



**Idaho Mountain River
“Of the Year” Awards Information**

NSDA Awards

District Student of the Year

Each NSDA District has the opportunity to name a District Student of the Year. Coaches may nominate a graduating senior who best represents the tenets of the Association’s Code of Honor: humility, equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service.

Each year, the top students who win the district award are selected as finalists for the William Woods Tate, Jr., National Student of the Year award. Finalists interview with an esteemed panel, and the National Student of the Year is announced during the National Awards Assembly.

Nominate a student here:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/student-of-the-year-nomination-form/>

National Student Leadership Council

The new Student Leadership Council (SLC) will be composed of current high school student members of the National Speech & Debate Association graduating in or after 2024. Members will provide feedback and recommendations throughout the year to ensure we are meeting students’ needs. The idea for the SLC is based on requests from students in the 2021 student membership survey for more leadership opportunities and avenues to contribute to and influence the NSDA.

It is not necessary for students to have experience or interest in every area; we welcome applicants with a strong interest in a single area. Please consider recommending students who have skills or interest in one or more of the following:

- Have a passion for shaping the NSDA’s future
- Enjoy leading team practices, peer coaching, or developing resources for your program
- Value collaborating with diverse groups of people
- Have strong writing skills
- Excel in creative problem solving
- Have familiarity with social networking platforms

High school students who will graduate in 2024, 2025, or 2026 are eligible for nomination. Coaches may submit nominations through a standard online form, which sends a copy to both the national office and the district chair, if applicable. Nominations are currently open! Each district has the opportunity to nominate one member student for consideration. District winners must be reported by the district chair by March 1, 2023. Each country or U.S. territory also has the opportunity to nominate one student. An NSDA committee will review international applications to select one nominee from each participating country or territory. International nominations are due by March 1, 2023.

District and international nominees who are finalists for the SLC will be asked to submit a short video this spring explaining why they'd like to be part of the SLC and how they envision contributing in their own words. Selected students will serve for the 2023-2024 school year. Students can expect to commit to three to five hours per month for the council.

This is a unique way to influence the organization's future and an excellent addition to any student's resume. If you know a student passionate about improving speech and debate, please tell them about this program!

Nominate a student here :

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/student-leadership-council-nomination/>

Coach of the Year

Each District Committee may award a District Coach of the Year to a deserving member coach in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National Coach of the Year is selected.

To be eligible for nomination, a high school coach must:

- Currently work as a high school speech/debate coach in a National Speech & Debate Association member school.
- Have completed five consecutive years of experience as a high school speech/debate coach at an NSDA member school (experience need not be in the same school).
- Plan to continue working as a high school speech/debate coach next year at an NSDA member school.
- Agree to be nominated.

Nominees must be coaches who:

- Are known for their adherence to the National Speech & Debate Association's Code of Honor.
- Encourage speech and debate education through active support of curricular and/or co-curricular programming.
- Foster cooperation between the speech and debate program and the rest of the school, showcasing students and their achievements with administrators, school board members, and the community at-large.
- Lead a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff members to sustain and grow speech and debate participation.
- Encourage team spirit and play an active role in the speech and debate program.

- Demonstrate leadership and exemplify committed support to the speech and debate program's livelihood.
- Advocate for speech and debate activities within the school and the community at-large.

As part of the district-level nomination process, nominators will be asked to provide a nomination letter and basic contact information using the online form. Coaches may be nominated by their students, their fellow coaches, team parents, and/or community members. Coaches may not nominate themselves. Submitted nominations will be provided to district chairs for review by their committees.

From the submitted coaches, each District Committee will select their District Coach of the Year. The district-level award winners will be reviewed by an esteemed panel.

Nominate a coach here:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-coach-of-the-year-nomination-form/>

New Coach of the Year

The National Speech & Debate Association's **New Coach of the Year** award recognizes an exemplary high school coach who is in their first year of NSDA membership.

Each District Committee may award a District New Coach of the Year to a deserving member coach in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National New Coach of the Year is selected.

To be eligible for nomination, a high school coach must:

- Currently work as a high school speech/debate coach in a National Speech & Debate Association member school.
- Have a coaching merit date on or after July 1, 2021.
- Plan to continue working as a high school speech/debate coach next year at an NSDA member school.
- Agree to be nominated.

Nominees must be coaches who:

- Are known for their adherence to the National Speech & Debate Association's Code of Honor.
- Encourage speech and debate education through active support of curricular and/or co-curricular programming.
- Foster cooperation between the speech and debate program and the rest of the school, showcasing students and their achievements with administrators, school board members, and the community at-large.
- Lead a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff members to sustain and grow speech and debate participation.
- Encourage team spirit and play an active role in the speech and debate program.
- Demonstrate leadership and exemplify committed support to the speech and debate program's livelihood.

- Advocate for speech and debate activities within the school and the community at-large.

As part of the district-level nomination process, nominators will be asked to provide a nomination letter and basic contact information using the online form. Coaches may be nominated by their students, their fellow coaches, team parents, and/or community members. Coaches may not nominate themselves. Submitted nominations will be provided to district chairs for review by their committees.

From the submitted coaches, each District Committee will select their District New Coach of the Year. The district-level award winners will be reviewed by an esteemed panel.

Nominate a new coach here:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/new-coach-of-the-year-nomination-form/>

Assistant Coach of the Year

The National Speech & Debate Association's **Assistant Coach of the Year** award recognizes an exemplary high school coach serving at an NSDA member school.

Each District Committee may award a District Assistant Coach of the Year to a deserving member coach in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National Assistant Coach of the Year is selected.

To be eligible for nomination, a high school coach must:

- Currently work as an assistant high school speech/debate coach in a National Speech & Debate Association member school (each school may determine its own definition of assistant coach).
- Plan to continue working as a high school speech/debate coach (as either an assistant or an advisor) next year at an NSDA member school.
- Agree to be nominated.

Nominees must be coaches who:

- Are known for their adherence to the National Speech & Debate Association's Code of Honor.
- Encourage speech and debate education through active support of curricular and/or co-curricular programming.
- Foster cooperation between the speech and debate program and the rest of the school, showcasing students and their achievements with administrators, school board members, and the community at-large.
- Lead a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff members to sustain and grow speech and debate participation.
- Encourage team spirit and play an active role in the speech and debate program.
- Demonstrate leadership and exemplify committed support to the speech and debate program's livelihood.
- Advocate for speech and debate activities within the school and the community at-large.

As part of the district-level nomination process, nominators will be asked to provide a nomination letter and basic contact information using the online form. Coaches may be nominated by their students, their fellow coaches, team parents, and/or community members. Coaches may not nominate themselves. Submitted nominations will be provided to district chairs for review by their committees.

From the submitted coaches, each District Committee will select their District Assistant Coach of the Year. The district-level award winners will be reviewed by an esteemed panel.

High School Administrator of the Year

The National Speech & Debate Association's High School Administrator of the Year program began in 2011 as a means to recognize outstanding high school principals and administrators. The program annually honors administrators who have succeeded in providing high-quality opportunities for students in speech and debate programming as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession.

Each District Committee may award a District High School Administrator of the Year to a deserving individual in their district, and from those district-level award winners, a National High School Administrator of the Year is selected.

To be eligible for nomination, an administrator must:

- Currently work as a high school principal or headmaster in a National Speech & Debate Association member school.
- Have completed five consecutive years of experience as a high school administrator at an NSDA member school (experience need not be in the same school).
- Plan to continue working as a high school administrator next year at an NSDA member school.
- Agree to nomination.
- If selected as the winner, be able to participate in the National Speech & Debate Tournament.

Nominees must be administrators who:

- Encourage speech and debate education through active support of curricular and/or co-curricular programming.
- Foster cooperation between the speech and debate program and the rest of the school, showcasing students and their achievements with administrators, school board members, and the community at-large.
- Lead a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff members to sustain and grow speech and debate participation.
- Encourage team spirit and play an active role in the speech and debate program.
- Demonstrate leadership and exemplify committed support to the speech and debate program's livelihood.
- Advocate for speech and debate activities within the school and the community at-large.

As part of the district-level nomination process, nominators will be asked to provide a nomination letter and basic contact information using the online form. Administrators may be nominated by their students, coaches, team parents, and/or community members. Administrators may not nominate themselves. Submitted nominations will be provided to district chairs for review by their committees.

From the submitted administrators, each District Committee will select their District Administrator of the Year. The district-level award winners will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of members of the National Speech & Debate Association.

Nominate an administrator here:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-administrator-nomination-form/>

Other Awards

Email your nomination for the awards below to Dana Facer (danaf@sd381.k12.id.us) with a paragraph describing the nominee and why they are deserving of this award.

Communicator of the Year

The Communicator of the Year award recognizes an adult in our community who has used their voice to effect significant and positive change.

Alumni Achievement

This award should honor notable alumni. Speech and debate alumni who are included on our Notable Alumni page should meet the following criteria. The Notable Alumni page is not a ranking, but a confirmation that speech and debate has the power to unleash the true potential of young people.

Overarching Criteria

- Regional, national, or international recognition
- Holds a prominent position in an organization, company, community, or government
- Is a recognized expert or leader in their profession or specialty
- Devotes time and effort to improving lives and communities
- May include active, former, and retired roles
- Previous speech and debate competitor (non NSDA members welcome)

Volunteer of the Year

This award should honor a judge who gives their time freely, has constructive ballots, is aware of the rules, and is generally a good human who supports our programs.