**Denver Urban Debate League**

**Volunteer Position Descriptions**

**Registration Table/Ballot Table Operator/Ballot Runner**

Time Commitment: 1-8 Hours

Training

Orientation on site ½ hour before your shift begins. Prior debate experience is not necessary

Description

This position works with the DUDL Operations Staff and Tournament Director to help the registration table register, direct, and instruct volunteers, along with collecting and running ballots to the tab room. Volunteers may also be asked to help with meal distribution and supervision, and to otherwise help support operational administration of the event.

**Debate Judge**

Time Commitment: 2-20 hours. Each debate round is 2 hours long. Judges are not required to stay for an entire day, but must stay for the entirety of the round they are scheduled for.

Training

New judge training is held for an hour during the first round of the first day of the tournament at the tournament site. Any judge that is new to the league, regardless of prior debate experience, is required to attend new judge orientation. Please see the tournament schedule for specific times. Prior debate experience is not necessary.

Description

Each debate round happens between two teams of two students each, thus with four students. Many debate rounds, therefore, happen simultaneously throughout the site in many classrooms. Each Preliminary Round requires one judge. The judge listens to the debate, keeps time, takes careful notes, then immediately after the round the judge completes and official ballot, naming a winning team and assigning speaker points to each debater. The judge offers a brief oral critique as well, to both teams, in addition to a brief written analysis of the debate on the ballot which is eventually read by the students and coaches.

**Speech Judge**

Time Commitment: 1-20 hours. Each speech round is 1 hour long. Judges are not required to stay for the entire day, but must stay for the entirety of the round they are scheduled for.

Training

No training is required for speech judges. A short instructional sheet for both Impromptu and Drama will be included in the ballot packet. Simply review this sheet before the round and then have fun! You and the students will greatly enjoy these events. If you would like to study the instructions beforehand, simply email [DUDLvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:DUDLvolunteers@gmail.com) or [EmilyFox@urbandebate.org](mailto:EmilyFox@urbandebate.org) for the instructional sheet.

Description

Judging speech events requires no previous debate knowledge. You may be required to judge Impromptu or Drama, or potentially both, throughout the day. Impromptu requires students to create a speech based on a topic that is provided a few minutes before their speaking time. In Drama, the student has prepared a published piece to perform. The judge will fill out a ballot ranking each competitor and assigning speaker points. Instructions are provided.

**Volunteer Registration and Check-In Procedure**

Please email [DUDLvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:DUDLvolunteers@gmail.com) to register to volunteer. Also, feel free to email [EmilyFox@urbandebate.org](mailto:EmilyFox@urbandebate.org) with any questions you may have regarding volunteering.

Please report to the registration table at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled shift. Please be sure to have your completed volunteer registration form with you, which will be sent to you when you email to sign up.

If you are serving as a debate judge, it might be helpful to bring legal pads, colored pens, and a timer that has the ability to count down.

Meals will be provided for all volunteers. Snacks and beverages will be available at all times in the VIP lounge. You are also always welcome to sit with the students in the cafeteria between debate rounds. This can be an excellent opportunity for informal mentoring. Evidence shows that these informal venues for imparting information about college admissions, scholarship and payment, and career advice can be more effective than formal “orientation” meetings or presentations towards achieving common objectives of “college bridge” programming aimed at youth.

It is the mission of the Denver Urban Debate League to provide opportunities for competitive debate to as many students as possible in the Denver community. DUDL emphasizes education over competition, and it is our goal to nurture and encourage a diverse population of students while building valuable academic and life skills that will ensure their future success. Our tournaments would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers. On behalf of the entire League, thank you for your support of our amazing students. By volunteering your time to serve the Denver Urban Debate League you are truly making a difference, once voice at a time.

Sincerely,

The DUDL Staff