

## Eagan High School Forensic Boosters

The Eagan High School Forensic Boosters was established to help support our nationally award-winning debate team. Debate teaches students critical thinking skills along with giving them the confidence to stand in front of an audience and give a presentation on a wide variety of subjects. It also provides the students with a social group at school that is highly supportive of one another. In order for us to meet our team objective of never having tryouts or cutting anyone from the debate team we had to do something to raise funds for the team. We host a tournament each year but that doesn't really raise enough funds to keep the team operating throughout the entire season. Rather than ask you to spend time selling water softener salt, fertilizer, candy, flowers, plants, coupon cards, or wrapping paper we are asking for a \$125.00 booster group fee to help support our team. If I had my way the school would fully fund the debate team and I wouldn't have to ask you for any additional funds but that is simply not in the cards today. To give you an idea of what this money goes towards I sketch out a typical weekend's expenditures for our debate team.

### **Example Weekend Expenses for Eagan High School Debate**

Typically, the EHS Debate Team has to travel to 2 tournaments each weekend due to the split between where Policy Tournaments are held versus where Congress, LD and Public Forum are held.

Typical One-Day Saturday Tournament during the season

Tournament #1 Policy Debate

Entry Fees 10 Teams x \$15 per team total \$150.00 entry fees

Judges 5 judges x \$100 per judge for a total of \$500.00

Transportation 1 bus shared with Rosemount High School \$200

Total for Policy Tournament - \$850.00

Tournament #2 Congress, LD and Public Forum

Entry Fees

Congress – 25 entries x \$10.00 per entry for total of \$250.00

LD – 10 entries x \$15.00 per entry for total of \$150

Public Forum – 20 teams x \$15.00 for a total of \$300.00

Judges

Congress – 5 judges x \$100.00 per judge for a total of \$500.00

LD – 5 judges x \$100.00 per judge for a total of \$500.00

Public Forum – 10 judges x \$100.00 per judge for a total of \$1000.00

Transportation 2 buses for a total of approximately \$700.00

Total for Congress, LD and Public Forum Tournament - \$3400.00

Total expenses for weekend - \$4250.00

Some weekends it is less and some weekends it is more. We attend approximately 9 in-state tournaments with the team each season. These expenses do not take into account any expenses incurred traveling outside of the state of Minnesota for national level competition or for any post-season competition. Debaters who compete at the highest level on the national level are required to pay for their expenses like hotel, airfare, transportation, food and entry fees.

The district provides the team with approximately \$20,000 for team operational expenses but as you can see if we multiply out the figure above by 9 tournaments, we spend around \$38,000 for the in-state portion of our competition season.

You might ask aren't their ways to cut these expenses? Yes, is the answer. We ask parents to volunteer their time on weekends judging at local tournaments at the novice level. Every parent that volunteers saves us \$100 in hired judges. While that doesn't sound like a lot it adds up quickly and it helps to make sure we can cover our entries with judges. We could cut out transportation. I only eliminate transportation when the tournament is hosted in-district. Otherwise, we take a bus. The reason is to protect your children. The MSHSL provides catastrophic insurance for all participants in all league sponsored activities but for transit it only covers if the students are riding on school provided transportation.

If you and your family cannot afford the \$125 booster fee, please let me know and we will reduce the fee or waive it all-together if that is requested. Please do not let money stand in the way of participation in debate.

### **How do I pay the Booster Fee**

1. You can write a check made payable to: "Eagan High School Forensic Boosters" and have your son or daughter drop it off with Mr. McDonald in the main office.
2. You can pay via Venmo using the following information – New Venmo coming soon.
3. You can pay via PayPal by clicking on the following link - [paypal.me/EaganSpeechandDebate](https://paypal.me/EaganSpeechandDebate)

**Please when paying using Venmo or PayPal indicate in the notes or what's it for section that it is for Debate and list your son or daughters name so that credit for payment of booster fee can be recorded.**

**When paying by check please indicate on the memo line the name of your son or daughter.**