

MSDI

*Missouri State
Debate Institute*

*Holt V. Spicer
Debate Forum*

*Missouri State
University*

2015

Spicer Debate Forum



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY



Over 100 years of debate excellence

MSDI

Missouri State Debate Institute
"Success in the middle of the topic"



- NDT Semifinals, 1973 & 2008
- NDT Top Speaker, 2008
- Over 50 NDT Qualifications
- CEDA Top Speaker, 1991 & 2008
- CEDA Champions, 1992
- NFA-LD Finals, 2014

debate.missouristate.edu

al College of Arts & Letters
Uniting Passion and Creativity

Missouri State University
Department of Communication
COM
communication.missouristate.edu

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#debatelikeabear

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Dear Prospective MSDI attendee,

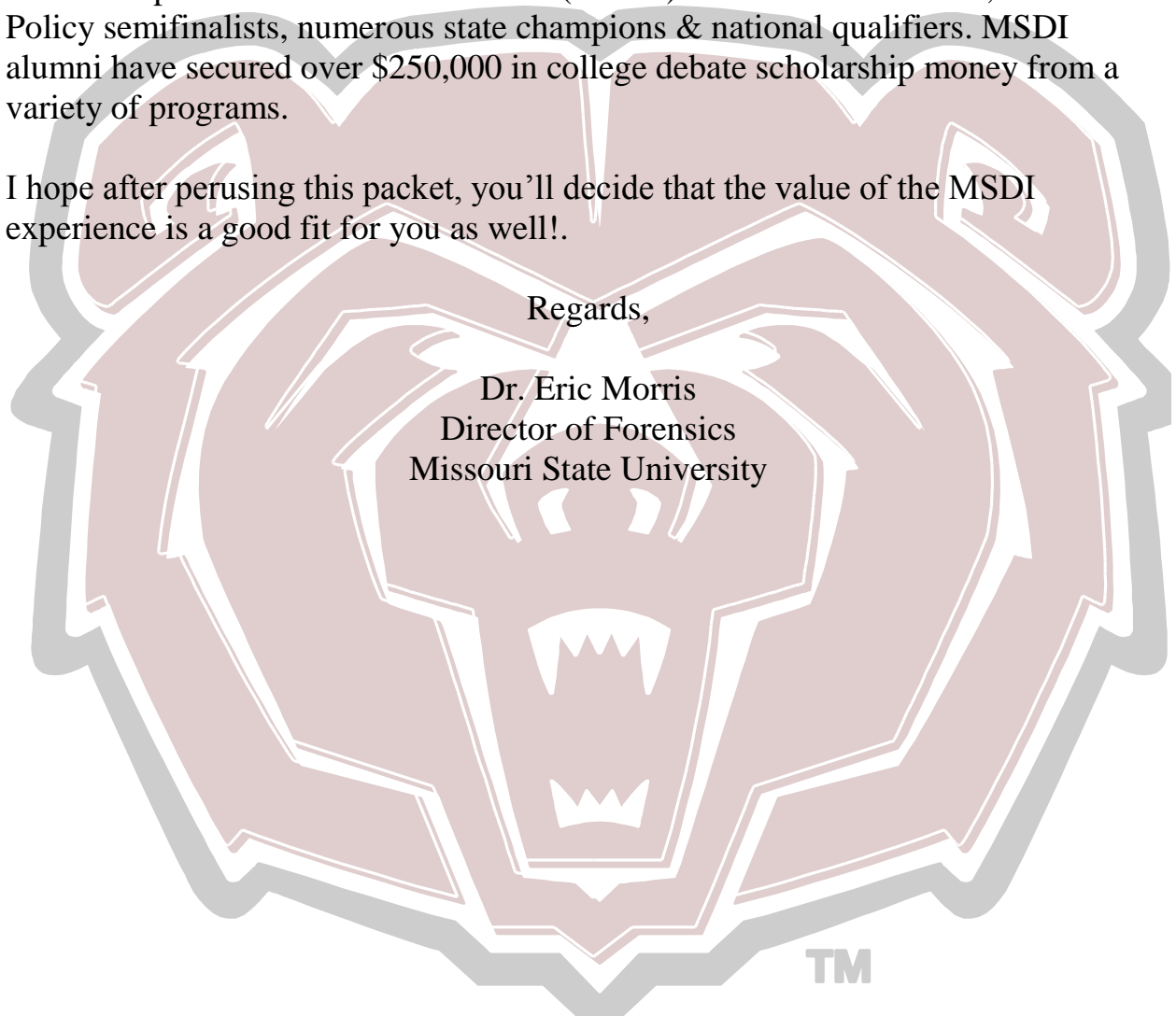
MSDI is a rare value among summer debate institutes. Although our tuition is extremely competitive, our low faculty-to-student ratio and our emphasis on practice debates and speeches lead our students to rapid development.

MSDI graduates over the last few years include the top speaker in CX Policy at the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) National Tournament, NSDA CX Policy semifinalists, numerous state champions & national qualifiers. MSDI alumni have secured over \$250,000 in college debate scholarship money from a variety of programs.

I hope after perusing this packet, you'll decide that the value of the MSDI experience is a good fit for you as well!.

Regards,

Dr. Eric Morris
Director of Forensics
Missouri State University



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2015 MSDI Dates

CX Policy Camps

- 2 Week Policy (June 28-July 11) (\$600 Commuters, \$1200 Dorm)
- 3 Week Policy (June 28-July 18) (\$800 Commuters, \$1700 Dorm)
- 1 Week Novice Policy (July 12-18) (\$350 Commuters, \$650 Dorm)

Event Camps

Policy Debate: Lecture-Only Option (\$100 Commuters; \$200 Dorm)
June 29-30 (9am-2pm)

Extemp (\$100 Commuters; \$200 Dorm)
July 12-13

Congressional Debate (\$100 Commuters; \$200 Dorm)
July 14-15

Lincoln-Douglas (\$100 Commuters; \$200 Dorm)
July 16-17

Public Forum (\$100 Commuters; \$200 Dorm)
July 16-17

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What's New in 2015?

College Credit Option

We've just finalized arrangements for all CX Policy Students to receive 3 hours of college credit, if they wish, for their effort during MSDI. Better yet, this college credit will be priced at the dual credit rate (\$200 for all 3 hours), despite the fact that MSDI relies on faculty-level instruction. This is an incredible bargain – a similar class would cost nearly \$700 (tuition and fees) for a freshman. The cost savings alone will nearly pay for your entire camp tuition. Best of all, students will have the option of getting credit for COM 115 (Public Speaking). This is a required core class at MSU (and many other universities), and is likely to transfer as more than elective credit.

Week 3 Tracks

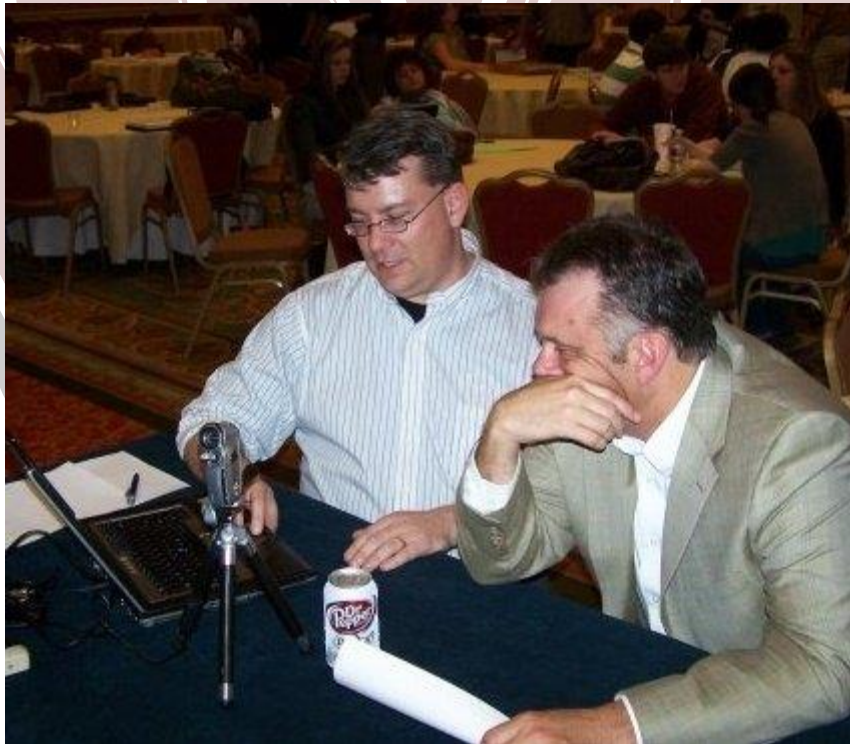
CX Policy Students who remain for the 3rd week will have a new option in 2015. Week 3 students will have at least 3 options to select. First, the lay judge track will explore not only general tips and techniques for debating in front of lay judges, but will probably actual lay judge feedback on the current topic, including the core cases. Most lay judge feedback is limited to a few ballot comments, but the MSDI lay judge program will have more robust feedback than you've ever seen from lay judges. Second, the kritik track will allow students who want to explore the cutting edge of kritik and performative debate an experience to understand. While the 2 week core program includes a mild kritik element (primarily how to answer them), the third week will be more robust. Finally, the event camp track will allow students to select any event camp offered at MSDI for no additional cost. Students doing this will have the option to return to the lay judge or kritik tracks whenever they wish. We will consider adding additional tracks, based on overall numbers and student interest. Our goal is to provide you the best possible preparation for your interests and your home circuit!

MSDI History

Dr. John Fritch, current chair of the National Debate Tournament, began the Missouri State Debate Institute in 1997. SMS/Missouri State had hosted camps in past decades as well. At the time, the camp brought local students a low-cost opportunity to learn from faculty who taught at other camps.

In the mid-2000's, MSDI grew into a residence camp, expanding to include a 4 week option. The program has grown from a small camp (roughly 10 students) into a mid-sized camp (with roughly 50 students in the various CX policy programs). MSDI faculty have always been tied closely to the Spicer Debate Forum, and have included several 1st round debaters, the NDT's top speaker, and the coaches who helped make it happen. While several camps have distinguished faculty, it is rare that students get to work with them directly unless they are in the top lab as seniors. Missouri State Debate Institute assures such opportunities to all its CX Policy Sessions.

MSDI curriculum is revisited based on staff and student experiences and feedback each summer. In recent years, the program has moved toward deep coverage of all case areas recommended by the National Federation of State High School Activity Associations (the same organization who coordinates topic selection). Any MSDI graduate will have several rounds debating on each of these cases, and will develop strategies which can be successful whether their typical judges are lay judges, former debaters, coaches, or college debaters.



Current Director Dr. Eric Morris & MSDI Founder Dr. John Fritch

Camp Staff

Dr. Eric Morris

Director of Forensics, Missouri State

As debater, won several tournaments and reached the final round of the CEDA National Tournament. In his 14 years of coaching, his students have won the CEDA National Tournament and CEDA Squad Points Championship, qualified to the NDT 15 years in a row, reached the NDT elimination rounds 6 years in a row, and won several other tournaments. He has also researched over 50 handbooks and designed evidence management software. He was selected as NDT "Coach of the Year" in 2008 - the highest honor for competitive success in coaching.

Dr. Heather Walters

Assistant Director of Forensics, Missouri State & Director of Forensics, Greenwood High School

As a debater, she won multiple tournaments, qualifying to the elite Jesuit Round Robin (top 10 teams in CEDA debate), and reached the deep elims at the CEDA National Tournament. In her 14 years of coaching, she's had several teams win tournaments, hosted the NDT on the Missouri State campus, and qualified teams to the NDT in each of her 12 years coaching at Missouri State. She has coached 3 first rounds teams, and had teams in NDT elims 6 years in a row. She also coached an NFL qualifying policy debate team in her 1st year as a high school coach (Greenwood) and has a J.D.

Kristen Stout

Former Missouri State Debater ('11) & Director of Forensics, Republic High School

Cleared twice at CEDA & qualified several times to the Wake Forest tournament. Cleared at numerous tournaments, won numerous speaker awards. Qualified competitors to both the Missouri State Tournament and NSDA Nationals.

Joel Reed

Former Missouri State Debater ('12), current Missouri State coach.

Joel Reed qualified to the NDT as a senior (the only time MSU has qualified 3 teams), and has coached NDT qualifying teams for two years. He also won the MSDI tournament as a competitor.

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Notable MSDI Alumni

MSDI alumni have received over \$250,000 in college debate scholarship offers, both from Missouri State University and several other programs. Here are a few of our students who translated their MSDI training into top-level debate success.

Over the last nine years, 44 of the elim participants in the state tournament are MSDI alumni, including a finalist every year and the champions in five years. In the past 5 years, over 70% of NFL policy qualifiers in our district are MSDI alums, and roughly 30% of MSDI alums were NFL qualifiers. This success reflects our respect for local circuit norms, and we invite your students to join us this summer!

Nick Ramsey



- NFL Semi-Finalist 2007
- MSDI Finalist, 2004
- Central High School, Springfield, MO
- Reached semi-finals based primarily on DA/case debating skills

Nick's endorsement:

"Missouri State Debate Institute offers the best possible camp experience. After having gone to a big national camp, I came to truly appreciate what makes Missouri State's camp special. The lab leaders are really knowledgeable, and the camp is small enough that you get plenty of personal attention. They proved willing and able to work with debaters from all backgrounds and experience levels. Also, this camp is not an evidence mill - there is a strong emphasis on practice rounds, so a debater gets an incredible amount of experience in a short amount of time. Even though Missouri State's debate institute is cheaper than larger camps, the value is exponentially greater. I was enabled to compete both regionally and nationally based on what I learned at MSDI. I broke at nationals my sophomore year and then finished in semifinals my junior year - this would not have been possible without the helpful instruction I received at MSDI."

Samantha Nichols



- **NFL Top Speaker, CX Policy, 2011**
- **MSDI Champion, Summer 2010**
- **NDT Qualifier in college**
- **Top Speaker, Debate Coaches' Invitational, 2011**

Samantha's Endorsement:

"MSDI was by far the best debate camp I ever went to. The focused practice rounds and great lectures set me up for a very successful debate season. Rather than being forced to learn a style that may not be conducive to your region, you get smart advice that can be applied anywhere. The entire atmosphere of MSDI was awesome. You will leave MSDI with sharper skills, more confidence, and definitely some great friendships!"

Clay Webb



- **NFL National Qualifier, 2004**
- **NDT Semifinalist, 2008**
- **MSDI Alumni, 2003**
- **PhD Candidate, Political Science, Texas A&M**

Clay's Endorsement:

"Debate research and preparation has been the key to my success as an undergraduate and a graduate student. Getting the opportunity to debate for Missouri State University, and with my partner and future MSDI lab leader Martin Osborn, was something I will always be grateful about. Any high school student who loves debate should seriously consider the MSDI program."

Jeff Bess



- **State Champion, MSHSAA, CX Policy, 2010**
- **Multi-year MSDI student & lab leader**
- **Three time NDT Qualifier in college**
- **Finalist, NFA-LD Nationals, 2014**

Jeff's Endorsement:

"My years at MSDI contributed immensely to my evolution as a debater, both in high school and college. The extensive focus on practice rounds, practice speeches, and the highly qualified and accessible faculty made a huge difference. I recommend MSDI for any debater seeking to improve their fundamental skills, and I enjoy the opportunity to pay it forward as a MSDI lab leader."

The Missouri State Campus

Unlike some strong camps, Missouri State University offers students a flat and compact campus. It's an excellent location to spend a few of the best weeks of your debate experience!



Meyer Library is the only UN depository in Missouri. Its collection It hosts nearly a million books, and another million government documents. MSDi students also receive access to extensive electronic collections.



Most MSDi sessions are in Craig Hall, which has convenient drop-off and pick-up options for commuters. Craig Hall is the home of the College of Arts & Letters and the Communication Department (which hosts the debate program). However, in 2015 MSDi will be in nearby buildings during Craig's renovation.

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The Missouri State Campus

Most years, MSDI residential students stay in Hammons House, a relatively new dorm. Each suite has internal kitchen facilities and bathrooms, and the dorm is within a block of basketball courts and soccer fields. It is only 2 blocks from the main campus quad.



Although dorm residency includes a full meal plan, commuters (and occasionally residents) enjoy the Plaster Student Union, which has several major food vendors (Subway, Panda Express, Chick-Fil-A, Papa Johns) and a variety of shops and services.



MSDI Scholarship Program

The MSDI policy debate camp is not designed to earn a profit - in fact, it is subsidized in many ways by Missouri State. In many years, the camp has lost money and the debate team has absorbed that loss directly. Our primary approach to helping students afford camp is to keep our prices as low as possible. Many students have attended for full price, impressed the coaching staff, and received college debate scholarship offers several times larger than the tuition they paid to attend.

That said, toward the end of registration, we can estimate whether our budget will allow for small scholarships for students with demonstrated need. Furthermore, we seek to locate debate alumni willing to make contributions to help in particular cases. MSDI has never offered a scholarship which exceeded 50% of tuition - we try to use limited scholarship funds to maximize the number of attendees. If a small scholarship would enable you to attend camp, you may apply by sending a letter to the camp address or an email to ericmorris@missouristate.edu. This letter MUST include

- (a) a discussion of your individual circumstances, with any supporting material you wish us to consider,
- (b) what contributions you commit to provide, including any expected scholarships from your high school or other sources,
- (c) what specific sessions you would hope to attend (for example, if you could barely afford the 2-week policy, but could not quite afford the 3 week policy), and
- (d) your current long-term debate aspirations, including college debate and
- (e) a statement that you have read and understand these policies (if you don't, please contact us for clarification).

We may show the letter to others, such as alumni and friends of the program, for the purpose of soliciting contributions to help defray your costs. If you prefer we do not do so, please make that clear in the letter.

You need to apply by May 1 for us to consider a scholarship request. We are open to refunding a registration deposit (it takes a couple of weeks) if the aid we are able to locate is not sufficient to make attendance possible, so long as we are notified promptly and can thus to avoid costs on our end. We will respond to letters near the end of registration as our budget situation becomes clearer – please do not inquire unless you haven't heard from us by June 1st.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I contact the Missouri State Debate Institute?

A: You can reach Dr. Eric Morris by email (ericmorris@missouristate.edu). You can also use traditional mail:

Dr. Eric Morris
Missouri State Debate Institute
Department of Communication, Craig 375
Missouri State University
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65897

Q: How do I contact my child while they are at camp?

A: Many students instead bring cell phones, which are an excellent choice. The dorm has active phone lines, but does not have physical phones. Students may bring phones, but should bring a calling card for any long distance calls. Parents can also leave messages with the camp office phone or the dorm. At registration, we will provide students the cell phone numbers of the directors, which parents may freely use in an emergency or if their students are not responding quickly enough.

Q: Are there restrictions for leaving campus and the dorms?

A: Springfield and the Missouri State campus are very safe places. However, we think it's important to know where debaters are at all times. Consequently, campers are restricted to the Missouri State Campus perimeter during their stay at MSDI. This includes a couple of restaurants touching the campus (spelled out during the opening dorm meeting). Exceptions are made for any official supervised camp activity or if a student has officially checked out to a parent or an adult appointed in writing by a parent. Students are also not allowed to leave the dormitory after 11pm room check. Everything needed for entertainment, research, and food can be found within the boundaries of Missouri State. Our recently renovated campus union has several fast food options, an arcade, a bowling alley, and other recreation options.

Q: What happens if I get sick or hurt?

A: Students are encouraged to drink lots of fluids and take proper care of themselves during camp as it can become quite hot in Missouri during the summer. If you become ill during the camp a MSDI staff member will accompany you to the appropriate medical facility. After we have received your camp registration you and your parents will be asked to fill out two medical forms. One authorizes the Taylor Health Center on the Missouri State campus to treat you for illness and minor injuries. The second form allows you to be treated for more serious conditions, as well as after hours, at St Johns Memorial Hospital.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I go to church?

A: There are no church services on campus proper. For Catholic and Presbyterian students there are churches on the immediate perimeter of campus that you may walk to after informing the camp staff. If you wish to attend services for another denomination, please let us know. We will make every effort to see that you get to a church in Springfield.

Q: Can I leave campus on weekends, evenings, etc.?

A: We have normal sessions on weekends, including all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon/evening. Sessions are 9am-9pm daily, minus meal breaks, but start no earlier than noon on Sundays. If you miss evenings or weekends, or depart the camp early, you will miss instructional content. We don't pro-rate tuition in these cases, as don't have a way to pro-rate our cost of providing service. This may also impact partner pairings, so it's important to notify us in advance for planning.

You can miss only with written permission from your parent or guardian. Dorm residents may only leave if accompanied by a parent or designated adult. Commuters may leave in the same way they arrived, but must demonstrate parental permission to do so.

Q: When do I find out if I have been accepted?

A: Enrollment is based on capacity of the dormitories. MSDI reserves the right to stop enrollment once the facilities have reached capacity, but we will post this promptly on our website. In general, unless you are notified otherwise, you can expect to be enrolled once your registration form and deposit are received. A secondary mailing with camp procedures, health forms, and waivers will be mailed upon acceptance. If you are enrolling close to the deadline, you might consider emailing your registration in addition to mailing it with your check. The Event camps will have a minimum enrollment to "make". If the minimum enrollment is not met, then those camps may be cancelled and deposits refunded. Please do not buy plane tickets, etc., unless you have confirmed we have met our minimum enrollment.

Q: What should I bring?

A: Each room is furnished with two beds, mattress pads, study desks, bookshelves, closets, and desk chairs. Linens are also furnished. Because all students will be involved in researching and participating in a number of practice debates, it is important to bring the material and equipment you will need. For example, you may wish to bring paper, legal pads, scissors, tape, etc. You may also wish to bring your tub, file box, or whatever you normally file debate materials in. Some students bring computers to take advantage of the dorms' high speed internet capabilities. If you do, please bring an ethernet cord, which is faster than wireless. The wireless signals often do not reach many areas of the dorm. You may bring stereos, hair dryers, popcorn poppers, and similar devices for your rooms.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I drive to Springfield/Missouri State?

A: There are several transportation options, including driving and flying. If driving from the direction of Joplin / Oklahoma, come in on I-44 and exit on Kansas Expressway (Exit 77). Turn right (south) and continue several miles. Turn left at the stop light for Grand Ave. Continue to the stop light for John Q Hammons Parkway (before the Missouri State Stadium), and turn left. Continue to Harrison Street and turn right. Hammons Hall is the first dorm on your left.

If driving from the direction of Kansas City, take Highway 71 south to I-44, then head east. (If you come on Highway 7 & 13, 13 will become Kansas Expressway). Exit on Kansas Expressway (Exit 77). Turn right (south) and continue several miles. Turn left at the stop light for Grand Ave. Continue to the stop light for John Q Hammons Parkway (before the Missouri State Stadium), and turn left. Continue to Harrison Street and turn right. Hammons Hall is the first dorm on your left.

If driving from the direction of St Louis, come in on I-44 and exit on Glenstone (Exit 80). Turn left (south) and continue several miles. Turn right at the stop light for Grand Ave. Continue to the stop light for John Q Hammons Parkway (you'll pass the Missouri State Stadium), and turn right. Continue to Harrison Street and turn right. Hammons Hall is the first dorm on your left.

If driving from the direction of Branson/Arkansas, come in on Highway 65 and exit on Sunshine. Turn left (west) and continue several miles. Turn right at the stop light for National Ave. Turn left at the stop light for Grand Ave. Continue to the stop light for John Q Hammons Parkway (you'll pass the Missouri State Stadium), and turn right. Continue to Harrison Street and turn right. Hammons Hall is the first dorm on your left.

Q: Are there other transportation options?

A: Yes! If you fly into the Springfield-Branson (SGF) National Airport on the camp's start and end days, we will give you free transportation. We need to know your flight numbers, arrival, and departure time at least 2 weeks in advance. We will give you cell phone contact information for our staff. If you fly on other days, please contact us to make arrangements. If you find significantly lower rates at the Branson (BKG) Airport, we can help arrange a shuttle. There is a Trailways/Greyhound bus depot in Springfield, and we will pick up students for free, with the same provisos as with flying. We don't have an AMTRAK station.

Q: How many students share a room?

A: Each sleeping room contains two beds and, at most, two students. The dorms use a suite style arrangement, so more than two students will share a suite, including the bathroom, but the sleeping rooms will never have more than 2 students. Students are never allowed in the suites or rooms of the opposite sex; a common work area in the dorm will be provided.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need extra money?

A: You will \$10 for a replacement if you lose your key. If you lose printed evidence, you will need some money to re-print in computer labs. Sometimes students wish to purchase snack food, soda, etc., or order pizza or other delivery items from local establishments. You should bring that amount of money you feel will be sufficient to cover these expenses. None of these purchases are required by the camp.

Q: Do I need to buy evidence?

A: All of the evidence produced by your labs and generic working groups will be copied for you at no charge. We will distribute an electronic copy of the camp evidence for each camper. All of these costs are included in your camp fee.

Q: Can arrangements be made to meet with campus officials while if I'm interested in attending Missouri State?

A: Yes. We are always interested in recruiting new students from our camps. Depending on availability, we can arrange for you to meet an admissions officer, department chairperson, or professor. Please speak to us in advance if you are interested.

Q: Can I receive mail while at camp?

A: Yes. Mail from home can be sent to the camper, care of the Missouri State Debate Institute, at the camp address (see home page). Also, it can be send directly to the dorms. We will add the dorm addresses once arrangements are finalized as the camp draws near.

Q: How does paperless debate work at MSDI?

A: Missouri State does paperless debate on the NDT/CEDA circuit, using the Verbatim Template. Although there are clear benefits to paperless debating, it is important that paperless debaters are able to interface appropriately with paper using debaters. Although over most MSDI attendees doing CX Policy will bring laptops to camp, it's not a requirement. Just like at actual tournaments, it is the paperless debater's responsibility to assure the opponent has access to examine any evidence read, which means having a viewing computer available. The camp budget does not include this cost, but individual students (or groups of students) could collaborate to get it done. All camp files will be available in both paperless and printed formats, and we typically hand out print copies of some files at registration. If you prefer not to receive print copies, please tell us in advance to reduce wasted paper. Also, if you want to debate without paper at MSDI, please download the verbatim template and familiarize yourself with the manual before arrival. Although we will go over the process, you will learn much faster if you get started before arriving.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I'm competing at NFL Nationals, and it may be difficult to arrive by camp registration.

A: This is a common concern, and even impacts some of our staff. The normal registration time is set to enable parents to bring students from out of town and return home the same evening. We are happy to work with you on arriving and registering late - please contact us if this will be a concern.

Q: What about early arrival / late departure?

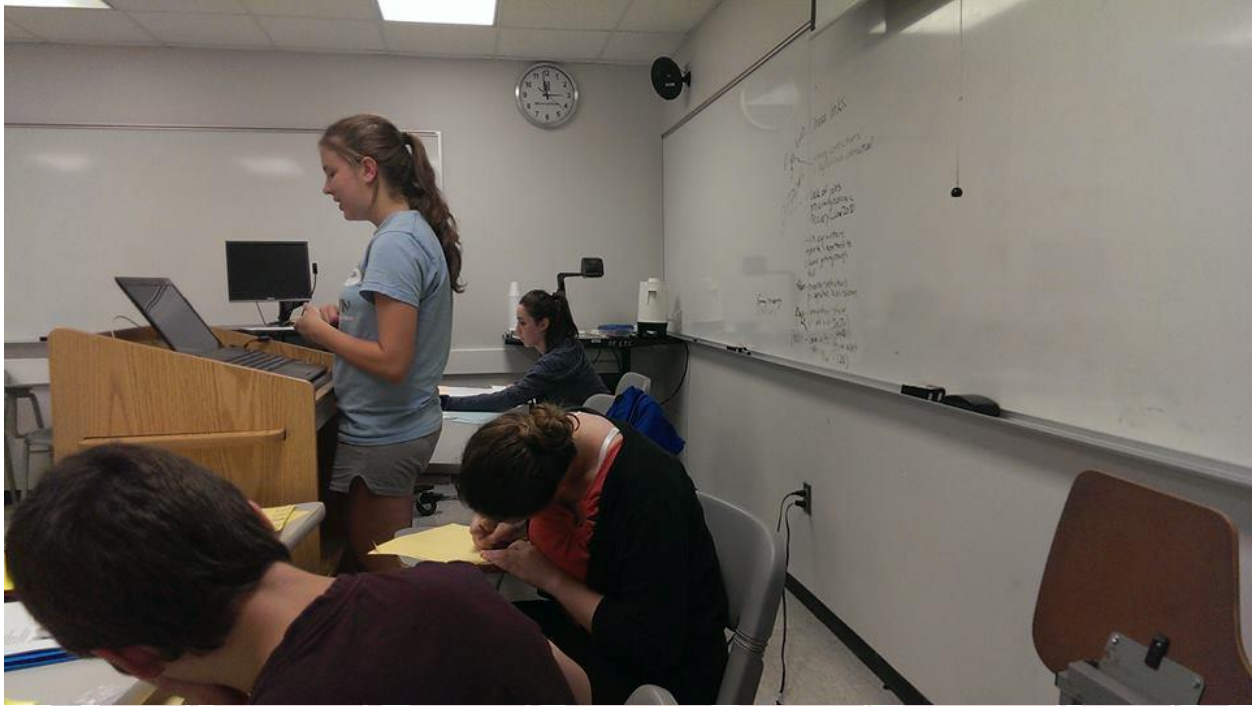
A: Early arrival and late departure require special accommodation on the part of the dorms, and create a supervision challenge. We aren't able to promise either of these, but we are willing to discuss options if contacted well in advance.

Q: What about July 4, 2014?

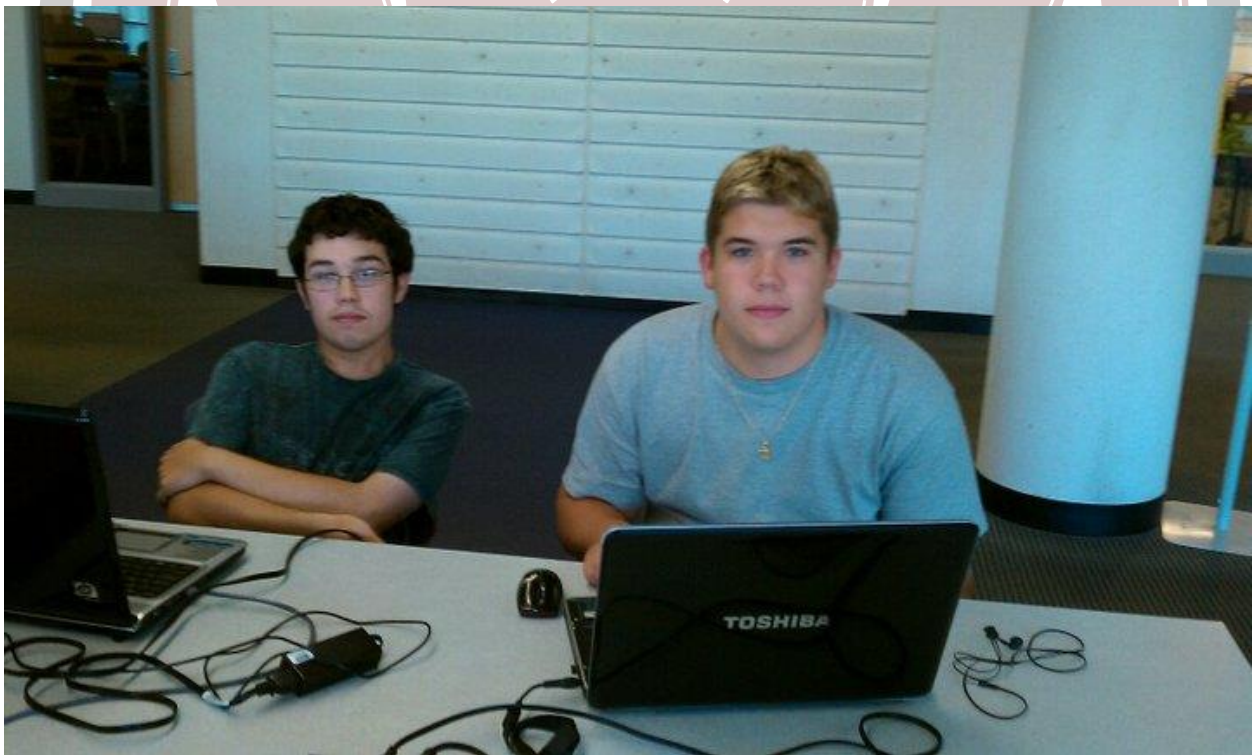
A: In 2014, the first session will end on Saturday, July 5. Some students may wish to depart on Friday, July 4 instead, and we will complete the final round of the tournament before 5pm to enable that. There will be an appropriate activity in the evening of July 4 for those planning to check out on July 5 (the normal schedule). It's important to notify us as early as possible if you plan to leave camp early on July 4 since we plan activities in advance.



MSDI Gallery



MSDI Gallery



MSDI Gallery

