

Tournament Types and Commitment Overview

Participation Time Commitment

- **Full participation:** Competitors and at least one [parent or DA](#) per family is required to be present and fully involved for the entire duration of the tournament.
- **Days:** Most qualifying tournaments are at least three (3) days long; some are longer.
- **Hours:** In-person tournament days generally start at 7:15am and may end as late as 9:30pm. Participants have short breaks during the day, but the times are not entirely predictable. Competition rounds can sometimes be delayed by 15-45 minutes and sometimes even longer, so participants must be ready to be flexible.

Cost of Participation

- **Fees:** Please see our [Fees and Payment Policies](#) page for information on the costs of affiliation and registration.
- **Travel:** Most in-person tournaments will require travel and overnight lodging.

	Non-Qualifying Events		Qualifying Tournaments		Championship Tournaments	
Description	Limited number of event rounds and variable formats. They are run less formally than our qualifying events and do not have officially tabulated results or a way to advance to Championship Competition		Six preliminary rounds of debate, three preliminary rounds of speech, and elimination rounds for both speech and debate. Students who are recognized during the awards ceremony with an event placing earn an invitation to the Regional Championship		Invitation-only events. Competitors must qualify through one of our Qualifying Tournaments, a National Open, or the National At-Large System. For more information, please see our Qualification System guide	
Option Types	Junior Tournaments	Practice Events	Regional or District Qualifiers	National Opens (in-person & online)	Regional Championship	National Championship
Who Can Compete	Children 12 or under from qualifying or non-qualifying affiliate families	Students 12 or older from qualifying or non-qualifying affiliate families	Eligible, qualifying affiliate competitors from the hosting region or district	Eligible, qualifying affiliate competitors from any region	Those in host region who have earned an invitation via our qualification system	Those who have earned an invitation via our qualification system
Average Length	Half-day	Varies: 1-2 days	3 full days	3-4 full days	3 full days	5 full days
Location and Travel Time	Hosted at a Regional or District Qualifier	Often locally hosted or online	Within the region	Locations around the country or online	Within the region	In-Person location varies by season