

# WHEN YOU SAY YES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BEING A JUDGE AT THE ARKANSAS OAK  
APRIL 9-12, 2025



*“Listening to these amazing, godly teens gives me hope for our nation!”*

- Sue Ann / Arkansas

## Just the facts:

- The Event - The Arkansas Oak
- When: April 9-12, 2025
- Where: First Baptist Church, Fayetteville
- Our mission: To train homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ
- The need: 200 individuals from NWA to listen and give feedback
- How to sign up:

Scan this QR code



## Who makes a great judge?

- Judges may be homemakers, business professionals, pastors, tradesmen, college students, senior citizens, attorneys, homeschool parents, alumni, and parents of competitors Anyone who would like to volunteer their time to provide constructive feedback to students can be a judge.
- Judge Eligibility: All judges must be at least 18 years old and not competing in any event in the league during the current season.

## What is the time commitment?

### Every judge will be needed for approx. 3 hours:

- 1/2 hr judge orientation training
- 1.5 hrs per debate round  
- and/or -  
2 hours for speech rounds
- 1/2 hr to fill out the ballot
- More hours available if desired!



# FAQS

## **What is the time commitment for being a Stoa judge?**

You can spend a few hours, a full day or plan on being with us for the entire tournament. The shortest time commitment is approximately 3 hours.

## **How flexible is the judge schedule? I have a lot of ongoing commitments.**

We work with your schedule! Whatever commitment you make today can be changed to another time closer to the tournament dates.

## **I have never (!) judged before and have little or no expertise in debate formats.**

No prior judging experience is necessary! We offer basic training before the tournament to familiarize you with the format and judging criteria, and tournament staff will also be available for support.

## **What if I am not knowledgeable enough about the debate topics or current events being discussed.**

Our goal is for our students to speak to “the thinking man and woman on the street”. You don’t need to be an expert.

## **I’m worried I won’t be able to provide constructive feedback or be able to articulate meaningful reasons for my final decisions.**

Your role is to guide the students and encourage their growth. We’ll provide you with guidelines and tips to ease any concerns.

## **I feel nervous about this. I simply don’t know enough.**

We’ll give you a comprehensive overview of what to expect and what your responsibilities will be.



*“One of the young men I judged delivered a better Gospel than I have heard in a long time. I love hearing a good understanding of the Best news!”*

-Staff Director, Bible teacher / Kansas