THE 34th ANNUAL GRIFFIN INVITATIONAL

SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 14–15, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The Grossmont College Forensics Squad cordially invites you to join us on our campus for the **34th Annual Griffin Invitational Speech & Debate Tournament**. Grossmont College is located approximately 15 miles east of San Diego in El Cajon, California.

Grossmont College
8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

Tournament Schedule

Saturday, November 14: One-Day Individual Events & NPDA Tournament
Sunday, November 15: One-Day IPDA Tournament

Palomar College will also host a swing tournament on its campus:

Palomar College
140 W. Mission Road
San Marcos, CA 92069

Friday, November 13: One-Day Individual Events & IPDA Tournament
The Ray Dahlin Tournament, hosted by Palomar College. Please visit ForensicsTournament.net for the tournament invitation.

The Griffin Invitational Offers:

Saturday, November 14

- **One-Day Individual Events Tournament:** Two preliminary rounds and finals in Open and Novice divisions (if entries warrant). Students may triple-enter, except in Extemp and Duo, where double entry is the maximum. This format allows students to complete all of their individual events—including finals and awards—in one day.
- **The "Picket Fence" Award:** A special trophy recognizing a student who earns a "picket fence" in an individual event.

- **One-Day NPDA Parliamentary Debate Tournament:** Novice, Junior, and Open divisions (if entries warrant). NPDA conflicts with Individual Events, so students must choose between NPDA and Individual Events. The tournament will consist of four preliminary rounds followed by Bronze and Silver/Gold elimination rounds.

Sunday, November 15

- **One-Day IPDA Tournament:** Open, Junior, and Novice divisions (if entries warrant). The tournament will consist of four preliminary rounds followed by Bronze and Silver/Gold elimination rounds.

Overall Sweepstakes Awards will be presented to the top three colleges in Individual Events on Saturday, and to the top three colleges in Debate and Overall Sweepstakes during the final awards ceremony on Sunday.

And, of course, we will have great food for our judges, so they won't be too hungry to judge!

We look forward to seeing you at the **34th Annual Griffin Invitational** at Grossmont College.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael McHan
Tournament Director
858-414-8513
Michael.McHan@gcccd.edu

GRIFFIN INVITATIONAL 2026 SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 14

7:30–8:00 a.m. — Registration Drops/Changes (Griffin Gate)
8:30 a.m. — NPDA Round 1: Mass Topic Announce in Student Center
9:15 a.m. — Extemp Draw, Round 1
9:30 a.m. — Pattern A, Round 1
10:00 a.m. — NPDA Round 2: Mass Topic Announce
10:45 a.m. — Pattern B, Round 1
12:00 p.m. — NPDA Round 3: Mass Topic Announce
12:00 p.m. — Extemp Draw, Round 2
12:15 p.m. — Pattern A, Round 2
1:30 p.m. — NPDA Round 4: Mass Topic Announce
1:30 p.m. — Pattern B, Round 2
3:00 p.m. — Extemp Draw, Finals
3:15 p.m. — Finals, Pattern A
3:30 p.m. — NPDA Bronze Round: Mass Topic Announce
4:30 p.m. — Finals, Pattern B
5:00 p.m. — NPDA Silver/Gold Round: Mass Topic Announce
7:15 p.m. or ASAP — Awards (Bldg. 26, Room 220)

Pattern A: Extemp, Informative, Poetry, Prose, STE
Pattern B: Impromptu, Duo, Persuasion, P.O.I., Drama, CA
Pattern C: NPDA
Pattern D: IPDA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 — IPDA

8:00–8:30 a.m. — Registration Changes (Griffin Gate)

Central Topic Selection

Coaching is allowed. Laptops are not allowed in the round. Cell phones may be used for timing purposes only.

8:00 a.m. — Round 1, IPDA Flight A
8:30 a.m. — Round 1, IPDA Flight B *(9:00 a.m. debate)*

9:45 a.m. — Round 2, IPDA Flight A
10:15 a.m. — Round 2, IPDA Flight B *(10:45 a.m. debate)*

11:30 a.m. — Round 3, IPDA Flight A
12:00 p.m. — Round 3, IPDA Flight B *(12:30 p.m. debate)*

1:15 p.m. — Round 4, IPDA Flight A
1:45 p.m. — Round 4, IPDA Flight B *(2:15 p.m. debate)*

3:15 p.m. — Elimination Round 1, IPDA Flight A
3:45 p.m. — Elimination Round 1, IPDA Flight B *(4:15 p.m. debate)*

5:00 p.m. — Elimination Round 2, IPDA Flight A
5:30 p.m. — Elimination Round 2, IPDA Flight B *(6:00 p.m. debate)*

7:00 p.m. or ASAP — Awards (Bldg. 26, Room 220)

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Grossmont College Address

8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

Parking

There are **no parking fees** for the tournament. Please use **Parking Lot 7** or the **Parking Structure (Building 56)**.

Please do not park in spaces marked **"Staff."**

Entry Deadline

6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Submit entries through **ForensicsTournament.net**.

Payment

Credit card payments may be made through ForensicsTournament.net.

Checks should be made payable to:

Grossmont Speech/Debate Foundation

FEES & DEADLINES

Entry Fees

$40.00 — Facilities Fee
$12.00 — Per Individual Event Slot
$24.00 — Per Duo Team
$25.00 — Per IPDA Competitor
$50.00 — Per NPDA Debate Team

Judging Requirements

One I.E. judge covers **five slots per pattern**.

$30.00 — Per Uncovered I.E. Slot

One NPDA or IPDA judge covers **two debate teams**. If IPDA is double-flight one judge covers 3 IPDA entries.

$150.00 — Per Uncovered NPDA Entry
$125.00 — Per Uncovered IPDA Entry

We need your judges! Please do everything you can to bring adequate judging coverage.

Nuisance Fees

$20.00 — I.E. No-Show Fee, per slot
$40.00 — Debate No-Show Fee, per entry
$50.00 — Judge No-Show Fee, per round
$10.00 — Debate Late-Drop Fee, morning of tournament
$5.00 — I.E. Late-Drop Fee, morning of tournament

EVENTS & RULES

Individual Events

Eleven individual events will be offered in **Open and Novice divisions**, if entries warrant.

Impromptu will use **three quotations** rather than the AFA format.

Pattern A: Extemp, Informative, Poetry, Prose, STE
Pattern B: Impromptu, Duo, Persuasion, P.O.I., Drama, CA

Multiple Entries

Individual Event competitors may enter **up to three events per pattern**, except competitors entered in Extemp or Duo.

Extemp and Duo competitors may double-enter.

Competitors who choose to enter three events in a pattern assume the risk of missing a round. If a competitor misses a round because of triple entry, that competitor will forfeit the missed round.

Novice Division — Individual Events

A student is considered a novice if they have not won two trophies (1st, 2nd, or 3rd place) in an event in which a final round occurred.

Students competing in similar events must maintain the same division classification across those events (Platform, Interpretation, and Limited Preparation). For example, a student competing in the Open Division in Prose must also compete in the Open Division in Poetry, even if they have never previously competed in Poetry.

Anyone who has won a **Gold, Silver, or Bronze award at Phi Rho Pi** is not considered a novice in that event.

Students with significant previous high school participation should also not be considered novice competitors, although coaches may use their discretion.

Open Division — Individual Events

Any undergraduate student attending a two-year or four-year college may compete in the Open Division.

The “Picket Fence Award”

The purpose of the **Picket Fence Award** is to recognize a student who ranks first in every preliminary and final round of competition in an individual event—a total of five first-place rankings.

Traditionally, this accomplishment is recognized through an announcement at the awards ceremony or by the student’s coach. The Griffin Invitational goes a step further by presenting the student with a special award recognizing this achievement.

Grossmont College students may compete at the tournament.

No material used in competition may have been used by the student in intercollegiate competition prior to **September 1, 2026**.

JUDGING

Electronic Balloting

Electronic balloting will be used for **IPDA, NPDA, and Individual Events**.

Judges must have a phone, tablet, or laptop capable of receiving email in order to qualify as judges. Please bring a charger.

When registering judges on ForensicsTournament.net, please provide a **telephone number and email address for each judge**.

Judging Commitment

Judges must remain at the tournament for **one round beyond the elimination of their final participant**.

All judges are committed to judge the first elimination round.

IPDA RULES

We will offer **Novice, Junior, and Open divisions**, if entries warrant.

In elimination rounds, brackets will be broken to encourage more debate.

Eligibility

Novice: Competitors may have participated in **eight or fewer tournaments**, including this tournament and any high school competition.

Junior: Competitors may have participated in **up to 16 tournaments**, including this tournament and any high school competition.

Open: This division is for competitors who choose to compete at the Open level or who must advance because they have competed in more than 16 tournaments.

Tournament experience includes **all formats of debate**, not just IPDA.

Any college student currently enrolled in a degree program may compete.

Judging

IPDA may be judged by any critic who is at least **18 years old**, regardless of previous debate experience or credentials.

Because some IPDA critics may have little or no debate experience, competitors should thoroughly explain concepts, clearly articulate arguments, and explicitly weigh impacts throughout the round.

Style

Cleaner, clearer speaking styles tend to be more successful with traditional IPDA judges than highly technical or rapid-delivery styles.

Competitors should avoid overly "gamey" or technical tactics and prioritize clear, accessible argumentation.

NPDA — PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

We will offer **Novice, Junior, and Open divisions**, if entries warrant.

Four preliminary rounds of NPDA will be offered, followed by two elimination rounds. **Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards** will be presented.

In elimination rounds, brackets will be broken to encourage more debate.

Novice Division — Parli

A Novice team consists of students in their **first two semesters of competition**, provided neither team member has advanced to an elimination round twice.

If either team member has advanced to two elimination rounds, the team must move to the Junior Division.

Students with significant high school or homeschool experience in Team Policy, LD, Parli, Ted Turner, or similar debate formats should generally compete in the Junior Division, although coaches may use their discretion.

Eligibility violations may result in removal of the team from the tournament.

Junior Division — Parli

Junior debaters may have up to **four semesters of college debate experience** and should not have advanced to more than two elimination rounds in Junior competition.

Open Division — Parli

Open debaters are limited to students with **10 or fewer semesters of collegiate competition**.

Any debater who has advanced to the elimination rounds at **NPDA Nationals** is considered an Open Division debater, regardless of their partner's experience.

Team eligibility is determined by the experience level of the **most experienced partner**.

For purposes of eligibility, a semester of competition means that the student competed in **three or more tournaments of any debate format during that semester**.

CHANGES TO PROCEDURES FOR NPDA DEBATE

Dear Coaches, Judges, and Competitors:

Our PSCFA region recently adopted several new rules for PSCFA tournaments, primarily pertaining to NPDA debate. Because some of these rules also affect IPDA, I want to clarify how they will be applied at the Griffin Invitational.

PSCFA, for those outside our region, is a regional organization that hosts four tournaments each year: **Warm Up, Fall Champs, Spring Champs, and Cool Off**. PSCFA rules govern those tournaments.

For the Griffin Invitational, I have chosen to follow the new PSCFA rules regarding Parliamentary Debate. I have also incorporated several practices used by Phi Rho Pi for Parli.

I understand that these procedures may involve a learning curve for some coaches, judges, and competitors. I believe these changes can help bring more competitors back to Parliamentary Debate, and I hope many of you will give these "original" Parli rules a try.

Coaching

No coaching is allowed during Parli Debate preparation. Coaching will continue to be allowed for IPDA.

Laptops

Competitors may **not use laptops for flowing, or any other purpose during the debate rounds**. Laptops are allowed during the preparation time.

Judges may use laptops to flow NPDA rounds and complete electronic ballots.

Please be patient and respectful toward coaches, judges, and competitors who may be unfamiliar with these procedures.

SWEEPSTAKES INFORMATION

Individual Events Sweepstakes

1st Place: 10 points
2nd Place: 8 points
3rd Place: 6 points
Finalist: 4 points

Debate Sweepstakes

IPDA

Only competitors with a **2–2 record or better** will count toward IPDA sweepstakes. Sweepstakes points will be calculated using each school's **four best competitors per division**. Competitors with fewer than two preliminary-round wins will not receive sweepstakes points.

Each qualifying competitor earns **4 points for each preliminary-round win**.

Each competitor that advances to the initial elimination round earns an additional **4 points**, regardless of whether the team wins that elimination round.

NPDA

Only teams with a **2–2 record or better** will count toward NPDA sweepstakes. Sweepstakes points will be calculated using each school's **four best teams per division**. Teams with fewer than two preliminary-round wins will not receive sweepstakes points.

Each qualifying team earns **5 points for each preliminary-round win**.

Each team that advances to the initial elimination round earns an additional **5 points**, regardless of whether the team wins that elimination round.

Therefore, an undefeated team that advances to Elimination Round 1 can earn a maximum of **25 sweepstakes points**: 20 points for a 4–0 preliminary record, plus 5 additional points for advancing to the first elimination round.

We look forward to seeing you at the **34th Annual Griffin Invitational!**
