



**EAST RIDGE
DEBATE
TEAM**

AUDITION PACKET



East Ridge High School Debate Team Audition Packet 2026-2027 Season

Thank you for your interest in the East Ridge High School Debate Team. We are a competitive, award-winning team where students learn to think quickly, speak clearly, and build real-world communication skills.

As a member of the Debate Team, you will:

- Develop confidence in public speaking and argumentation.
- Learn how to research real-world issues and spot strong evidence.
- Compete at Saturday tournaments against other schools.
- Earn recognition through awards and the opportunity to qualify for a Varsity Letter in Debate.

We follow all rules and policies of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) and operate as a Varsity activity, *so the time commitment is similar to a high school sport.*

Time Commitment & Schedule

- There is a [**mandatory**] **Summer Camp** for all team members:
July 28th through August 1st
ERHS Lower Green Pod
9:30 AM to 2:00 PM
- There are [**mandatory**] **team practices every Saturday in August** from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- During the school year, the **team practices twice a week.**
Monday 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Wednesday 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- The Debate tournament season runs from September until the first week in December. Debate Tournaments are **an all-day Saturday event.** We leave the school around 6:50 AM and return at 5:30 PM.

Costs & Fees

\$60 Booster Club Fee - Due August 1st

\$140 Student Activity Fee (paid to ERHS) - Due September 1st

Team Policies

You can review more detailed team policies—including absences, tournament expectations, fees, practices, student expectations, and conduct in the Debate Team Handbook on our website: erhsdebate.com.

Who Should Audition?

Debate is a great fit for students who:

- Like to ask “why?” and enjoy big questions about the world.
- Want to become stronger writers and speakers.
- Enjoy competition and being part of a team.
- Are curious, willing to work hard, and open to feedback.
- No prior debate experience is required - just curiosity and commitment.

Audition Preparation

The 15-minute audition is a chance for you to get to know the coaches and for the coaches to get to know you. It is also your opportunity to showcase your research, writing, and speaking abilities.

Audition Task for 2026-27 Season:

Prior to the audition, you will prepare two contentions (short arguments) on the resolution below:

- Write one contention in favor of the resolution.
- Write one contention opposed to the resolution.

Resolved: The United States should eliminate the President’s authority to deploy military forces abroad without Congressional approval.

At the audition, you will present your contentions.

Below is an example of a past audition resolution and two contentions:

Resolved: The United States should raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour

Contention in favor of the resolution:

The United States should raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour to reduce income inequality by raising wages for low-wage workers. Dr. Benjamin Livwin of Gettysburg College found in the Spring of 2023 that for hourly wages above \$11.75, every \$1 increase in the hourly minimum wage reduces income inequality by 1.3%. Therefore, passing this resolution means a parent is not trying to juggle multiple jobs to put food on the table and can spend time helping with their child's homework or tucking the child into bed.

Contention opposed to the resolution:

The United States should not raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour because it would financially strain small businesses. Small businesses are essential to our economy. A May 2023 article published in the Harvard Business Review states that they account for 44% of U.S. economic activity. When we demand that small businesses raise their employees' wages to \$15 per hour, we risk them cutting employees' hours and benefits, or even closing. This is the opposite of the outcome we are looking for.

What happens after auditions?

After auditions, coaches will review all performances and consider team size, category balance (Public Forum and Congressional Debate), and schedule fit. Students will receive an email with their audition results and next steps, including practice schedules and paperwork.

If you are selected for the team, you will attend a new-member orientation where we will cover team norms, tournament procedures, and how to get the most out of your first season in debate.

Questions? coach@erhsdebate.com

Team Schedule for 2026-27

Date / Time	Event	Location
April 6 - 9	Team Auditions	
April 30 7:00 PM	Parent/Student New Member Meeting	ERHS Media Center
May 30 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Team Kick-Off Meeting	ERHS Lower Green Pod
July 27 - July 31 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM	Team Camp	ERHS Lower Green Pod
August 1 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Team Practice	ERHS Lower Green Pod
August 8 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Team Practice	ERHS Lower Green Pod
August 15 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Team Practice	ERHS Lower Green Pod
August 22 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Team Practice	ERHS Lower Green Pod
August 29 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Team Practice	ERHS Lower Green Pod
September 9 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	School Practices Begin Mondays & Wednesdays	ERHS Lower Green Pod
September 26 Bus Leaves at 6:50 AM	MDTA Jamboree Tournament	Wayzata HS
October 3 Bus Leaves at 6:50 AM	Rosemount Tournament	Rosemount HS
October 10 Bus Leaves at 6:50 AM	Lakeville Lucky Duck Tournament	Lakeville HS
October 17	No Tournament - MEA Weekend	

October 25 Bus Leaves at 6:50 AM	Tournament	TBD
Oct 31	ERHS Home Tournament	ERHS
November 7 Bus Leaves at 6:50 AM	Tournament	TBD
November 14 Bus Leaves at 6:50 AM	Tournament	TBD
November 20-21	Central MN Congress National Qualifying Tournament (Varsity Only)	Robbinsdale HS
November 21 Bus Leaves at 6:50 AM	Robbinsdale Birds of Prey Tournament	Robbinsdale HS
November 28	No Tournament - Thanksgiving	
December 4-5	MDTA JV Novice State Tournament	Eagan HS
December 4-5	MSHSL Congress Sections (Varsity Only)	Eagan HS
December TBA	Central MN PF National Qualifying Tournament (Varsity Only)	TBA
January TBA	MSHSL Public Forum Sections (Varsity Only)	TBA
January TBA	MN State Debate Tournament (Qualifiers Only)	TBA
February TBD	Debate Team Banquet	TBA