

## 2026 Information Packet for Decathlon Speech Volunteers

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Thank you for volunteering to serve as a judge for the **Georgia Academic Decathlon Speech Competition on Saturday, February 28, 2026**. You will find this to be a delightful experience. We appreciate you and couldn't have this competition without you.

**Please check in at the Volunteer Table on the second floor of the Bagwell College of Education at Kennesaw State University** (580 Parliament Garden Way NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144) between **7:45 AM and 8:00 AM**.

The schedule for the morning is as follows:

7:45-8:00 AM	Check in at the Volunteer Table on the second floor of the Bagwell College of Education building and then proceed to room 221. Breakfast will be provided during training.
8:00 AM	Judges' and timers' training, Q & A, and room assignments
9:00 AM	Judges report to and prepare rooms for competition
9:15 AM	Speech Competition begins (bathroom breaks and snacks/water will be provided throughout the morning)
12:30 PM	Speech Competition ends (estimated)

Enclosures:

- **Judging Information:** To help you feel comfortable during the competition, I suggest that you review the attached documents, especially the score sheet in conjunction with "Understanding the Speech Rubric." You don't need to print these out as I will have copies of them available for each judging team.
- Before February 28, please watch the 45-minute speech judge training video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWQYcMgniVA> (Note: I WILL go through the full training on Saturday morning, but it will be rather quick. Please watch this video on your own, in the comfort of your own home, BEFORE the competition.)
- Please bring your Internet-accessible smart phone and/or tablet with you to the competition. Please make sure all updates are current on your device. We will provide wi-fi access so that you can access the internet and the following Google scoring form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1T7kscTa5zUK8Flb3YXFg4KbfEpR6uj6mhv2lz-LXV4ZFiQ/viewform>. Feel free to log on to the form and practice scoring speeches. Please only use the student numbers 9901, 9902, etc., as practice student IDs as those will help us weed out practice scores from actual scores prior to competition day. I have included actual speeches in my training video but you can also access them individually at the links below:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQhvlyo4R5U>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PBz1-i\\_eis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PBz1-i_eis)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PH8es7NvMqo>
- **The competition takes place in the Bagwell College of Education building at Kennesaw State University. Please see the parking instructions at the end of this document and allow plenty of time for any odd Saturday morning traffic.** It is

important that you arrive on time for the 8:00 AM training even if you have already watched the training video. Please note that the competition begins promptly at 9:15 AM and if you are late, I will place you wherever you are needed. After 9:15 AM, I will be unable to accommodate any special judge pairings.

Two important things I need to know:

- **If you are affiliated with any of the teams competing this year, please let me know so that I can make sure you are part of a judging team not judging that particular school.**
- If you wish to be on a judging team with another specific judge, please let me know. I will accommodate any special judge pairings as best I can. At times, I will need to split up my experienced judges to cover all 12 rooms.

If you have any questions between now and the competition, please call or text me at 678-522-4498 or email me at [heather@afutureghost.com](mailto:heather@afutureghost.com). Otherwise, I will count on you serving as a judge on **February 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please give me a 24-hour notice if, for any reason, you cannot attend. Life intrudes. I completely understand. Alerting me gives me time to adjust judging teams.

The PAGE staff and Decathlon students thank you for being part of the Georgia Academic Decathlon. We could not host the competition without you!

Thank you!  
Heather Dobson, Speech Competition Coordinator

- The address for the KSU Central Parking Deck is 575 Parliament Garden Way, NW, Kennesaw, Ga. 30144

#### Driving Directions:

- Take I-75 North to exit 271 Chastain Road
- Turn left off the exit ramp and cross back over I-75
- Turn right onto Frey Road and continue straight past the Waffle House and KSU Convocation Center
- Turn left onto Parliament Garden Way (2<sup>nd</sup> light)
- Enter KSU Central Parking Deck

#### Parking Directions

- Park in any open spot
- Walk back out of the parking garage using the same entrance. Bagwell Education Building will be straight in front of you. Enter the building using this entrance. Volunteer check-in will be at the end of the hall.

