion of the tournament, awards for the top teams and individual event winners are presented during the award ceremony.

**4. WHO JUDGES TOURNAMENTS?**

All judges are required to have a minimum of a high school degree. Many judges are Speech & Debate alumni or current coaches/assistant coaches. However, the majority of judges at each tournament are parent volunteers.

**5. WHERE ARE TOURNAMENTS?**

Tournaments are hosted at high schools and college campuses all across the state of Arizona. Generally, students will be competing in classrooms. If students participate in an online tournament, they may perform from home or a quiet place.

**6. DO I HAVE TO ATTEND ALL THE TOURNAMENTS ON OUR SCHEDULE?**

Students are encouraged to participate in as many tournaments as possible. However, students are not required to participate in all tournaments.

**7. WHAT TIME ARE THE TOURNAMENTS?**

A typical tournament schedule is as followed:

- Friday:

- Congress: 6 AM- 3PM

- Debate (preliminary rounds): 3PM- 9 PM

- Saturday:

- Speech (preliminary rounds and elimination rounds): 7 AM- 9 PM

- Debate: (elimination rounds): 11AM- 9 PM

**8. WHAT DO I DO IF I DID NOT BREAK (ADVANCE) AT A TOURNAMENT?**

Students who are eliminated must attend other elimination rounds or watch a teammate compete in another event. TSTDC is a family, and students should stay to cheer on other teammates. It is also beneficial to watch and learn from other competitors. The best way to improve is by watching and learning from other competitors.

**9. WHAT DO I WEAR AT A TOURNAMENT?**

Tournament attire should reflect a business formal appearance. For men, this usually means a suit and tie, dress shirt, and dress shoes. For women, a pantsuit, skirt suit, or a professional dress paired with closed-toe shoes works well. Neutral colors are often preferred, and overall grooming should be neat and polished. The ultimate goal is to project confidence and professionalism.

### FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

**TEAM FEES**

The club dues for each student are $600. The fee covers transportation, memberships, tournament entry fees, assistant coaches, subscriptions to resources, team t-shirts, team dinners, banquets, and awards. AZ Public School Tax Credit donations can be utilized toward the $600 fee if the TSTDC student is listed as the designated recipient.

TSTDC is open to all students. The team fee should not be a barrier to joining TSTDC. If you need financial assistance, please contact the TSTDC Boosters at tstdctreasurers@gmail.com to discuss ways to utilize the Arizona Tax Credit donations or to establish a payment plan for team dues and/or travel expenses.

**HOW TO PAY**

Team Registration Forms must be completed prior to submitting payment for club dues. Find the required registration paperwork on [www.tstdc.com](http://www.tstdc.com), under the Student tab. Registration forms must be printed, completed and returned to Mrs. Domino.

Once paperwork is submitted, review the following payment options:

1. Pay using the **AZ Public School Tax Credit** system

The maximum credit allowed is $400 for married filing jointly and $200 for single, heads of household and married filing separately. You can use the donation as a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Funds can be utilized to pay for dues and/or applied to out-of-state travel costs. There are multiple ways to pay using the School Tax Credit:

a) Online via the [DV Bookstore](https://az-tempeunion.intouchreceipting.com/):

\*Requires setting up a guest account with name/address/phone #/email:

-After creating an account/signing in, select Items At All Schools (under Shop)

-Click on HIGH SCHOOL, next Click on Desert Vista High School

-Click on Tax Credit Donations

-Scroll down to TAX CREDIT- SPEECH & DEBATE

-Enter the amount of your tax donation (ie, $200 or $400), then click Buy

-Scroll back up to the top of the page, click Checkout in the top right corner

-Click the blue boxes: Checkout Step 1: Additional Info

-Please include the Student’s Name, complete additional information

-Click the blue box Checkout Step 2: Payment

-Enter your payment information, click the blue box: Pay $200 (or $400)

b) Pay in person at the DV Bookstore weekdays from 8:00-1:30 or 2:30-4:00

Ask the cashier to record Speech & Debate and the student’s name with the donation

c) Mail-in option: Complete a [Tax Donation Form](https://www.tempeunion.org/cms/lib/AZ01901094/Centricity/Domain/72/tax-credit-2021-brochure.pdf) and include the area of donation as: Speech & Debate as well as the Student’s NAME. Then mail the completed form and a check to the DV Bookstore at:

DVHS ATTN: Bookstore

16440 S 32nd Street

Phoenix, AZ 85048

1. Pay full or partial amount on the [TSTDC website](http://tstdc.com/).
2. Pay full or partial amount via Zelle: TSTDCtreasurers@gmail.com
3. Pay full or partial amount online into the Student Activities Account (not utilizing a Tax Donation Credit) through the [DV Bookstore](https://az-tempeunion.intouchreceipting.com/).

Tax Credit Examples:

1) You pay $400 as a tax credit, the remaining $200 can be paid on the TSTDC website or to the bookstore. Your dues are now fully paid for.

2) You pay $400 in tax credit. Another family member makes a $200 tax credit donation in your student’s name. Your dues are now fully paid for.

**Team dues are non-refundable. Tax credits are also not refundable and transferable to another organization**. Tax credit donations may only be applied toward a particular student for the same school year during which the donation is made. Unused funds still benefit the team as they will go to the general TSTDC tax credit account.

### BOOSTER CLUB

The Executive Board officers for the 2024 - 2025 Parent Booster Organization are:

Jenni Haris, President: tstdcmail@gmail.com

Shannon Burkhart, Vice-President: tstdcmail@gmail.com

Nili Asaarawala, Co-Treasurer: tstdctreasurers@gmail.com

Sherry Xiao, Co-Treasurer: tstdctreasurers@gmail.com

Paul Li, Tournament Coordinator: tstdcmail@gmail.com

There are three Booster Meetings for the 2024-2025 academic year. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend:

September 4, 2024

February 27, 2005

End of the Year Meeting: TBD

The Booster Club supports TSTDC in the following ways:

**Communications**

● Provide regular communications with parents via email and Remind App notifications

● Maintain TSTDC website with up-to-date information

● Host Booster Meetings and post meeting minutes for member review

● Attend ThunderBoard meetings and provide team updates

**Finances**

● Budget & track funds for all accounts associated with TSTDC

● Collecting and recording payments

● Preparing reports in accordance with Thunder Board & IRS

● Reporting to booster organization and coaches about the team’s finances

● Developing financial assistance plans as needed

**Fundraising**

● Implementing fundraisers to help offset costs of the team

● Corporate Sponsorships

● 50/50 Raffle for team parents/adult family members and friends

● Supporting TSTDC students with Trivia Night

**Team Events**

● Organize and host Team Dinners throughout the year

● Sponsor team lunch during Desert Sun and Desert Moon

● Sponsor hospitality room for volunteer judges at Desert Sun and Desert Moon

● Host the Team Awards Banquet at the end of the year

**Community Outreach**

● Publicizing our events and achievements to the Ahwatukee Community

● Recruiting judges from outside the TSTDC community to help serve our needs

● Facilitate opportunities for TSTDC to positively impact the Ahwatukee community.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

TSTDC relies on support received from parent volunteers to help with a wide variety of team events throughout the year. We encourage all team parents to support the team by signing up to judge at a minimum of TWO tournaments during the year and participate in at least one additional volunteer activity during the year. Volunteer opportunities include:

Joining the Booster Club as a Board Member

Joining the Booster Club as a Committee Member

Sign up to help deliver and serve a Team Dinner

Sign up to Judge at Team Tournaments (this is our greatest need)

Sign up to help at the TSTDC Trivia Night Fundraiser (November 13th)

Donate funds for Team Tournaments

Volunteering is an excellent way to meet other team parents, coaches and TSTDC students. It also fosters the “It’s a Family Thing” atmosphere as an active demonstration of support for all team members. Please sign up for volunteer opportunities on the team website or contact the Booster Club directly at [TSTDCmail@gmail.com](mailto:TSTDCmail@gmail.com) if you have any questions/would like additional information.

### JUDGES

Every tournament requires each team to provide a set number of volunteer judges based on the number of students entered to compete. Most tournaments have the following quotas:

1 judge per every 8 Congressional Debaters

1 judge for every 2 debaters (PER debate event)

1 judge for every 5 speech ENTRIES (entries, not students)

Typically, TSTDC requires approximately 32 volunteer judges for EACH tournament:

2 Congressional Debate judges

6 LD judges

6 Policy judges

6 Public Forum judges

12 Speech judges

While we have a growing group of community and alumni judges, we are consistently short on our quota. Parents, grandparents, older siblings, and neighbors can volunteer to help us out. Individuals must have a high school diploma but do NOT need to have previous speech and debate experience in order to participate.

Volunteers will be provided guidance prior to judging an event. We have online training for all events that individuals must complete before they are registered for a tournament. Additionally, we have parent and judge mentors who will guide them. If you would like to learn more, please email the Booster club at TSTDCmail@gmail.com

Unfortunately, if we do not fulfill our judging quota to support all of our registered students at a tournament, we will have to drop student competitors. This is devastating for students who have invested many hours preparing for each tournament. Please support the team by signing up to judge at least 1-2 tournaments during the year.

### TSTDC AGREEMENT

We have read and agree to the terms, policies, and procedures in the TSTDC 2024-2025 Team Handbook. We further acknowledge that violation of any of the aforementioned rules may result in the suspension or dismissal from all TSTDC activities with NO refund offered. All decisions regarding suspension or dismissal are at the sole discretion of the coaching staff.

Student’s Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. https://www.capitoldebate.com/public/images/DebateCollegeAdmissions.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.capitoldebate.com/index.php/blog/debate/debate-boost-standardized-tests [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://snfi.stanford.edu/skills [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. All stats are from 23-24 school year unless noted otherwise [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.speechanddebate.org/notable-alumni/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://stennis.gov/why-speech-and-debate/#:~:text=All%20of%20the%20skills%20that,developed%20through%20Speech%20and%20Debate. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. https://www.speechanddebate.org/top-3-reasons/ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)