The Mississippi State Speech & Debate Council

 presents

The Eighth Annual

**COWBELL CLASSIC**

Dear Friends:

Greetings from the MSU Speech & Debate Council. It is our great pleasure to invite you once again to Starkville for the eighth edition of the Cowbell Classic on January 19th and 20th, 2024. As always, the awards will be top notch, the competition will be excellent, and the tournament will run on time.

We are also proud to once again offer bids to the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions (NIETOC). For those of you seeking qualifying legs, come on down (or up) and enjoy our hospitality.

**The Events**

We will follow the standard MHSAA tournament format. Debate preliminary rounds will be held on Friday afternoon and evening, with elimination rounds on Saturday. All individual event rounds will be held on Saturday.

Competitors may enter up to four total events. Either (1) Up to two IE’s in each flight; or (2) One debate event, and up to one IE in Flight A and two in Flight B. This allows us to schedule debate elimination rounds parallel to Flight A.

**Debate Events:** Congressional Debate, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Policy Debate

**Flight A Individual Events:** Prose Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duet Acting, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking

**Flight B Individual Events:** Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Declamation, Informative Speaking

**Awards**

We will offer our usual suite of top-notch individual awards, including trophies, plaques, and medals in all events. Sweepstakes will include (1) top three overall team sweeps; (2) top three debate sweeps; and (3) the coveted cowbells for top three individual performers.

**Registration, Judges, and Entry Fees**

Registration will close on Monday, January 15th at 6 p.m. Entry fees are simple: $10 per entry in each event. Drops or adds by registered schools are permitted without penalty until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16th. Drop fees will apply after this point.

As usual, we will attempt to recruit a strong pool of judges from the MSU community, but it’s impossible to predict availability, so we strongly prefer that ***schools provide actual judges rather than pay judge fees***, if at all possible.

As always, we would be happy to waive entry fees for schools that are in their first or second year of competition, or their first or second year back after an absence of at least five years.

**Questions**

Please feel free to contact Brett Harvey at brett.harvey@msstate.edu or 662-325-8124 with any questions. We’re looking forward to seeing everyone on January 19-20, 2024 for a weekend of fun and great competition.

 Hail State and warmest regards,

The MSU Speech & Debate Council