



NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY

2026 TEAM TOOLKIT



MARCH 6, 2026

www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day



IN APPRECIATION!

Thank you for signing up to celebrate National Speech and Debate Education Day with us in 2026! Speech and debate is a superpower that transforms every single participant. We're incredibly excited for our community to come together and recognize the incredible impact speech and debate has on educators, students, and alumni.

How you celebrate National Speech and Debate Education Day is entirely up to you! Make sure you're following the local health guidelines of your team, school, and area, but as a part of signing up to participate, we'll share some ideas for you to celebrate and promote the day. In this packet, you'll find a number of resources to help you plan an incredible celebration, like:

- A timeline to help guide your planning process
- Ideas for ways you can celebrate in your classroom or at a tournament
- Posters, social media graphics, and other materials you can use to raise awareness about the day
- Speech and debate stickers to share with your students and community members.
- Resources to promote National Speech and Debate Education Day outside the walls of your classroom

We have even more materials available online to download for free at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day. You can access editable press releases and letter templates, as well as guides to starting a social media account for your team or pitching a story to your local media outlets. Or, find more posters and graphics to download and print!

While you plan for National Speech and Debate Education Day at your school, our team is busy working to get a bipartisan national proclamation passed for March 6, 2026.

Thank you for participating in speech and debate. We know how this activity can change lives. We are thrilled to have a day dedicated to celebrating you, your team, and all you put into speech and debate. We can't wait to hear your voice celebrating on March 6!

Sincerely,

J. Scott Wunn
J. Scott Wunn

Executive Director



NATIONAL
SPEECH AND DEBATE
EDUCATION DAY

CELEBRATING EDUCATORS. INSPIRING STUDENTS
TRANSFORMING TOMORROW.

PREP TIMELINE

We have outlined some suggested steps below which will assist you in the development of your participation plans for National Speech and Debate Education (NSDE) Day. Get others involved now so that you can make plans for a great celebration!

STEP ONE

START PLANNING



Now is the time to start brainstorming how you want to celebrate and promote NSDE Day.

IDEAS FOR PLANNING:

- Choose an NSDE Day Captain or Planning Committee.
- Discuss ideas for celebrating and promoting NSDE Day at your school. See the next page of this toolkit for ideas!
- Review NSDE Day materials at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day to determine what additional resources will be necessary for your celebration.

COORDINATE PLANS



Determine how you are going to promote and celebrate NSDE Day.

IDEAS FOR PLANNING:

- Find out when the next School Board/ City Council meeting is being held so you can propose a resolution. You can use the template on www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day or write your own!
- Plan to hold an event at your school.
- Set fundraising goals.
- Order merchandise from the Speech and Debate Store at www.speechanddebate.org/store
- Find ways to make an announcement in school publications, announcements, websites, and other sources!

STEP TWO

FINALIZE DETAILS



NSDE Day is right around the corner! Use the last few weeks of the month to finalize details.

IDEAS TO PROMOTE:

- Write articles for local and school publications emphasizing the importance of speech and debate.
- Write thank you letters to educators, coaches, administrators, and other speech and debate supporters.
- Customize the Press Release template available online to send to your local media outlets.
- Plan to use NSDE Day posters, graphics, and other materials around your school.

MARCH 6

CELEBRATE!!



Use your voice to celebrate speech and debate at your school and across your community.

IDEAS TO PROMOTE:

- Share your story! Tell us how speech and debate has impacted your life on social media by using the hashtag [#NSDEday](https://twitter.com/NSDEday).
- Celebrate at your school by hanging posters or holding your event!
- Show us what you're doing to celebrate the day by tagging us [@speechanddebate](https://twitter.com/speechanddebate).

○ HAVE FUN!

Additional free resources available at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day

CELEBRATION IDEAS

NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY — MARCH 6, 2026

There are many ways your team can celebrate National Speech and Debate Education Day! We've outlined some ideas for your team to make this day extra special below, but how you celebrate this day is totally up to you!



Get a **LOCAL RESOLUTION** passed in your community declaring March 6, 2026, as National Speech and Debate Education Day. Find our template online at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day



Tell us how speech and debate has benefited you by **SHARING YOUR STORY** with us. Your story may be used in future NSDA materials!



TELL YOUR FRIENDS how speech and debate has impacted your life, as well as your team. Use **#NSDEday** on social media and encourage your friends to post!



WRITE AN ARTICLE about the benefits of speech and debate for your local newspaper and/or school publication. Check out our speech and debate fact sheet online at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day



MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT about National Speech and Debate Education Day during your school's announcements!



Hold an **ASSEMBLY, OPEN HOUSE, OR SHOWCASE** featuring your team and the benefits of speech and debate activities.



Send a **PRESS RELEASE** to your local media using our free template on www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day. Talk with local media to have you or your team interviewed or featured.



Use the day to **FUNDRAISE** for your team using our latest fundraising guide from Edco!



WRITE A LETTER to your principal or administrator thanking them for supporting speech and debate.



Post National Speech and Debate Education Day **FLYERS AND POSTERS** around your school.



Wear **T-SHIRTS, PINS, OR BUTTONS** from the NSDA store at www.speechanddebate.org/store.

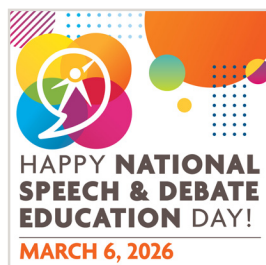


Retweet, like, and share items posted on **SOCIAL MEDIA** from the National Speech & Debate Association.

Additional free resources available at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day

RESOURCES FOR YOU

GRAPHICS:



LOGOS:



Additional free resources available at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day

CELEBRATING
EDUCATORS

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STUDENTS

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NATIONAL
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AND DEBATE**
EDUCATION DAY

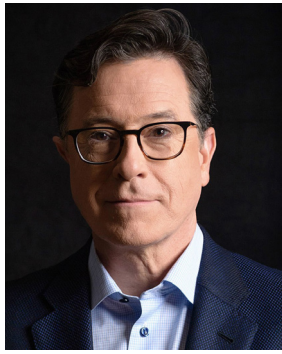
MARCH 6, 2026

#NSDEday





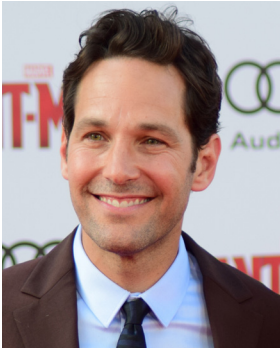
OPRAH WINFREY
MEDIA PERSONALITY
East Nashville High School
CLASS OF 1971



STEPHEN COLBERT
COMEDIAN
The Porter-Gaud School
CLASS OF 1982



JOSH GAD
ACTOR
NSU University School
CLASS OF 1999



PAUL RUDD
ACTOR
Shawnee Mission West High School
CLASS OF 1987



JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
Cardinal Spellman High School
CLASS OF 1972



CHADWICK BOSEMAN
ACTOR
T. L. Hanna High School
CLASS OF 1995



PRIYA KRISHNA
CHEF AND FOOD WRITER
Greenhill School
CLASS OF 2009



TOM LLAMAS
NEWS ANCHOR
Belen Jesuit Prep School
CLASS OF 1997



ELIZABETH WARREN
POLITICIAN
Northwest Classen High School
CLASS OF 1966



BILLY EICHNER
ACTOR
Stuyvesant High School
CLASS OF 1996



CELESTE NG
AUTHOR
Shaker Heights High School
CLASS OF 1998



ZAC EFRON
ACTOR
Arroyo Grande High School
CLASS OF 2006

JOIN SPEECH & DEBATE

THEY DID!



Since 1925, the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) has been the authority on public speaking and debate in the United States. The NSDA works to create a platform for youth voices from around the globe, culminating in the National Speech & Debate Tournament, the pinnacle of public speaking. Learn more at www.speechanddebate.org



MERCHANDISE

Celebrate with speech and debate merchandise! Visit: www.speechanddebate.org/store

The National Speech & Debate Association's online store is full of items to help celebrate and promote the activity of speech and debate. Below are just a few of the items available.



These items and many more are available for purchase at:

www.speechanddebate.org/store

Additional free resources available at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day

SHARE YOUR STORY



FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/speechanddebate



Tik Tok
[@nsda.speechanddebate](https://www.tiktok.com/@nsda.speechanddebate)



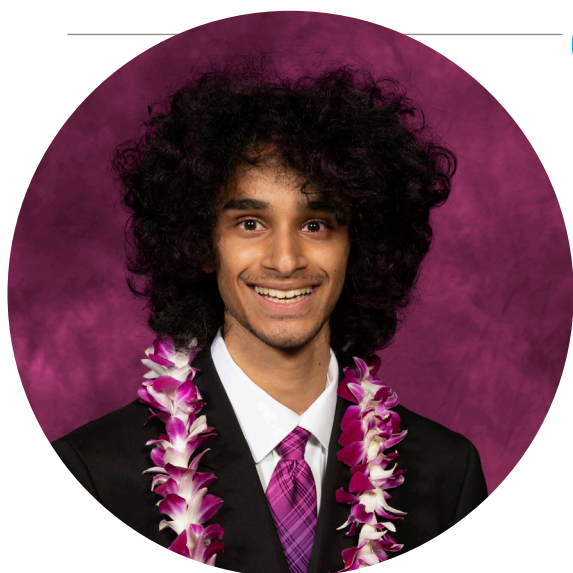
INSTAGRAM
[@speechanddebate](https://www.instagram.com/speechanddebate)



X (TWITTER)
[@speechanddebate](https://twitter.com/speechanddebate)



LINKEDIN
[@speechanddebate](https://www.linkedin.com/company/speechanddebate)



SPEECH AND DEBATE HAS TAUGHT ME THAT WITH DEDICATION I CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. I DON'T COME FROM A COMMUNITY WHERE THAT'S THE NORM. IF YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA, THE WILL TO WORK, AND THE BELIEF, THERE'S NO STOPPING WHAT YOU CAN DO."

ARJUN BANERJEE

Reservoir High School, Maryland
2022 NSDA National Student of the Year

"I love speech and debate because it gives me a place where I have a family. It gives me opportunities that I wouldn't have had without the way the program has shaped me."

– Emily Dennerly

"I love speech and debate because it taught me to speak up about what matters, while retaining that eloquence and confidence even when there isn't the heat of competition."

– Caitlin Marsch

"I love speech and debate because it gives me an opportunity to meet new friends, learn more about myself, and get more involved in my community."

– Juliet Geffre

"I love speech and debate because it gives me the opportunity to express myself in a way no other extracurricular activity does."

– Ragina Macias

Consider using these speech and debate facts to spread the word on social media!



.66
INCREASE
IN GPA



25%
INCREASE IN
TEST SCORES



80%
MORE LIKELY
TO GRADUATE
COLLEGE



300%
MORE LIKELY
TO GRADUATE
HIGH SCHOOL

Additional free resources available at www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day



NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY



WEBSITE

[www.speechanddebate.org/
national-speech-debate-education-day](http://www.speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day)



EMAIL

info@speechanddebate.org



PHONE

(920) 748-6206



FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/speechanddebate



INSTAGRAM

@speechanddebate



Tik Tok

@nsda.speechanddebate



X (TWITTER)

@speechanddebate



LINKEDIN

@speechanddebate

