

2025 Great Debate Rulebook

Please click the link to access the [2025 Great Debate Rulebook](#).

2025 Texas Great Debate Tentative Schedule

DAY ONE

11:00am – 2:00pm	Registration (lunch not provided)
1:30pm – 2:00pm	Parent Orientation ***
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Opening Ceremony ***
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Great Debate Clinics
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Dinner
6:00pm – 7:30pm	Great Debate Clinics
7:30pm – 10:30pm	Team Meetings
11:00pm	Lights Out

DAY TWO

7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast
7:30am – 12:30am	Rounds I & II
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 6:00pm	Rounds III & IV
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Dinner
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Group Photo
8:00pm – 9:00pm	Sweet Sixteen Ceremony ***
9:00pm – 10:00pm	Athenaeum Training
9:00pm – 10:00pm	Sweet Sixteen Training
10:00pm – 10:30pm	Team Meetings
11:00pm	Lights Out

DAY THREE

7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast
7:30am – 12:00pm	Sweet 16 and Athenaeum
	Rounds
11:30pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:15pm – 2:30pm	Semi-Finals Rounds
2:30pm – 5:00pm	Finals ***
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Dinner
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Team Meeting
8:00pm – 9:00pm	Awards Ceremony ***
9:00pm – 12:00am	Dance
12:30am	Lights Out

DAY FOUR

7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast
8:30am – 10:00am	Closing Ceremony ***
10:00am – 11:00am	Region Check Out

*** Parents are invited to attend

2025 Summer Official Program Checklist

REQUIRED ITEMS

- **\$20.00 KEY DEPOSIT (Check or Cash)**

IMPORTANT NOTE: If key is NOT returned prior to departure, (lost key, misplaced, etc.), the key deposit will not be returned and the family will be billed the remaining replacement fee for the room key. Families that do not submit a key deposit will be billed for the full amount to replace a lost or damaged key.

- **MEDICAL & PARENT RELEASE & MEDICAL FORM** ([CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)) the fillable form.
- **MEDICATION PERMISSION LETTER – Please email letter** with details along with parent signature to admissions@nhimail.com. (Please put *Medication Permission* in Subject Title)

DRESS CODE

Dress Code: Great Debate students are showcased as the best and brightest of the Latina/o/x community. Students must dress accordingly during sessions and activities. Students may change into **casual attire** every evening after sessions and program activities. The dress code during sessions & activities is as follows:

- **Business Formal Attire:**

MALES: suit/blazer or trousers/slacks & tie/dress shirt with dress shoes

FEMALES: trousers/slacks/dress/skirt & shirt or dress top/dress with closed-toe shoes

- **Business Casual Attire:** Slacks/khakis/dress jeans, polo's, casual dress shirts, casual dresses, etc. (NO short shorts, NO tight shirts, NO baggy pants, NO profanity/inappropriate language on clothing.)

DAY 1: Casual **DAY 2:** Business Formal **DAY 3:** Business Formal & Dance Attire **DAY 4:** Casual



DORMITORY ITEMS & LINENS:

BASIC LINENS ARE NOT PROVIDED - Bed sheets, bath towel, and washcloth WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. Please make arrangements to bring your own. Dorms use twin XL beds.

DO NOT FORGET TO BRING:

- Sleep attire
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste/brush, sunscreen, deodorant, brush/comb, etc.)
- Flip-flops/Shower shoes
- Twin-size bed sheets
- Towels
- Blanket
- Pillow

OTHER/OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Hair Dryer
- Camera/Memory Card/Batteries/Charger
- Cell Phone Charger
- Iron/Steamer
- Spending Money (Optional): Students may choose to order pizza or food in the late evenings, purchase snacks at vending machines, or buy college/university apparel or NHI gear (t-shirts, backpacks, etc.).

WE DISCOURAGE STUDENTS FROM BRINGING: GAMING SYSTEMS, OR ANY OTHER EXPENSIVE TECHNOLOGY. **IMPORTANT NOTE: NHI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST ITEMS.**

Important Phone Numbers

NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE

Office: 512-357-6137

Email: admissions@nhimail.com

Website: www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org

M-F, 8:30am - 12:00pm, 1:30pm - 5:30pm (Central Daylight Time)

Safety and Guidelines

NHI StaySafe Practices and Policies

NHI StaySafe spaces allow our young people to enjoy the freedom of leadership development in a safe and supportive environment. By “Safe,” we refer to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being, and by “space(s),” we mean both the community and its environment. StaySafe policies and practices were developed in consultation with legal, medical, public safety, education, and mental health professionals, as well as partners from K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.

- NHI members observe the NHI Code of Ethics
- NHI members classified as “volunteers” observe the NHI Volunteer Agreement
- NHI members observe the NHI Fundamentals
- NHI follows a practice of reporting bad behavior. All members may report at confidential@nhimail.com. For emergencies, send to report@nhimail.com or dial 9-1-1
- NHI observes a complete protocol for managing violations of its Code of Ethics, including consequences that may lead to permanent suspension
- NHI observes and issues protocols and practices to maintain clean, sanitary, and healthy spaces in person, and age-appropriate practices online
- NHI trains volunteers to serve as StaySafe Officers (SSOs), whereby they participate in NHI learning environments, digital or in-person
- Especially in more digital and online-based environments, NHI asks its members to abide by the NHI Acceptable Usage Policy.

NHI Zero Tolerance Rule

We do not invite youth who want to make life hard on others. If it happens, however, we are always ready to respond. If a student takes unlawful drugs or brings weapons to any organized NHI event (local or summer), parents are immediately informed, and NHI adheres to the host institution's campus rules for the next step. Alcohol is also not tolerated, and students will be sent home immediately at their parents' expense. Smoking tobacco and vaping is also not permitted, nor is foul language, fighting, or hazing of other students. Discovering these activities means that participants are removed from NHI rosters and may be suspended or expelled from NHI. The spirit of the programs is to place students in positive and nurturing environments. Anything short of this is not tolerated.

Health and Safety Considerations

Before registering for NHI local programs or summer programs, the student and parents must advise NHI if there are any recent medical and safety concerns. In the event of a recent change in the student's medical condition, such as a contagious illness, the family should inform NHI immediately. In such cases, clearance by a physician is required before registration at the program site. It is in the interest of all students and families to also inform NHI of any other behavior or incidents (such as drug use or pregnancy) that may adversely affect the participation of the individual student or other participants. Families are held liable for withholding information that may affect the health and safety of participants. Parents should notify NHI of prescribed medications and medical conditions on the NHI Parent Release. Recent conditions can be sent to confidential@nhimail.com.

Firearms, Liquor, and Drugs

Firearms, liquor, and drugs are strictly forbidden while participating in NHI programs. Possession of such items constitutes grounds for immediate dismissal and notification to local authorities. Parents are contacted to make immediate arrangements for their student.

Video/Audio Recording

Students and volunteers are prohibited from video/audio recording any part of the program while in official sessions. Video recording is permissible during unofficial sessions, such as during a meal or recreational time. NHI will record some sessions, primarily for training purposes.

Housing and Living Quarters

Living quarters are organized by male and female quarters. Students must respect all rules and regulations of the university dormitories, especially the RESTRICTION of females in male dormitories and males in female dormitories. NHI adheres to the university's requirements for housing. Students with questions about gender and housing may email confidential@nhimail.com to arrange a conversation with our Enrollment Office.

Program Boundaries

The program's boundaries are limited to campus activity areas that are designated for NHI use. Participants or volunteers are NOT allowed off the campus premises except as authorized by the NHI Educational Director. Violations are cause for dismissal, including leaving the dorms after curfew hours.

Damages to University Property

The property where you are staying belongs to the university. All students are held responsible for damages they incur and are billed accordingly by NHI. Loss and damage costs are assessed for: tampering with fire systems; lost or damaged equipment; tampering with emergency doors or call systems; removal of or tampering with window screens; missing linens, and; removal of furniture/mattresses from their original dorm room. Additionally, lost keys will be charged to students. When checking into your room, conduct a walk-through. If there are damages, you must immediately report them to your counselor or onsite director. All participants are expected to keep their rooms in order.

Performance of Duties

Each person is required to participate in ALL scheduled events. Students may be excused with a doctor's statement if personal restrictions prohibit their participation in physical activities.

Hospital and Medical Attention

Hospital and medical attention are available around the clock. Counselors make daily general inquiries about students' state of health. Illnesses should be reported the first time our staff asks whether any students are feeling sick. Students covered by family insurance are asked to reimburse NHI for medical expenses incurred. NHI encourages students to drink a lot of water throughout the program to avoid dehydration.

Meals

Meals are scheduled three times daily. Each student is issued a meal card or wristband, depending on the university. Some programs allow students to place orders for food to be delivered after dinner, as long as it arrives at a reasonable hour or the hour stated by the Education Director. **Ordering food after curfew hours is not allowed.** The first scheduled meal is dinner on Day 1. We suggest you pack a snack for your trip to the NHI program, eat lunch before arriving at the program, and have money available for your return trip meals. The final meal that's included is breakfast on your departing day. Note that if you depart before 8:00 am and do not go to the cafeteria for breakfast, you will need to purchase this meal separately.

The Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony is a festive event where NHI celebrates the success of all students and volunteers. We encourage students to dress appropriately for an awards ceremony and dance, usually in festive clothing that's semi-formal.

Curfew

Curfew is based on the time involved in each significant activity of the day. Because of the program's intensity, we ensure that all students and staff volunteers receive adequate rest. Every effort is made to make the program enjoyable. For this to happen, one of the few rules that MUST be observed is to end each day's program at a designated time. We ask for NHI students to adhere to this requirement in the spirit of cooperation and everyone's benefit, including to support students enrolled in the university who attend summer school. In some university towns, NHI must also abide by a city curfew for minors. Leaving the dorms after curfew hours is strictly prohibited.

Absence

Absence from sessions and assemblies strictly prohibited, without notifying the Onsite Director. The activity schedule is filled from the moment a student registers on Day 1 until the Closing Ceremony.

Key Deposits

All students are required to deposit \$20.00 for a room key. This deposit is refunded at checkout when the key is returned. If you lose your key, we will keep the \$20 and bill families for any difference in the key's price and the deposit. This can be as much as \$100, depending on the university's charges to NHI. Please keep up with your key!

Hospital and Medical Attention

Hospital and medical attention are available around the clock. Counselors make daily general inquiries about students' state of health. Illness should be reported as soon as you know you're not feeling well. Students covered by family insurance are asked to reimburse NHI for medical expenses incurred, in the event that insurance is denied at the point of service. NHI encourages students to drink lots of water throughout the program to avoid dehydration.

University and Emergency Phone Numbers

Parents/guardians should record the appropriate telephone number of the NHI host university their student will attend. These numbers will be sent to each student and family. The NHI office may also be contacted at 512-357-6137 for these numbers. NHI Office hours at the central office are 8:30 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 - 5:00 pm Central Daylight Time, USA.

Family Visitors and School Visitors

We are pleased to share that NHI has some Visitor Hours. Please be advised that visitors must arrive and depart within the specified hours of the program, and visitors are not allowed in student meeting spaces. Visitors include: parents, relatives, and high school officials. Visitors do not include non-family members, unless they are school officials.

Emergency Phone Numbers

The NHI office may be contacted at 512-357-6137. NHI Office hours at the central office are M-F, 8:30 am-12:00pm; 1:00pm - 5:00 pm, Central Standard Time, USA.