



WORTH IT!

Parent Judging:

Your presence on campus and willingness to take ballots are essential to the success of NITOC. When you are not serving on a tournament team, please check with Ballot Push 45 minutes before **each round** to see what the judging needs are for the upcoming round. The Ballot Push Team will be happy to see you!

As a sign of our appreciation, we have developed a fun way to thank you for taking ballots at NITOC. When a parent judges 6 rounds, they will receive a Stoa lanyard ready to add on lapel pins. If you judge 12 rounds, you will receive a NITOC 2025 lapel pin, and if you judge 18 or more rounds, you will receive the coveted “Judge Boldly” lapel pin. Have fun judging, supporting our students, and adding some special bling to your wardrobe.



Thank you for all the rounds you have judged and all the excellent feedback you have provided so far this year. The students competing at NITOC are depending on your keen eye, sharp minds, soft hearts and lively pens yet again. We cannot have a tournament without your significant investment in judging.

Parent judges are needed in every round of the tournament to maintain its integrity and ensure the tournament runs on schedule. Regardless of the number of students you have participating or the number of events they are competing in, all families are required to judge a minimum of **three rounds per day**.

Clubs are encouraged to work together to fulfill the judging requirements for their members.

We ask all parents to experience a NITOC Judge Orientation and that you show up 45 minutes before every round to grab a ballot!

Our Judge Lounge will offer light snacks.

Chaperones

All competitors must be chaperoned. Chaperones must also meet the judging requirements for the chaperoned student.

Parent Judging Guidelines

JUDGES MAY

- Judge students from their own state or region.
- Judge the same student in multiple speech events.
- Judge the same speech event as long as you don't judge any student more than once within the same event.

JUDGES MAY NOT

- Judge students from their club, their own children or relatives.
- Judge students they have coached.
- Judge the same student more than once within the same speech event.
- Judge a debate student/team more than once within in each form of debate.

OUTROUND JUDGES

Speech Semifinals & Finals | Parli QF onward | TP & LD Outround 5 onward

- Parents may not judge events in which their child is still competing.
- Alumni may not judge events in which their sibling is still competing.
- Coaches, parents and alumni may not judge events in which a student they coach is still competing.

PARLI

- Coaches, parents and alumni may assist teams during prep time and judge other teams the same round until quarterfinals.
- Coaches, parents and alumni may NOT judge quarterfinals, semifinal or finals if they assist any team during prep time.

STOATRAX

StoaTrax is Stoa's ballot tracking software used by Ballot Push, Ballot Return and Tab. Wear your judge name tag at all times to make Ballot Push and Ballot Return faster.

StoaTrax in Debate

Using a "blind ballot push," a ballot is turned over in front of the potential judge and confirmed for no conflicts. StoaTrax is used only to alert if the judge has already judged a team or individual so that a new ballot may be found. It records teams and individuals you have judged. It does not record your decision or speaker points.

StoaTrax in Speech

Shows ballot push staff which rooms do NOT have a club conflict, speeding the process. You must still verify that you do not have a personal conflict by reviewing the ballot roster. It records competitors and events you have judged and notifies ballot push staff if you have already judged a particular competitor within the same speech event. It does not record your rankings.

Read More Here:

[General Balloting Guidelines](#)