



Chattahoochee High School Debate Team

Handbook



Welcome to one of the most successful public school debate teams in the country!

The coaches and the board of the 2017-2018 Hooch Debate Team welcome you to what promises to be an exciting year of Chattahoochee debate competition. This document contains information on the coaches, the board, and the obligations and benefits of being a part of this nationally recognized academic team.

If you have questions about the team please contact:

Kevin Bancroft, Head Debate Coach, (847) 373-6491

Garrett Abelkop, Assistant Debate Coach, (404) 414-7491

The team cannot function without the support of parents; the team's need for drivers, chaperones, judges, etc. relies almost exclusively on parental support. If you are not already working with the parent board please contact Kevin Bancroft or Garrett Abelkop to see how you can help.

Again, welcome and we look forward to working with each and every one of you!

Testimonials

"Debate was the defining activity of my high school career. In addition to improving my reading, writing, speaking, critical thinking, and self-confidence, it developed the patience and diligence that got me where I am today. Although my four years of debate flew by, the lessons learned, friends made, and experiences accumulated will stay with me for a lifetime."

-Jeff Zhang, Hooch '10, Duke '14

"Debating at Chattahoochee was the best part of high school. I learned research and argumentation skills that continue to help me in my college classes, interacted with some of the smartest people I know, and built a resume that helped me get into Northwestern."

-John Warden, Hooch '05, Northwestern '09

"My counselor told me, in no uncertain terms, I would not have gotten into Emory without Chattahoochee Debate."

-Daniyal Inamullah, Hooch '05, Emory '09

"The expertise and deep commitment of Chattahoochee debate's coaching staff provided me with the critical thinking skills and solid fundamental understanding of debate that allowed me to succeed in college debate."

-Julie Hoehn, Hooch '04, Emory '08, National Collegiate Debate Champion



History of Debaters as Scholars

CLASS OF 2017

George Washington – Collin Cadet
Georgia – Kamryn Taylor, Sam Ramesh

CLASS OF 2016

West Point – Henry Smith
MIT – Alice Zhou
Georgia – Sachin Mahajan

CLASS OF 2015

Northwestern – Michelle David, Spencer Weiser
UC Berkeley – Abhishek Mehta
Michigan – Jacob Shelton
Washington & Lee – Tara Cooper
Georgia Tech – Rohit Devulapalli
Georgia – Aayush Mehta, Aditya Mehta, Santosh Nimkar
Kennesaw – Max Shapiro

CLASS OF 2014

NYU – Shanan Leeman
Georgia Tech – Sujay Peramanu
Georgia – Listya Munthe
Kentucky – Amar Adam
Georgia State – Manasi Sinha

CLASS OF 2013

Emory – Andrew Lockwood, Viveth Karthikeyan
Georgia – Jay Khanna

CLASS OF 2012

Georgia – Will Caplan [debate scholarship]

CLASS OF 2011

Emory – Shreya Seth
Georgia – Maggie Davis, Cara Venezia
Georgia State – Matt Azimi

CLASS OF 2010

Duke – Jeff Zhang
Emory – Megan Cambre [full debate scholarship]
Georgia – Adam Kostrinsky, Matthew Rosenthal
Georgia Tech – Sohan Chatterjee
Kentucky – Sean Robinson
Michigan State – Kaavya Ramesh

CLASS OF 2009

Dartmouth – Joshua Lee
Georgia – Adi Sudarshan
Georgia Tech – Richie Choy

CLASS OF 2008

Emory – Anuj Panday, Simon Mettler [full academic scholarship]
Georgia – Mike Lacy [debate scholarship], Matt Foretich, Tommy Beyer, Pranav Kaushish [academic scholarship]
Georgia Tech – Avanti Joglekar

CLASS OF 2007

Emory – Ovais Inamullah
Michigan State – Ben Mehling [debate scholarship], Gary Seidman [debate scholarship]
Southern California – Candice Yip [full debate scholarship]
Washington University, St. Louis – Kevin Gao [full academic scholarship]

CLASS OF 2006

Duke – Chen Ni [academic scholarship]
Georgia – Maggy Warden [debate scholarship], Brittany Cambre [debate scholarship]
Michigan – Clare Zhang
Northwestern – Stefan Jiang, Shasha Zhou
NYU – Utsav Kaushish [full academic scholarship]
Rice – Sherry Wang [academic scholarship]
Southern California – Rajat Dhir [full debate scholarship]

CLASS OF 2005

Central Oklahoma – Jennifer Belding [full debate scholarship]
Emory – Daniyal Inamullah
Georgia – Hayley Nelson
Georgia Tech – Kendele Snodgrass
Michigan State – Garrett Abelkop [full debate scholarship]
Northwestern – John Warden [debate scholarship]

CLASS OF 2004

Emory – Julie Hoehn [full debate scholarship], Shama Barday, Sarah Greenberg
Georgia – Adam Schmidt [debate scholarship]
Georgia State – Christopher Pozzi
North Texas – Lauren Vevoda [debate scholarship]

CLASS OF 2002 AND 2003

Georgia – Ellen McGrew, Chad Hayes, Adam Grellinger, Josh Foster, Anjan Deka, Victoria Salegna
Georgia Tech – Monish Thawani
Wake Forest – Adam Abelkop [debate scholarship]



Registration Materials Are Due Sept 2 for Varsity/JV and Oct 3 for Novice

Please read through this handbook carefully.

Registration Materials

Registration Forms

Physical Copy of Insurance Card

Registration Fees:

\$175/student

All registration materials will made be available at the Hooch Debate Parent Website –

<http://chattcougar.com>

click on “Extracurricular”

click on “Hooch Debate”

Registration materials are due by:

Wednesday September 6, 2017 for all Varsity & Junior Varsity Debaters

Friday October 6, 2017 for all Novice Debaters

At that time all electronic forms, physical forms, and payment must be turned in to Mr. Bancroft or Mr. Abelkop. **Please remember to include a copy of both the front and back of the insurance card that covers your child.** The insurance card is the most overlooked item, and the most important. In case of accident or illness, it serves as permission for your minor child to be treated – **we cannot take them on any trip including local trips** without the insurance card. Without it, hospitals **will not** treat your child until you can be contacted; if the situation is life threatening they will treat him/her but your insurance company may refuse to pay.

Fees must be submitted by check made payable to **Chattahoochee HS Debate**. *****Fees are nonrefundable*****

Debate Options for First-Year Debaters

-Debate I Class

-After-School Practice

Debate Options for Second, Third, and Fourth-Year Debaters

-Debate II Class (requirement)

-After-School Practice



Philosophy

Competitive debate opportunities are available to all students. Students choose to participate and also choose their level of participation. A sincere effort will be made to provide appropriate opportunities to every deserving student at every level of competition. However, it is important to remember that debate is a **competitive activity**, and the most successful students will be those that exhibit intelligence, hard work, determination, motivation, and natural skill. When travel opportunities are limited, the coaches will decide which students will participate in each particular tournament.

Participation on the Chattahoochee Debate Team is designed to yield the following benefits:

- Offer students an environment where knowledge and intellectual skills are promoted and reinforced
- Provide basic and advanced instruction for students in critical thinking, logic, argumentation, and persuasive speaking
- Provide the opportunity to work as part of a team of students and teachers/coaches, emphasizing mutual respect and support for the experiences of all participants
- Provide frequent practice and tournament opportunities
- Provide support for debate activities (co-curricular and extra-curricular) in the state of Georgia

Parental Support

Parents are an extremely important resource to the Hooch Debate Team. Whether volunteering to drive & chaperone at a debate tournament, working the tournament hosted at Chattahoochee, or serving on the parent board, parents are vital – without parental support we simply would not be able to provide our students with the same opportunities and experiences. No matter what the level of involvement, we need your help! Please contact Garrett Abelkop to see how you can help! Parents are always welcome and encouraged to observe their child engaged in the activity.

Varsity Letters

Students can earn varsity letters for their involvement and success in the activity. Please note the qualifications below. **No first-year debaters may qualify for a varsity letter.**

- Attend at least five tournaments at the varsity level **OR**
- Break to the quarterfinal level in varsity tournament competition **OR**
- Coaches discretion based upon: dedication, seniority, enthusiasm, effort, leadership

Debate Hall of Fame

In order to qualify for the Hooch Debate Hall of Fame, debaters may meet any one of the following criteria:

- Break to the elimination rounds at the Tournament of Champions
- Compete in the Tournament of Champions in three separate years
- Break to the semifinal level at any two tournaments that are designated as octofinal TOC bids



Tournament and Travel Procedures

Students compete in debate activities by preparing at school and then attending tournaments held at other schools. Students also help host a tournament at Chattahoochee in the end of September. Tournaments are usually two-day events that begin Friday afternoon and continue on Saturday until the late afternoon or evening. Some varsity tournaments extend to Sunday and Monday. Some novice tournaments are Saturday only. Students may be invited to attend tournaments in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, Michigan, Florida, Kentucky, Washington D.C., Massachusetts, and California. Travel will usually be by car or bus. Occasionally, students will fly to a tournament.

Students may be responsible for registration fees, housing, travel, meals and material fees. These fees are reduced in part by fundraising, but costs, which may be substantial, do exist. We at Chattahoochee believe that money, however, should never be an impediment to participation; if assistance is required please speak to the coaches privately to discuss possible arrangements.

Students should be on time to depart and return from tournaments. While we can tentatively establish return times, these times change on a moment-to-moment basis. Tournaments run notoriously behind schedule and our departure is often dependent on how successful students are at the tournament. If a Chattahoochee debater has made it to finals, we cannot leave before the tournament is over, whereas we could leave early if all Chattahoochee debaters are eliminated in the quarterfinals. While coaches make every effort to inform parents in advance, it is **ultimately the child's responsibility** to relay changes back to the parents. Phones are always available on campus and a number of students carry cell phones.

Parents will be notified of the tentative schedule of tournaments at the beginning of the year. No student is required to compete in any particular tournament with the exception of varsity debaters who qualify for the State Championship Tournament or the Tournament of Champions. Sign-up sheets are posted in advance in the debate room for students to sign up. These sign-up sheets indicate the **interest and intent** of the student to debate at the tournament. Once sign-up sheets have been taken down, students who have signed up have committed to attending the tournament. If a student must cancel because of minor illness, poor grades, family concerns, too much homework, other commitments, etc. the student will be responsible for non-refundable fees incurred by the team in securing that slot, including but not limited to: registration fees, hotel rooms, plane tickets, judging fees, and bus costs for the student **and his/her partner**. Additional consequences may also occur. Please see the section entitled consequences. Deaths in the family or illnesses warranting doctor intervention are excused from penalties. Because many tournaments limit the number of students we may bring (and sometimes they won't tell us this number until a few days before the tournament), it may be possible that a debater will not be able to attend the specific event that they sign up for. The coaches will attempt to notify students of this situation as early as possible. Coach decisions on tournament attendance are final.

There is a tournament information sheet given the week of the tournament providing specific information for that event. Tournament specifics include: location of tournament, approximate arrival and departure times, costs, transportation information, emergency contact information, and lodging specifics (if necessary). While we endeavor to provide contact phone numbers in advance, this is not always feasible. We encourage all students to carry a cell phone for such times. Coaches' and chaperones' cell phone numbers are always provided and available. **The student is responsible for obtaining this information sheet and conveying this information to his/her parents in a timely manner.**

Travel Eligibility

Any debater in good standing is eligible to travel at the local and state level. National travel is by invitation only. Coaches have the final decision on tournament attendance particularly when numbers require limiting attendance to a smaller number of students than have expressed interest in attending the tournament.

General Team Rules and Policies

1. Debate partner assignments are accomplished through student preference when possible. For junior varsity and varsity debaters, partner assignments are based on a combination of student preference, work ethic, skill, and personality. **Coaches, however, make the final decisions.** Those decisions are made for the benefit of both individuals and the team as a whole. If a student has a problem with his/her partner, it is his/her responsibility to speak with the coaches privately. Complaining about one's partner to others is considered rude and disrespectful. This may affect a student's travel schedule.
2. Students are responsible for completing their schoolwork. Some tournaments require the team to leave before school is out on Friday. **It is the student's responsibility to notify their teachers of absences at least two weeks prior to that absence.** Students generally have a minimum of three weeks' notice of when they are going to a tournament. It is the student's responsibility to do their work and study ahead of time so that conflicts do not occur when the tournament arrives. Debate work **should never** take precedence over schoolwork.
3. No student may miss a class that they are failing. The coaches will obtain a copy of progress reports given to students. If a student has a failing grade in a class, they are not allowed to miss that class until a note is sent to the coaches from the teacher of that class indicating that the student is passing. This note must be given to the coaches at the time the student registers for a tournament. **There will be no exceptions.** If a student knows that he or she is failing a class and does not report this information to the coaches, the student may be suspended from future travel.
4. While attendance is voluntary at the large majority of tournaments, there are a few tournaments where it is required. All speech and debate students must work at tournaments hosted at Chattahoochee and any fundraising events. All students who are invited by coaches to compete at the State Championship Tournament will be required to attend. Finally, all students who qualify for the Tournament of Champions will be required to attend. Failure to attend these tournaments will result in severe consequences.
5. While students are required to share evidence citations with other schools, **they may not trade or give anyone from another school the evidence itself.** Students also **cannot** tell anyone from another school about new arguments that Chattahoochee is developing. Failure to adhere to these rules can result in **expulsion** from the team. If anyone asks for the citations of evidence you have read in a debate, they must be provided. If evidence has not been read, citations are not allowed to be given.
6. Chattahoochee often brings in outside help so that students can have practice rounds and work with individual college debaters and other debate veterans. There are sign-up sheets posted for students to sign up to work with their coaches as well as these individuals. Signing up for a specific time slot is just like signing up for a tournament. If a student do not show up **with** the necessary materials for their commitment, there will be consequences that could include **suspension from at least one future tournament and reimbursement of any money paid to the individual we brought in.**

General Team Rules and Policies Continued...

7. Trophies bring awareness of our team and its success to the rest of the school and the community. Continued support from the school and the community is essential to our success. As a result, trophies earned belong to the team and the school. Students may take trophies home from a tournament to show to their family, but on the next school day must bring the trophy to Mr. Abelkop to be put on display. At the end of the year, some trophies will be given back. The school does, however, keep all first and second place trophies from most tournaments, as well as semifinal and quarterfinal trophies from certain national tournaments. Individual awards, such as speaker awards, are an exception and may be kept by the student.
8. In addition to attending and participating in tournaments as a debater, every second, third, and fourth-year member of the debate team is required at a **minimum** to attend at least one tournament a semester solely for the purposes of judging debates [this excludes tournaments hosted at Chattahoochee]. Judging debates is part of the learning process of becoming a better debater and also provides the school with excellent opportunities to decrease ever rising costs. Students will accrue no travel expenses when attending a tournament to judge for the school.
9. All school and Georgia Forensic Coaches Association (GFCA) rules will be enforced. In particular, please note that the Chattahoochee High School Debate Team has a zero-tolerance policy toward drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. You will be considered in violation of these rules if you are using these substances or are with someone who is using them. **If you are in a room where such substances are being consumed, you are as responsible as if you were personally using the substances.** **There is no discussion of this issue.** Chattahoochee coaches reserve the right to search rooms and belongings as needed to enforce these rules.
10. As part of a competitive activity based on persuasion, it is important that debaters display a certain level of professionalism. As such, Chattahoochee debaters are expected to follow the following **dress code** at all tournaments:
 - Boys:** khakis or dress pants, tucked-in button-down shirt, **and tie.**
 - Girls:** dressy slacks, skirt or dress **of a professional length,** and professional blouse or sweater.
 - Both:** no jeans, shorts, or athletic pants. *Comfortable,* professional shoes are recommended.

Travel Rules

1. When staying in a hotel, coaches will conduct a room-to-room check in the evening. Students may not leave their room after they have been checked in for the night. The penalty for violating this rule will be **suspension from at least three tournaments.** If the coaching staff is unable to determine which student left a particular room, all people in the room will be held responsible.
2. It is impossible for Chattahoochee debate coaches to visually supervise all students at all times. For example, when students are at tournaments, they are often scheduled in up to twenty different classrooms of the host school. It is therefore imperative that at all times when we are away from Chattahoochee, a student must always be in the presence of another Chattahoochee debater. This includes at tournaments, in hotels, at airports, etc.
3. No student from Chattahoochee is allowed to be in the hotel room of someone of the opposite sex unless a coach is present.
4. Chattahoochee students are not allowed to go into any hotel rooms **other than their own** and **only** Chattahoochee debaters and coaches are allowed in Chattahoochee rooms.

Travel Rules Continued...

5. While students are at debate tournaments, they must behave as if they were at Chattahoochee. All rules that cover students' behavior while at Chattahoochee, especially rules regarding drinking, smoking, etc. will be strictly enforced. If a student is found violating these rules, they will be sent home. It will be the parents' responsibility to make and pay for said arrangements immediately. Students will face **disciplinary action from the school** in addition to severe consequences from the team, **including possible immediate expulsion from the team at the coaches and administrators discretion.**
6. Lying to coaches about any potential violation of Chattahoochee Debate rules will increase the consequences for said violation. This includes lying about the behavior or rule violations of other students.

Consequences for Infractions

Failure to perform tasks or meet responsibilities is a serious concern. When a student fails to complete an assignment or drops from a tournament at the last minute, their behavior affects everyone else on the team, and in some cases, other schools and other debate teams. Due to the severity of an infraction or its repeated nature, consequences may be assigned to students. The consequence should be commensurate to the infraction.

Consequences may include but are not limited to:

- Payment of non-refundable fees
- Mandatory team duties
- Compulsory judging obligations
- Suspension from one or two tournaments
- Suspension from the team for one semester
- Permanent expulsion from the team
- Coaches' discretion