



The Pony Express Swing



Dear Colleagues,

The Southwest Minnesota State University Forensics Team is pleased to invite you to the 2015 Pony Express Swing hosted on Friday December 4th and Saturday December 5th 2015, on the Southwest Minnesota State University campus in Marshall, MN. The 2015 Pony Express Swing will offer competition in Individual Events as well as Parliamentary Debate.

As hosts, the SMSU forensic program will enter students into competition. For many students, this weekend will be their first taste of collegiate competition and we find such practices to be educationally beneficial to novices. The vast majority of the SMSU entry will be from novice competitors.

Competition Overview

Friday will feature three preliminary rounds of Parliamentary debate in conjunction with IEs running all events simultaneously for two preliminary rounds and a final (TCFL style). A debate training session will occur before the Friday tournament for all those interested. Students may enter a maximum of **TWO** IEs OR **ONE** IE and **Debate**.

On Saturday, the final preliminary round of Parliamentary debate will continue with semifinals and finals occurring. All AFA-NIET events will run on Saturday simultaneously for two preliminary rounds and a final (TCFL style). Two nuance events (Editorial Impromptu and Extemporaneous Interpretation) will also be offered. Event descriptions are included in the invitation. Students may enter a maximum of **THREE** IEs.

Please see the schedule on page 3 for further details.

Judging Fees

There will be **no entry fees** for the tournaments. The only fee that will be assessed would be for uncovered judging slots at \$5/uncovered IE slot and \$10/uncovered debate slot. One judge counts for 6 IE slots OR 1 debate slot. All judges are expected to be available for final rounds. SMSU Forensics has made every attempt to make these tournaments available at low cost.

Bonus Pony Perk: Cheap Food!

Along with excellent competition, for a small fee the SMSU Forensics Team will be offering a Friday dinner of pizza and drinks and Saturday lunch of sub-sandwiches, chips, and drinks for all tournament attendees. Please notify the tournament director if anyone on your team has special dietary needs. The cost will be \$5/person for the total of both meals. Two meals for \$5: you can't beat that. Popcorn will be provided as snack throughout Saturday.

Awards

Awards will be given to finalists in each event as well as for the top 5 speakers in debate. Additionally, 1-5 place trophies will be awarded in Individual Sweeps, Open Team Sweeps, and Limited Entry Team Sweeps. Individual Sweeps includes all students entered in competition. Sweepstakes awards will be given using the following point system: In IE prelims 3pts for every 1st and 2pts for every 2nd and 1pt for every 3rd. In Parli prelims 3pts for every win and 1pt for every loss. Finals points will be calculated as follows:

Individual Events	Parliamentary Debate
1 st place- 12 points	Semifinals- 8 points
2 nd place- 10 points	2 nd place- 10 points
3 rd place- 8 points	1 st place- 12 points
4 th place- 6 points	
5 th place- 4 points	
6 th place- 2 points	

We will use recycled trophies for competition awards. Other fun awards will be given out Saturday, including “Best Dressed”, “Miss/ter Congeniality”, and “Supreme Audience Member”. These will be voted on by the students, judges, and coaches. Each person attending the tournament will be given 4 voting tickets to be used as they wish. Additional voting tickets can be purchased at 1 for 25 cents or 5 for \$1. All proceeds will go to the Literacy Volunteers of Southwest Minnesota.

The tournament staff will also hand out:

Top Judge: the judge with the most educational ballot.

Forensic Selfie Award: the team with the best selfie at the tournament. Students or coaches can nominate their team for the award by tweeting pictures showing off forensic pride with the hashtag #2015Express and tagging @smsuforensics. Nomination tweets should be posted by 5pm Saturday.

Competitive Events and Rules

We will follow AFA-NIET rules for IEs. NPDA competition rules will be followed for Parliamentary Debate with the following exceptions: No warm room will be provided. No coaching or team preparation during preparation time. In the interest of moving the tournament along, disclosure is not allowed.

Editorial Impromptu: Students will be given a short editorial (ideally 3 to 5 paragraphs) to which they will develop a response. Students will be allowed nine minutes to divide between preparation and speech time. Speakers should ideally speak for at least five minutes. Limited notes, prepared in the round, are permitted.

Extemporaneous Interpretation: Contestants will be given two pieces of literature, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare an oral interpretation performance. Each round will be from a different genre of literature (Prose, Poetry, Drama). Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 7 minutes including introduction. (Black paper, tape, scissors, and pencils will be provided for Extemporaneous Interpretation. SMSU Forensics has black books for sale for \$6, but request that you bring your own.)

Tournament Schedule

Friday December 4th

Students may enter a maximum of **TWO** IEs OR **ONE** IE and **Debate**. *Students are responsible for getting to all events during the scheduled time period.*

1:00pm Debate Workshop
2:30pm Registration
2:45pm Draw
3:00pm All Events
4:00pm Draw
4:15pm All Events
5:30pm Dinner
6:00pm Parli R3, IE Finals
7:30pm IE Awards

Saturday December 5th

Students may enter a maximum of **THREE** IEs. *Students are responsible for getting to all events during the scheduled time period.*

8:30am Registration
9:00am Draw
9:15am All IEs
9:45am Parli R4
11:30am Lunch
12:00pm Draw
12:15pm All IEs
2:00pm Draw
2:15pm IE Finals
2:45pm Parli Semifinals
3:30pm IE Finals
4:00pm Parli Finals
5:30pm Awards

Saturday has all AFA-
NIET events **plus**
Editorial Impromptu and
Extemporaneous
Interpretation

Tournament Entry:

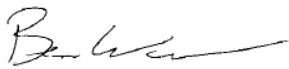
Entries are due via **email:** Benjamin.walker@smsu.edu

Entry Due: 7 p.m., Monday, November 30 Fees Assessed: Noon, Wednesday, December 2

Please include students' names/events, judges names and whether they will be covering IE or Parli slots. Please also include the number people you would like to purchase Fri/Sat meals for.

If you have questions, feel free to email or call Ben Walker at Benjamin.walker@smsu.edu or **(706) 844-2730**. We hope you find it possible to attend The Pony Express Swing in early December!

Sincerely,



Ben Walker

Director of Forensics



Julie Walker

Assistant Director of Forensics