**How to Get a State Proclamation Passed**

Speech and debate changes lives. National Speech and Debate Education Day is a great way to celebrate educators, inspire students, celebrate your success, and raise awareness about the benefits of participating in speech and debate. We need your help to ensure your state recognizes National Speech and Debate Education Day on March 2, 2018. Here are a few tips to help you get a state resolution passed.

1.     Look up your local state representatives online: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

2.     Ask yourself, do we have any connections to elected officials? The best place to start is asking your school communication staffer, school district officials, or school advocacy groups. They may already work with elected officials in your district, and could easily reach out to them about National Speech and Debate Education Day. Don’t forget to think about parents!

3.     Email your local representative. If possible, use your school email account!

*(Email template and proclamation template attached on following pages.)*

4.     Report back to your NSDA contact and tell us if you need any additional help. What did you hear from your elected official?

*(Not sure who your NSDA contact is? Email shelby.young@speechanddebate.org to find out.)*

5.     Follow up with your elected official. Once they have agreed to get the proclamation passed, make sure to ask them the following:

- When will it be read on the floor?

- What day and time?

- Can my speech and debate team attend?

- Can we take pictures to share with our school and the national organization?

6.     Follow up with your NSDA contact! Make sure to tell us all about your success! Send us photos, videos, and tag us on social media @speechanddebate using #SpeechandDebateDay. We will share your success and can help you write a press release to get local media coverage.

**Email Template to Elected Officials**

Dear TITLE NAME,

My name is NAME, and I’m a teacher at SCHOOL in CITY. Along with teaching, I also coach speech and debate. I can tell you first-hand that this activity transforms students. From building confidence, improving communication, and increasing critical thinking skills to better preparing students for college, speech and debate activities provide life skills vital to a young person’s success in the future. I’m hoping you will help me get a state resolution passed, acknowledging March 2, 2018, as National Speech and Debate Education Day.

The United States Congress is also working on a resolution designating March 2, 2018, as National Speech and Debate Education Day. Last year, the National Speech & Debate Association also worked with more than 25 states across the country to pass state resolutions. Will you help us get this passed in STATE?

On this day, coaches, teachers, students, parents, and administrators across the country will be celebrating the life-changing power of speech and debate. Please help us support the thousands of students, teachers, and coaches participating in this activity in STATE. Attached is a copy of the resolution.

Thank you very much for your time. Please let me know if you have any questions.

YOUR NAME

YOUR TITLE

SCHOOL
CONTACT INFORMATION

**A Proclamation for National Speech and Debate Education Day**

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sen. / H.R. No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS,** National Speech and Debate Education Day is being celebrated on March 2, 2018;

**WHEREAS,** Established by the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, this event serves to promote better instruction in speech and debate across all grade levels and to highlight the pivotal roles these abilities play in personal advocacy, social movements, and public policy making; and

**WHEREAS**, Speech and debate education helps students develop important skills in communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration through the practice of public speaking; participants learn not only to analyze and express complex ideas effectively but also to listen, concur, questions, or dissent with reason and compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, Across the country, countless educators devote in-school, after-school, and weekend time to supporting their students in speech and debate practices and competitions, and the example of hard work and dedication they set has lasting, positive impact on their pupils; and

**WHEREAS**, The skills learned through speech and debate serve students well throughout their lives, and this occasion presents a welcome opportunity to recognize such instruction as an essential component of a well-rounded curriculum; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the [Senate / House of Representatives] of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(state)* Legislature hereby recognizes March 2, 2018, as National Speech and Debate Education Day in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(state).*