

Climb Programs for High School Students (9th-12th graders)

Winter 2025

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Register!

About the High School Programs

High School students are encouraged to participate in our Speech, Congress, and Debate Programs.

Speech is great for a student that likes to work more on their own and wants to gain presentation skills including organizing material with relevant and engaging information along with good delivery.

Speech Program: High School students in our Speech program will learn new kinds of speeches and prepare, practice, and present one or two different kinds of speeches. We are offering 1) PowerPoint speaking; 2) Extemp-Impromptu speaking; 3) Informative-Persuasive-Humorous (ADS) speaking; 4) Interpretation (Play Prose Poetry performances). Students have an optional and highly encouraged culminating experience in a Speech tournament (additional fee).

Debate is great for students that want to advance in-depth knowledge on issues and to directly respond to what others have to say, preparing on topics relevant and challenging for elementary students.

High School Debate Program: High School Students debate in the Western Washington high school tournament circuit. (LD or Public Forum debate). In LD Debate, they debate solo and learn about values, philosophy, and current issues reflecting choices society is making. In Public Forum, they debate current policy issues. In both, they learn research, case building, responding, and rebuttal arguments to persuade judges. Topics are chosen by the national organization NSDA. Students are encouraged to have a culminating experience in a High School Tournament.

Congress is great for students that like to work more on their own but to reach out to others to examine, research, and discuss government policies. Students in Congress learn bill advocacy and argumentation skills.

High Schoolers in CONGRESS learn how to argue policy proposals in a congressional like setting. They'll research and learn about bills, how to make a persuasive case for change, and how to question, refute, and defend their bills. As they progress, they'll learn parliamentary procedure and effective, strategic ways to win over others. This is an excellent event for students who want a balance between speaking and debating. Students are also encouraged to participate in the tournament shortly after the end of the class, showing off the skills and knowledge they have developed.

Yes—students can do both speech and debate programs (just pick programs that happen at different times/days).

Register!

You can register high school students for:

High School Speech Program Dates, Times, Fees

Bellevue Mondays	Jan. 13-Mar. 3	4:30 to 6:15pm	\$399
Redmond Thursdays	Jan. 16-Mar. 6	4:15 to 5:50pm	\$379
Online Thursdays	Jan. 16-Mar. 6	4:30 to 6:15pm	\$289
Seattle Sundays	Feb. 9, 16, 23	12:30 to 2:15pm	\$299

High School Congress Program Dates, Times, Fees

Online Wednesdays	Jan. 15-Mar. 5	4:00 to 5:15pm	\$269
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Each Speech and Debate Program has 6 Classes (the HS LD-Public Forum programs have 7 classes and Seattle debate is 3 double length classes, Seattle speech is 3 regular length classes).

Debate: No Class Feb. 20. (There is class on Feb. 20).

Speech-Congress: No class Jan. 20, Feb. 17 (Mondays) and Jan. 23, Feb 20 (Thursdays).

You are encouraged to sign up for the Seattle U Tournament separately. The cost ranges from \$60 to \$80. Students taking the program are ready to participate in this tournament. Signing up includes:

Extra Pre-Tournament Prep Class at same time as the class:

Sunday March 9, Speech 12:30 to 2:15pm (Seattle U)

Monday March 10, Speech 4:30 to 6:15pm (Bellevue and Online)

Wednesday March 12, Congress 4:00 to 5:15pm (Online Congress)

Thursday March 13, Speech 4:30 to 6:10pm (Redmond & Online Speech)

Tournament Dates:

Friday March 14, Online, 4 to 9:15pm

Sunday March 16, In Person, 9am to 6:10pm

Locations

* BELLEVUE Location is Bellevue College at the R Building. 3000 Landerholm Cir SE, Bellevue, WA 98005.

* REDMOND Location is North Downtown at 16126 NE 87th St. Redmond WA 98052.

* SEATTLE Location is at Seattle University. 901 12th Ave, Seattle WA 98122.

* Online is over Zoom, Link will be provided.

Register!

New & Experienced Students

NEW DEBATERS: Students begin by learning key skills for debating. The structure of an argument, responding to opposing arguments, ask and answering questions, taking notes, making cases, researching, and synthesizing the arguments in a debate into a persuasive argument. Students work in small groups--our staff to student ratio is typically 1 to 6 students. Students engage in debates with expert feedback and engage in redos to improve their speaking and argument skills. All the while, they

are building up social connections and friendships with other students who share their goals.

RETURNING EXPERIENCED DEBATERS: Experienced students build off the debate knowledge they have gained. Working in small labs of 4 to 6 students, they learn advanced skills and strategies and how to put them into action. They work on and debate different topics. They are challenged by more difficult debates. They are challenged to improve their cases and responses. All along, they are working with their debate friends--a supportive, high achieving group who want the best for each other.

NEW SPEAKERS: Students will learn new kinds of speeches and prepare, practice, and present 2 different kinds of speeches. We are offering 1) PowerPoint speaking; 2) Extemp-Impromptu speaking; 3) Informative-Persuasive-Humorous (ADS) speaking; 4) Interpretation (Play-Prose-Poetry performances). Throughout you work with other friendly students who are just as interested in ideas and communication as you are.

RETURNING/EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS: Students advance their preparing, practice, and presentation skills in new speeches. Experienced speakers get advanced work with our experts to take their speeches from decent to great. Throughout students work with other experienced students who bring their own talents and skills into the mix to advance at a peer level student understanding and engagement in high quality speeches.

NEW IN CONGRESS: High School Students in Congress will learn the foundations to prepare, practice, and advocate for and against bills. Students learn how to craft a bill, how to argue for and against the bill, ask and answer challenges and questions to the bill. Throughout, students engage with other smart and collegial students who are interested in policies and the needs of our communities.

RETURNING/EXPERIENCED CONGRESS MEMBERS: Students advance their preparing, practice, and presentation skills in congressional debating. Experienced congress members work at a higher level to make their arguments the strongest possible. Students work with other experienced congressional debaters. The result is stronger, more advanced levels of congressional argumentation.

Register!

About Fees and the Refund Policy

Lower income household? When you register, choose one of the two options for 50% or 95% fee reduction (no forms--just a click). We want our programs to be affordable to all families.

Fees include: All instruction, materials on topics.

Refunds

If you drop 7 or more days before the first class, you will receive 95% refund.

If you drop 72 or more hours before the first class, you will receive 85% refund.

If you drop 24 or more hours before the second class starts, you will receive 65% refund.

If you drop 24 hours or more before the third class starts, you will receive 45% refund.

After the third class, there are no refunds.

We do NOT refund for missing a class, for being late to a class, nor for missing a tournament that is part of the program, nor for dropping the class after the first 3 classes.

Students can makeup missed classes by viewing our program's PowerPoints and/or joining the class on a different day (arrange with Jim Hanson).

You can switch days of the week at no cost IF there is space available to do so. You do not receive a refund for switching to a lower cost program unless you do so 72 hours or earlier of the first class.

You cannot switch to another session such as moving from a Fall to a Winter program.

The refund policy is based on the fact that registration processing takes our time and once we hire a staff member--we have to pay them for the entire program even when students drop and it is disruptive to teams and labs who have to be reconfigured.

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