

October 2019

Hello friends,

Minnesota State University, Mankato is pleased to invite you to the 2019 Larry Schnoor Invitational with a theme of “Semi-Schnoormal Prom”, hosted by the Minnesota State, Mankato forensic team on Saturday October 19th. As part of the Southern Minnesota Swing, we are joined again this year by Southwest Minnesota State University, who will host the Mustang Stampede here on the Mankato campus on Sunday October 20th. Please send all questions regarding the Larry Schnoor Invitational to Brent Mitchell (brenton.mitchell@mnsu.edu), acting Tournament Director. We are very pleased to welcome you back to our campus for another year of great competition and Minnesota hospitality. We are also excited to implement a variety of new initiatives to make the Larry Schnoor Invitational a more welcoming and inclusive tournament for you and your students. These initiatives are detailed below, along with our tournament policies and practices.

**Accessibility**

Nationally, the forensic community (students, coaches, and judges) has called for safer tournaments where student and judge wellness is built into the tournament structure. We hope to provide a different type of tournament experience focused on redesigning spaces rather than accommodating individuals. As such, you will notice several features of our tournament designed to make spaces safer and more accessible for everyone.

***Calm Room***

The MNSU Forensics team recognizes tournaments can be difficult places for victims of traumatic experiences or for individuals with sensitivities to sensory experiences. If you need to escape the tournament, feel free to use the Calm Room. The room will have soft music, soft lights, and comfort items to provide a break from the usual chaos.

***Open Door Policy***

MNSU is committed to providing safe performance spaces for all competitors and judges. We acknowledge the art of performance may be a healing process and/or an opportunity to speak on important, personal topics. As a performer, it is impossible to know all the ways in which content or a performance may unintentionally harm or trigger members of your audience. To better serve the wellness of the forensic community, we will be using an open door practice this weekend.

An “open door practice” means competitors and other audience members may choose to leave a round when a performance threatens their mental wellbeing, or due to physical (e.g., uncontrollable coughing, vomiting) or spiritual (e.g., Salah prayer times) needs. Competitors may discretely leave the room (before, during, or after someone’s performance) even when not double-entered, without question or penalty. Anyone in the room may also disengage from a performance (e.g., actively dissociate, put their head down on a desk, cover their ears). **Judges will be asked to read the open door policy aloud** at the beginning of every round to reinforce the norm-change emphasizing mental and physical well-being over community norms.

Judges may also take steps to protect their well-being by requesting reassignment prior to rounds where they worry about the content warnings listed, or taking a time between speeches to re-center before proceeding with the round.

***Judge Strikes and Judge Accommodations***

If a student has conflicts with judges for non-competitive reasons, please inform the tournament staff as to prevent conflicts within the tournament. Some non-competitive conflicts may include, but are not limited to:

• The student and judge are family members/close friends;

• The student was harassed/assaulted by the judge;

• The student feels uncomfortable being judged by a former teammate;

• The student feels uncomfortable being judged by a former coach.

We respect the privacy of these decisions, so no explanation for the conflict is required.

If tournament staff is informed a judge has participated in improper behavior, the judge will be removed from the judging pool before interacting with students. Coaches or students may contact tournament staff directly at [brenton.mitchell@mnsu.edu](mailto:brenton.mitchell@mnsu.edu) or 573-434-4680.

The week of the tournament, tournament staff will provide a full list of students, judges, and schools attending the tournament. The list of judges and schools will be available as a link on Speechwire and will be posted to the team Facebook page. (We ask the attending schools to provide the intended hired judges list to the host school as soon as possible to provide ample time for judge strikes.)

***Gender Equity***

MNSU is committed to providing a place where all competitors’, judges’, and observers’ gender identities are observed and respected. **Pronoun indicators** will be available at registration and in the student and judge lounges.

Tournament staff also commits to providing maps and signage to gender-neutral and single-stall restrooms to provide safe bathroom spaces. Maps are included at the end of this invite, will be available online at Speechwire.com, provided at registration, and in the student and judge lounges.

***Name Pronunciation***

MNSU recognizes the power being called by your correctly pronounced name has in creating an inclusive, welcoming, respectful space. To aid judges and awards readers, please provide student name pronunciation through Speechwire. Depending upon Speechwire service availability, tournament staff will attempt to make name pronunciations available on cover ballots for judges.

***Content Warnings***

MNSU requests performers consider the nature of their topic; when possible, please list a content warning in the “Event Title” content box on Speechwire when registering for the tournament and list a content warning on the board when signing in to the round. At registration, each team will be asked if they entered content warnings for their students’ pieces. Content warnings will appear on schemats online and posted at the tournament.

***Wellness Table***

Tournaments require intense concentration and a variety of items competitors and judges may not use on a frequent basis. Tournament staff will provide a Wellness Table with resources such as extra black books, tape, glue, breath mints, snacks, band-aids, stain removers, bobby pins, needle-and-thread, buttons, shoe goo, and other such items.

***Body Type Accessibility***

MNSU recognizes not all bodies comfortably move through tournament spaces. Tournament staff worked hard to select rooms with **desks where all body types may comfortably compete, observe,** **and judge**. Rooms were prioritized so freestanding chairs were used for rounds before desk-chair combinations or similar options. When rooms do not include large seating options, the tournament staff pledges to provide chairs where everyone can feel included during the competition round.

Tournament staff also pledges to arrange rooms to create ample space for competitors and judges who use wheelchairs to move throughout competition rounds without needless obstacles.

***Information Available Upon Request***

Upon request, the tournament staff will have the following information:

* Procedures for Title IX violations;
* Regional ICE activity;
* Campus emergency procedures;
* Local support service phone numbers.

Information about competitive event offerings and fees are listed below. We hope you find it possible to attend the Sunday portion of the Southern Minnesota Swing in October! If you have questions, feel free to email/call Brent Mitchell at Brenton.mitchell@mnsu.edu or **573-434-4680.** See you then!

**Competitive Event Offerings:**

The Larry Schnoor Invitational will offer two preliminary rounds in one open division of all 11 NFA individual events with a **special addition of Improvised Duo**. Semi-finals will be held in any event with more than 50 students entered. Please note: students may enter a maximum of **THREE** events per pattern. *Students who triple enter in a pattern are responsible for getting to all events during the scheduled time period.*

Events will be offered in 2 conflict patterns:

Pattern A Pattern B

Communication Analysis After Dinner Speaking

Duo Interpretation Dramatic Interpretation

Extemporaneous Speaking Impromptu

Persuasion Improvised Duo

Program Oral Interpretation Informative

Prose Poetry

Here are notes for Impromptu prompts and Improvised Duo:

**Impromptu:** Prompts for Impromptu will involve quotations, proverbs, and ethical dilemmas.

**Improvised Duo:** Students will draw three scenarios and choose one to perform. Students have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and performing. Timing commences with the draw of the last scenario. The performance should adhere to the prompt and showcase quality storytelling, character creation, and performer interaction. No props are allowed. Creativity is encouraged. Limited notes are permitted.

**Competitive Standards:**

We will follow NFA rules and codes of conduct, and request attending teams to familiarize themselves with those guidelines.

* NFA Code of Standards, Event Descriptions, and Bylaws: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1028kLG5Dy-Y2e_veNvVupXZcxpIXmbGy/view>

**Schedule:**

**Saturday October 19th**

8:00 Registration and Breakfast

8:30 Extemp Draw

9:00 Rd 1A (Ext, Per, Duo, POI, CA, Prose)

10:15 Rd 1B (Imp, Info, Poe, ADS, DI, Improv Duo)

11:15 Lunch Break

11:45 Extemp Draw

12:15 Rd 2A

1:30 Rd 2B

3:00 Extemp Draw

3:15 Finals A and Semis A/B (Extemp begins at 3:30)

4:30 FinalsB

6:30 Awards

**Host Practices:**

*MNSU Student Competitors*

As hosts, the Minnesota State, Mankato forensic program will enter students at our tournament who are in their **first semester** of college competition. We engage in this practice because we have plenty of experienced competitors to assist with tournament management, and have found that competing on our own campus in early fall has been an effective and nonthreatening way to introduce novices to college forensics.

*Hired Judges*

Our hired judge pool consists primarily of alums from our own program, other regional programs, and the Minnesota State, Mankato Communication Studies Graduate Teaching Assistants. The graduate assistants receive a judge training session where they are informed of event descriptions and rules, as well as methods for writing effective ballots.

*Wireless Internet*

Minnesota State, Mankato provides free guest access to university Wi-Fi, at your own risk. We do not guarantee the reliability of wireless internet service.

*Food Options*

The Centennial Student Union offers a limited number of food options starting at 11am on Saturday and Sunday. Other food options (including Weggy’s, Noodles & Company, Jimmy John’s, Caribou Coffee, & Jonny B’s) are within walking distance of campus.

*Tab Room*

The tab room will be run by the MNSU & SMSU coaching staff. We will use SpeechWire to schedule and tab the tournament.

*Tournament Observers*

Many of the instructors in our department choose to offer students extra credit for observing competition rounds at our tournament. The faculty and graduate students have been informed that they should discuss proper audience etiquette with their students prior to the event.

**Awards:**

We will offer prom themed trophies for the MNSU half of the Southern Minnesota Swing. Trophies will be awarded to finalists in each individual event.  Additionally, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies will be awarded in both Team Sweeps and Individual Sweeps. Individual Sweeps includes all students entered in 4 events with at least one interpretation event and one Public Address or Limited Preparation event. Sweepstakes awards will be given using the following point system:  In prelims 3pts for every 1st, 2pts for every 2nd, and 1 pt for every 3rd. In finals, 1st place = 10 points, 2nd place = 8 points, 3rd place = 6 points, 4th place = 4 points, 5th place = 3 points, and 6th place = 2 points.  Any non-advancing semi-finalists in IEs will receive 2 points.

The Larry Schnoor Invitational also includes a Team Quality Award (team sweep pts. divided by number of entries). Each year, Minnesota State, Mankato names the quality award after distinguished individual(s) in forensics who have shaped the activity on either a regional or national scale. The designees are nominated and chosen by current students involved with the Minnesota State, Mankato forensic program. Previous designees include Brian Halleen, George Armstrong, Grace Walsh, Guy Yates, Joel Hefling, Susan and Stephen Collie, Mike Wartman, Mark Fokken, Kelli Jo Wright, Dan Cronn-Mills, Michael Dreher, Penni Pier, Craig Brown, Brian Klosa, Kittie Grace, Rebecca Buel, Megan Orcholski, Karen Morris, Sade Barfield, Ben Walker, David Brennan, Andrea Carlisle, and Leah White.

**Fees:**

Entry fees are $8.00 per slot. One full-time judge covers 6 IE entries. The cost per uncovered IE slot is an additional $10.00. Fees are assessed as the entry stands at noon on Wednesday, October 16th. A fee of $10.00 is assessed for each drop or add after this time. All judges are expected to be available for final rounds. All judges are considered “clean” for final rounds. Teams will be charged a fee of $50.00 for every judge dropped from the tournament.

**Tournament Entry:**

Entries are due via **Speech Wire**

Entry Deadline: 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 15

Fees Assessed: Noon, Wednesday, October 16

If you have questions, feel free to contact Brent by email (brenton.mitchell@mnsu.edu) or phone **(573-434-4680).**

**Hotel Information:**

The following link will bring you to a list of hotels in the Mankato area (<http://www.mnsu.edu/admissions/visit/hotels.html>). Be advised: the Mankato Marathon again occurs the same weekend as our tournament, and draws a large number of participants from out of town. Hotel rooms will book quickly, so **reserve your rooms ASAP.** Please contact the hotels directly for reservations.

We hope you find it possible to attend a weekend full of excellent competition and bright fall foliage at the 2019 Larry Schnoor Invitational!

Sincerely,

Brent Mitchell Katie Brunner Justin J. Rudnick

Tournament Director Director of Forensics Assistant Director of Forensics