



NCFCA

CHRISTIAN SPEECH & DEBATE

Launching Junior Clubs

Welcome Junior Club Leaders! Our mission is to challenge and equip ambassadors for Christ to communicate truth with integrity and grace. Even our youngest competitors can be challenged and equipped to communicate in a godly way.

Thank you for pursuing a beautiful ministry to the smallest students of your community. This labor of love produces lasting fruit as you teach children to use their communication skills to love God and love their neighbors.

Maybe you have an established junior club in your area or maybe you are considering starting a new junior club. No matter where you are on the journey, this page is for you! Let's take a look at some things you will need to know for a successful junior club.

- **Whom will you serve?** Typically junior clubs serve students 7-11 years old. These are children who are old enough to learn public speaking skills but too young to compete as a senior competitor.
- **Will you be connecting to an existing club?** Many junior clubs are attached to a club that serves NCFCA senior competitors (ages 12-18). These junior clubs typically host the little siblings of the senior competitors. Some junior clubs will host younger siblings and junior-only families who do not have a senior competitor.
- **When will you meet?** Some junior clubs meet once a week, biweekly, or even once a month.
- **Where will you meet?** Consider using a church, a public library meeting room, or someone's home. The little siblings of senior competitors will usually meet at the same facility and time as the senior club.
- **Who will coach?** The size of the class will determine how many coaches you need. Two coaches can easily manage a class of 5 students, but a class of 20 may need more

hands. A great idea is to have junior parents take turns assisting the head junior coach each week. By being in class with their junior, parents will learn how to coach and lead juniors. Some clubs like to have senior competitors coach the juniors.

- **How will the club be structured?** Some clubs have one class for ages 7-11 years old. If there are enough coaches, consider splitting the ages into younger and older groups. Some clubs teach platform speech only, while others may also offer interpretation, apologetics, and debate. Junior club should be a good mix of learning communication skills and fun.
- **What about safety?** Safety should be of utmost importance when directing a junior club. Consider putting safety precautions in writing for the club parents to read and sign. Does the facility where you meet have a safety protocol? Most churches have their own safety policy and will require a club to abide by them. NCFCA also has a Safety Policy which can offer some guidance on things you can implement in your own club such as the more than 2 rule and parental oversight.
- **Should there be fees?** Will you need supplies, prizes, insurance, a gift for a special guest, a facility fee, or love offering? These are all things to consider when deciding if you should charge a fee.
- **What if I need more support?** Feel free to contact our Club Support Manager, Lisa Krug, at LisaKrug@NCFCA.org for more information on starting a club or finding clubs near you. Contact the NCFCA National Junior Director, Katie Hall, at KatieHall@NCFCA.org for any junior-specific questions.

Junior Resources

[Junior Tournaments and Activities](#)

[Welcome to Junior Activities](#)

[Junior Tournaments Overview](#)

[Key Differences from Qualifying Tournaments](#)

[Junior Tournament Participant Expectations](#)

[Sample Ballots for Juniors](#)

[Junior Tournament Registration and Fees](#)

[Junior Tournament Apologetics Topics](#)