

Hello Team Kentucky! Congratulations again on qualifying kids to the national tournament!

You should have received an email that **registration for NSDA Nationals is now open for our District!** Go to the Points Application to register when you are ready. There's a lot to do to register (especially for people with Interp and Oratory/Informative entries), so work on this early. You have until May 1. After that, you have to pay a \$200 late fee to register. No one wants to do that. Registration includes a trip to the post office to send in paperwork certified mail, so don't put this off. You can see lots of info about the tournament at the nationals pages: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/nationals/>

As you make your plans for the week, please be sure to **save Wednesday night (6/21) for the Kentucky dinner**. We'll gather as a group for a big meal together.

IF YOUR KID(S) DECIDE NOT TO GO, there is a process in the email you received from National Office to defer their qualification so that the next Kentucky kid in line can go. Please follow it and also let me know immediately so I can help get things in motion for the next kid to go. We have had some amazing luck with kids who were late qualifiers due to these deferrals (one of my own kids, 6th in the District Senate last year, got advanced to go in May and ended up in national semifinals, for example!). It matters to the kids behind them if your kids decide not to go, so please act quickly if they change their minds or have conflicts arise.

I spent a great deal of time yesterday and today trying to find hotels **that had free breakfasts and still had room in the NSDA block to host many schools**. I didn't have much luck as most of the NSDA blocks at those places are already full. I did get rooms for my squad at the Drury Inn (address and phone # below) at the NSDA rate of \$109 a night for two-queen rooms (Wifi and breakfast included). I encourage you to try to do the same if you like. They said they only had a few rooms left in the block, but if you call them, they said they could probably work something out (my guess is they could extend the block to include you). Congress and Extemp (prelims) are going to be held in the main tournament hotel (the Sheraton), so you may prefer staying there for ease in the mornings if you have kids in those events, but if not, I'd love to see you join us at Drury.

Registering for Nationals can raise many questions. **Please don't be shy to ask for help as you go through the process**. I encourage you to put your kids in supplementals if you are going to stay the full week regardless of outcomes, and I encourage you to stay and see the national finals in person on Thursday afternoon/evening and all day finals plus awards Friday night. Even if we don't have Team Kentucky folks in them (though I'm thinking we might as we have some strong contenders this year), they're highly educational for both coaches and students plus a good reward for good work all year.

Yours – Steve Meadows, Kentucky District Chair

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<https://www.druryhotels.com/locations/birmingham-al/drury-inn-and-suites-birmingham-southwest>