

November 2025

SPEECH WORKERS OF IOWA FEATURE THEMSELVES

HELLO! HELLO!

HALLOF FAME
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR
RICHARD RIGGLEMAN WINNER
JUDGE CERTIFICATION COMMITTE
COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE INFO
STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT
MEMBERSHIP DUES/SITES
IHSSA CALLBOARD
CONTEST NOTES/DEADLINES

CONTEST NOTES/DEADLINES
STATE IE JUDGE REQUIREMENT

"The philosophy of the IHSSA is built upon the belief that no form of activity is any more important than that of learning to communicate effectively."

A Lil' Acorn

Finding material for contest was often times a big task for me.

I kept a lil' notebook right beside my bed hoping my muse would appear in the midnight hours. Sometimes twilight did deliver gold but more often, I was left to labor in the daylight hours. I found the best stories were those right in front of me. My dearest ideas came from things closest to me, and from the people and places nearest my heart and my home.

My childhood home is Exira, Iowa. It's a rural community of about 800 folks and much of the inspiration I got for new speech contest material ended up tracing its roots back to the rolling hills of my parents' small farm. For example, just a couple miles south of Exira on ol' Highway 71 there's a very big oak tree with a plow in it: (http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/12357).

I've driven past that tree thousands of times: on the way to Grandma's house as a kid; back and forth to friends' homes in high school; for weekend dinners and Thanksgiving celebrations and birthday celebrations. The tree has monumental origins. After a Civil War soldier who heard the call of the bugle beckoning him to duty, he left the plow right against the young tree and sadly, never returned. Over time, the huge oak tree swallowed up the plow and there it remains today.

A very solid tree and a very solid story. With a little "massaging", I think it could be the makings for a mime or possibly even a reader's theatre. There's

certainly a theme in there for a literary program on the perils of war or perhaps, some material for an after-dinner speech

on the glees of Americana road-side parks. Maybe this might be a great anecdote to implement in the public debate of utilizing tree sequestration as a method of creating carbon offsets.

I encourage you to look close at your own environment and in your own homes for inspiration. There's a lil' acorn out there -- maybe an oak-- just waiting to be sown. You don't have to look very far! Happy Thanksgiving!

2025 HALL OF FAME



Matthew DeVore & Debbie DeVore
MAQUOKETA VALLEY



IHSSA HALL OF FAME MEMBERS at Convention 2025

IHSSA CONGRATULATES!



Principal BETH ENDELMAN NORTH BUTLER Fine Arts Administrator of the Year

Each year, the IHSSA recognizes an outstanding Fine Arts Administrator of the Year. It is presented to a distinguished individual of statewide reputation and outstanding accomplishments. This is the highest honor the Iowa High School Speech Association may confer on an administrator. The contribution and service given by the inductee stem from dedication and commitment to the IHSSA and other arts activities in their school beyond normally expected and superlative identification. Dr. Tim Cronin, Superintendent Decorah and IHSSA NE Executive Board Member presented the award at this year's Coaches Convention in Ames. This year's recipient is Principal BETH ENDELMAN from North Butler High School.

Coach Susan Ackermann in her nomination letter shares: Mrs. Endelman understands speech is more than just standing up and giving a speech. She writes notes of support and best wishes and includes a candy bar to all speech team members. She plans school-wide assemblies (7-12) for All-State qualifiers and has them participate in the hallway celebrations (with cowbells). As she said, "We do it for our athletes, why not for the speech team?" In addition, if we lose practice time due to weather, Mrs. Endelman is the first to offer times to practice during the day if we need it. She supports the Speech Team coming in to practice of classes as dress rehearsals. Mrs. Endelman understands the importance of each moment of practice and truly supports the team members in each and every endeavor. She celebrates their growth and is always in their corner.

CONGRATULATIONS to Beth Endelman, the 2025 IHSSA Fine Arts Administrator of the Year!

IHSSA CONGRATULATES!

RYLEE GEHLSEN OABCIG Richard Riggleman New Speech Coach Award



The Richard Riggleman Young Speech Coach Award was established by Richard Riggleman of Deloit, Iowa to reward a second or third year IHSSA speech coach and teacher. Mr. Riggleman was an active IHSSA coach for over 30 years with a special love for debate. Richard Riggleman was inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame in 1994. In 1995, Mr. Riggleman gifted an endowment fund of \$56,000 to honor a new speech coach and teacher.

This award consists of \$1,000 per year, renewable for two consecutive years, for a total of \$3,000. The Riggleman Award was the first of its kind to be established with the IHSSA. The profile of the recipient reflects: a commitment and demonstration of excellence in coaching speech, large group events, individual events, and/or debate; and inclusion and past experience in high school or college speech activities.

This year's recipient is in her third year of teaching at OABCIG High School: RYLEE GEHLSEN. Rylee was actively involved in her high school's speech team at Denison-Schleswig High School in several large group and IE events. Rylee has re-ignited the speech program at OABCIG. In her first year, she directed 9 large group entries and 26 individual entries.

Travis Chizek, OABCIG High School Principal shares that "when the season began, there were two speech coaches, but one coach had to step away. Rylee never hesitated to finish on her own doing the work of two coaches by herself. The program has continued to flourish ever since." Rylee directs both the Large Group and Individual Events program and is also the Choreographer for the high school musicals. Too, she was an All-State Room Chair and is the proud supporter of an IHSSA RISE student. Simply, Rylee says YES to promoting all IHSSA opportunities.

Congratulations to Rylee Gehlsen, OABCIG, the 2025 Richard Riggleman Award Winner!





53RD ANNUAL SPEECH COACHES

CONVENTION SPONSORS





CLICK LINK.



CLICK LINK.

CLICK LINK.





CLICK LINK.

DISCOVER Mes

CLICK LINK.





EDUCATION BUILT FOR LIFE CLICK LINK.

IHSSA JUDGE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE



The IHSSA Judge Certification Committee develops instruction and certification procedures regarding the implementation of over 800 judges in our IHSSA Family. The Judge Certification Committee is responsible for the direction of 16 judge certification sites and 2 online options. This team also oversees all judge evaluations submitted by IHSSA coaches and provides a summer training clinic to judges and coaches. They meet throughout the year ensuring judges are held to the highest assessment. Their term is an 8-year term. Thank you, JUDGE CERTIFICATION, for offering your best to the IHSSA!

SHAWN STARR

Woodbury Central: NW

I'm very excited to be a part of the judge certification team! I enjoy traveling around my district, meeting new and experienced judges and sharing a genuine love of speech education with others! I also enjoy getting to work with coaches and judges from across the state.



DIRK WALLER Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln: SW

I truly feel because of my time on this committee I keep the big picture of the IHSSA at the front of my thinking. TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION! I get to serve with some of the best people and deepen my connections across the state. I love driving the beautiful SW each fall to see great programs and schools.



Waverly-Shell Rock: NE

I LOVE serving on the JC committee because it allows me to work with outstanding IHSSA representatives. I also LOVE to train judges. They are key factors in providing lifelong learning for our speech students.





VINCE HRASKY Tri County: SE

This is my fourth year on the Judge Certification Committee. Judge Cert is great because it allows me to spend time working with people who are dedicated and passionate about speech and the kids of Iowa.

CARRIE TINKHAM CR Washington: Coach at Large

Folks on this committee are so lovely to work with! I love digging into the constitution and exploring how we can use it to communicate to judges how to do best by kids and keep them enjoying and coming back each year to participate in the IHSSA!

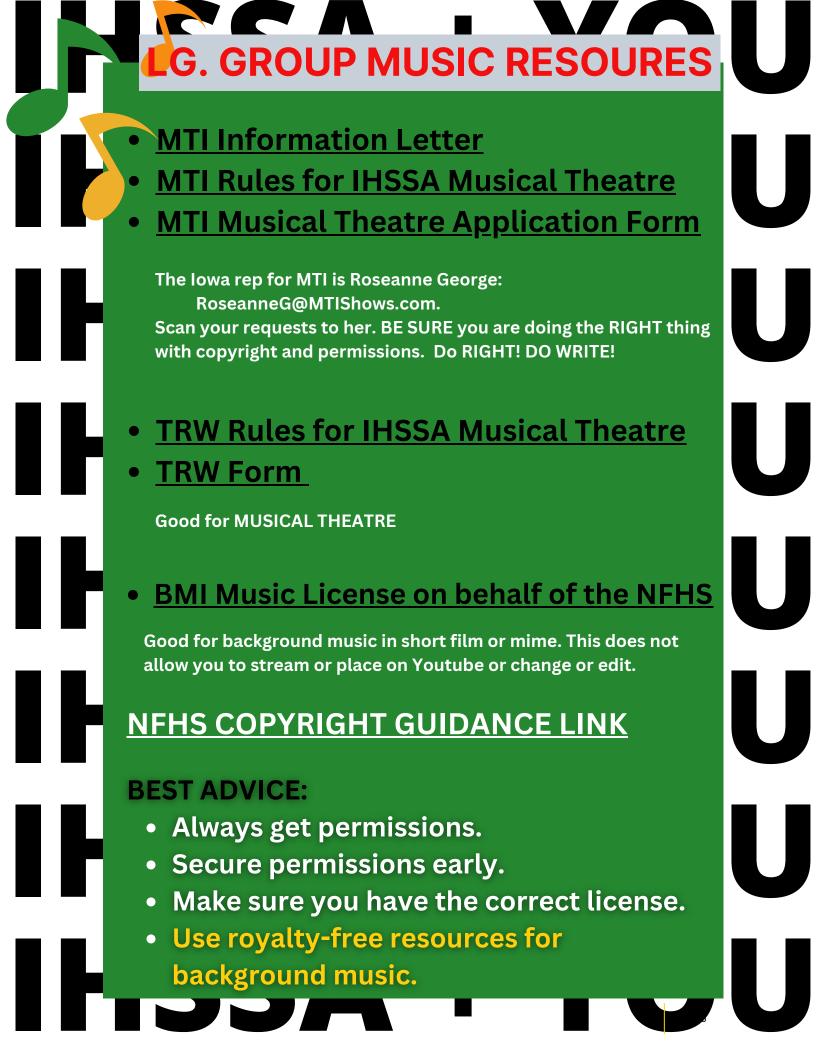




Permission to do Material or Music in all IHSSA Events

Please remember you must have permission to do ANY MATERIAL that you use for contest events. We have agreements with many companies to use their materials for IHSSA contest. For example, if you use recorded music for background in Mime or One Act (unless it is BMI music or you have purchased the BMI license) you must have permission to use it. If you are using music for Short Film or TV you must get rights from the copyright holder and get synchronization rights for that song or songs. If you are reading an interp selection from a book you must receive permission to read that selection or cutting at the contest. In Musical Theatre you cannot do cuttings unless you have permission to do so. You can NEVER cut or rearrange material without receiving permission or using material from the companies we have agreements with. Receiving permission to perform at contest is just that. It does not cover performing for other events. Also, NEVER allow contest selections to be placed on YouTube or the internet. YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO DO THAT! It is the responsibility of the local school to secure all performance rights for contest selections. Be sure you have permission to do material before you start a selection for contest. The IHSSA will NOT support any school that does not secure performance rights for selections at contest. Do not put your school district in financial danger by not finding the rights to perform material. Please remember all of your titles are posted on the web and those groups will see what you are doing. Get the proper rights to do material for contest. You as a coach/school must do this! Secure permission. FROM FEAR TO FAIR USE

COPYRIGHT SUPPORT MATERIALS



DEBATE TOPICS & MORE



DEBATE TOPICS can be found at: <u>www.speechanddebate.org</u> (Click link.) Please remember we use the January PF and LD topics for the State Tournament.

STATE DEBATE ENTRY MATERIALS: State Debate entry materials and info will have a link on the web site. All entries for State Debate will be done via <u>Tabroom</u> on the IHSSA web site. If you have questions or concerns please let us know. That link will be live by December 1. Please watch the IHSSA web site for the link.

Remember -- Student Congress intent and at least two bills or resolutions must be in by November 15. Here is the <u>STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT Google FORM LINK.</u> You may request a copy be sent from the State Office via email, too.

Debate rules updates are available on the IHSSA website. The complete rules for all <u>debate categories</u> are available on the IHSSA website. Please make sure you consult the <u>IHSSA Constitution</u> for complete rules.

State Debate will be on the campus of DMACC in Ankeny this year on January 9-10, 2026. Be sure to mark your calendars.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE STATE TOURNAMENT THERE IS SUPPORT. JUST CONTACT THE STATE OFFICE AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN SUPPORT.

A Call for Student Congress

Dear IHSSA Speech Coach,

I would like to share with you a thought about the exciting IHSSA Student Congress event. And, if you believe your time is already limited, you could pass the thought to your English staff, Talented and Gifted, Honors, or Advanced Placement instructors.

Student Congress offers an exciting critical think activity that could easily fit into a classroom project. It develops the key skills of research, writing, speaking and defending one's ideas. By passing along the IHSSA rules for Student Congress to the other instructors, they could prepare students for a fun learning experience that will not break the department budget. The students could research, write and submit two bills by November 15 to **Sam Magner** at **sjmagner12@gmail.com** for the January tournament. Then, by December 1, receive the full slate of bills for the tournament, and prepare to join in the congress discussion on January 9-10, 2026 at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny. Note you can still attend without submitting any bills.

Should you, or any of your fellow instructors, have any questions as you prepare for the tournament, you can always e-mail **Sam Magner** at **sjmagner12@gmail.com**.

I hope you will consider attending the IHSSA State Debate Tournament Friday and Saturday, January 9-10, 2026 at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny.

Sam Magner, Hampton-Dumont CAL

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STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT FORM

STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT FORM

Please complete the **GOOGLE INTENT FORM** by November 15 for the State Debate Tournament this year. Please contact the State Office if you have any questions about entering State Debate or would like to try that activity. Let us know! **STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT FORM LINK**



IHSSA Student Congress Intent Form 2026

Article XXXI-Section 3: Each school planning on entering Student Congress must fill out an intent form from the State Office.

In addition, please submit bills/resolutions on this form by November 15. Copies of the bills/resolutions will be sent to schools by December 1.

Be sure to read <u>Section 11 on Bills and Resolutions</u> for directions on writing bills/resolutions. The bills/resolutions must be typewritten in correct form. <u>Lines must be numbered and doubled-spaced</u>. The name of the school must be on the bill. You must use the correct format. If submitting two or more bills, clearly number your first and second choice for placement on the final agenda.

HSSA + YOU

CONTEST NOTES



JUDGING DIRECTIVE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members of every district will be part of a program that provides the name of a judge for the State IE contest. Every school in the IHSSA that qualifies 5 or more entries for the IHSSA State IE contest on March 14, 2026 must provide the name of a certified judge on behalf of their school for that state contest site. This program will only be put into effect if the state contest managers in any district have trouble locating judges for that state contest. Then said judge from each school will be called upon to judge at the state contest. This is a constitutional item. Therefore, to participate in the IHSSA contest series all schools must follow this directive. More information on this can be obtained by calling the State Office at 515-401-1834.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

This is a non-rule change year. All updated rule changes are posted on the web site. The full Constitution is available online. Be make sure your constitution and by-laws are the most up-todate editions. NEW RULES CHANGES LINK



Have you paid your 25-26 Membership Dues? Membership forms were sent from IHSSA Office mid August. These are due NOVEMBER 15, 2025. After this date, a \$15 penalty is assessed. Membership closes December 1. Let us work to have EVERY school in the state represented as a member of the IHSSA! If we can help encourage a school near you, please contact the State Office. MEMBERSHIP FORM

The usernames/passwords for on-line forms are the same **USERNAMES** as last year. If you need a refresh, call the State Office. Keep it handy; you'll be using it several times.

SAT TEST Conflict

There IS a conflict with SAT testing. SAT tests are March 14. This is the same date as STATE INDIVIDUAL. NO SPECIAL REQUESTS will be accepted for STATE TESTING.

MENTORING PROGRAM

1st year Coach? **NEED** extra Support? Please call IHSSA **OFFICE! WE GOT YOU!**

NEW COACHES

Contact STACY in State Office for IMPORTANT INFO! Stacy@ihssa.org WE got YOU!

REMINDER

When making payments please put on the check what event that check is for. This will assist Pam AND it will help YOUR bookkeeper and their work.

IHSSA CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINES



STATE DEBATE
December 15, 2025
All forms due

DISTRICT IE February 11, 2026

STATE IE Immediately after District

ALG ALL STATE Immediately after notification

DISTRICT LARGE GROUP January 7, 2026

STATE LARGE GROUP Immediately after District

LG ALL STATE Immediately after notification

EARLY IS ON TIME.
ON TIME IS LATE.
LATE IS....OH NO!

Send in payment early. The PO is NOT payment. Communicate EARLY with your bookkeeper.



Please remember these deadline dates. Late entry penalties will be enforced per the IHSSA Constitution. All late entries will be placed at the end of the performance

SPECIAL REQUESTS

day, as per the Executive Committee. EARLY is ON TIME.

By direction of the Executive Committee, all special requests must be CALLED INTO THE STATE OFFICE by the dates listed below:

District LG: January 8, 2026 State LG: January 28, 2026 District IE: February 12, 2026 State IE: March 4, 2026



Special requests after these deadlines will only be accepted on an emergency basis. Email requests or phone messages will NOT be honored. COACHES must speak directly to Stacy Hansen, IHSSA Executive Director. Contest Managers will not accept special requests. SAT testing is NOT a special request. Thanks for your compliance.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: IHSSA + YOU!





LOOK for CURTAINS UP! A weekly video message about all things IHSSA on our YOUTUBE channel.



January 8: LG Districts Special Requests

DUE to Stacy by phone requests only

January 27: LG State Registration DUE

January 28: LG State Special Requests DUE

to Stacy by phone requests only

February 10: flLL STATE Registration DUE

LG GROUP DUE DATES





February 11: IE Districts Registration DUE

February 12: IE Districts Special Requests

DUE to Stacy by phone requests only

March 3: IE State Registration DUE

March 4: IE State Special Requests DUE to

Stacy by phone requests only

March 17: IE ALL STATE Registration DUE



WHERE do I go for contest?

LG DISTRICT SITE ASSIGNMENTS: will be released after DECEMBER 15. IE DISTRICT SITE ASSIGNMENTS: will be released in JANUARY.

WHEN do I register for contest?



Register AFTER Contest Sites are posted. District sites are released December 15 (LG) and in January (IE).



WHERE will I register for contest?

You will register online at ihssa.org using your secure login/password. Contact the IHSSA Office if you need login info.

Contest Sites 26

NORTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Manson NW Webster

Spencer

Storm Lake

LARGE GROUP STATE

Cherokee Washington

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Kuemper Catholic

Newell-Fonda

Sioux City North

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Denison

NORTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Cedar Falls

Dubuque Senior

Mason City

LARGE GROUP STATE

Waterloo West

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Decorah

Forest City

Postville

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Maquoketa Valley

SOUTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Creston

Des Moines Hoover

Lewis Central

Mount Ayr

LARGE GROUP STATE

West Des Moines Valley

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Atlantic

Bondurant-Farrar

East Union

Johnston

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson

SOUTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Centerville

Monticello

Pella

Wapello

LARGE GROUP STATE

Clear Creek Amana

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Fairfield

Lisbon

Montezuma

РСМ

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Vinton-Shellsburg

STATE DEBATE:
ANKENY DMACC CAMPUS

LG.GROUP ALL STATE FESTIVAL: IOWA STATE

IE AII STATE FESTIVAL: UNI



ADDRESS BOOKESS

Here are the

CURRENT IHSSA Head LG, IE, Debate

SPEECH DIRECTORS link.

as of October 25, 2025 based upon

Membership Forms received.

To update any head contacts, please contact pam@ihssa.org (This document lists only the HEAD DIRECTORS.)

LARGE GROUP: SHORT FILM, TV NEWSCASTING, RADIO BROADCASTING INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: VIDEOCASTING

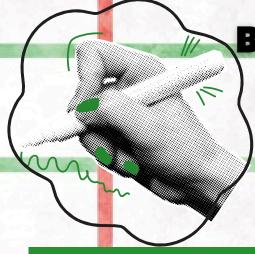
As per the IHSSA Constitution, you must provide your own media formatted presentation. The contest site will have a backup just in case something happens to your projector or computer; however, it is your responsibility to bring your own equipment. Each individual school is responsible for bringing their own AV equipment in SHORT FILM, TV NEWSCASTING, RADIO BROADCASTING and IE VIDEOCASTING. Do not rely on the contest manager supplying this for you. Do not rely on the contest school's WIFI.

BRING TO CONTEST: Your own projector

Your own multiple copies of your Short Film/TV/Radio
Your own extension chords
Your own extra speakers
Your own extra cart (if you wish to bring)

If you bring your own equipment, you will have no problems showing these events. What each site will have is a cart to set up your equipment in the hallway before each presentation. When your event is then ready to go, you wheel the cart in and your presentation will be set. There will be no setting up equipment in the room. This should help those events run more smoothly. If you are using music for short film, to news, radio broadcasting, videocasting you must get rights from the copyright holder and get synchronization rights for that music. DO NOT USE MUSIC WITHOUT THOSE RIGHTS! ***Best advice: use royalty-free music!

**NOTE on timing of the Short Film: Credits ARE a part of the time. If you show credits, yes, they do count as part of the time.



Behind the Comment Sheet: IHSSA JUDGE SPOTLIGHT

The IHSSA Judge Certification Committee meets throughout the year to assist in policies for certification procedures. They also aid in judge evaluations and plan workshops as well as clinics. The JC Committee would like to offer special recognition to these superior judges!

HALLY BERGREN

Hally is from Lytton and was involved in One Act Play, Musical Theatre, Choral Reading, Storytelling, and Acting at Manson Northwest Webster. Hally volunteers with the local youth theatre group, Sac Community Theatre, and participates on the Schull Center Auditorium Board. Hally also loves to lift weights, go antiquing, and spend time outdoors with family and their labradoodle. Hally encourages students to embrace their uniqueness and grow their confidence.

Halley shares, "It's truly a privilege for me to watch them perform. If it wasn't for the students, none of us would be here to spread awareness and our love for the fine arts."



ALFELINO FELICIANO



Alfelino is a Commercial Photographer in Iowa, and worked as a Fashion Photographer in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Alfelino finds joy in working out, baking, and cooking. He also enjoys meeting new people. If he were to compete today in IHSSA events, Alfelino would participate in Short Film, Radio Broadcasting, Improv, Musical Theater, Review, and After Dinner Speaking. Alfelino shares that speech students are stronger than they think, "Most of the people in the audience would never want to perform in public. And they are. They've already won." His husband Michael, who is also an IHSSA judge, inspired him to become an IHSSA Judge.

DEBBIE IVERSON

After having three daughters participate in speech at Montezuma, Debbie shares that she "didn't want to lose the opportunity to watch. Our local coach, Liesl Roorda, suggested I become a judge. I decided to try and immediately loved it. That was 15 years ago!"

Debbie enjoys the chance to interact with students. At district contests, she especially appreciates having the opportunity to to speak directly with performers in addition to writing comments. Debbie has six grandchildren to have fun with and finds great joy in her yard and with her flowers as well as making crafts.





BOAL BOALD

November 1-3: CAMANCHE & CLINTON: Combined Production, Zombie Prom

November 6-8: SOUTH TAMA, Peter Pan and Wendy

November 7-8: COLO-NESCO, The Odd Couple: Female Version

November 7-9: EAST MARSHALL, Wizard Of Oz

November 13-14: BOYDEN-HULL, The Music Man

November 13-14: JANESVILLE, Arsenic and Old Lace

November 13-15: KUEMPER CATHOLIC, Mirth and Mayhem

November 13-16: CARROLL, High School (non) Musical

November 13-16: PCM, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

November 14-15: EAST SAC COUNTY, Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon

November 14-15: IC REGINA CATHOLIC, Clue High School Edition

November 14-15: MORAVIA, Winnie the Pooh

November 14-15: NODAWAY VALLEY, Gideon and the Blundersnorp

November 14-15: NORTH IOWA, Anne of Green Gables

November 14-15: CLARKE COMMUNITY, Elf the Musical

November 14-16: BEDFORD, Disney's Dare to Dream, Jr.

November 14-16: DON BOSCO, Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen

November 14-16: ESTHERVILLE LINCOLN CENTRAL, Horror High the Musical

November 14-16: IOWA VALLEY, Clue High School Edition

November 14-16: NORTH FAYETTE VALLEY, The Little Mermaid

November 14-16: OSAGE, Anything Goes

November 14-16: SPENCER, Footloose

November 14-16: WAPELLO, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

November 15-16: EAGLE GROVE, Loco-Motion, Commotion, Dr. Gorilla, and Me

November 15-16: FOREST CITY, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

November 15-16: GLADBROOK-REINBECK, The Wizard of Oz

Want YOUR EVENTS published?
SUBMIT YOUR SPEECH/THEATRE/
DEBATE DATES
for our IHSSA Callboard at this LINK:
IHSSA CALLBOARD DATES (CLICK
LINK)



HSSA + YOU



IHSSA DATES FOR 2025-2026

AUGUST 16, 2025 - JUDGES / COACHES WORKSHOP, VIRTUAL

OCTOBER 10/11, 2025 - IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION GATEWAY HOTEL, AMES

JANUARY 9/10, 2026 - STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT, DMACC, ANKENY

JANUARY 24, 2026 - DISTRICT LARGE GROUP CONTEST

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - STATE LARGE GROUP CONTEST

FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL LARGE GROUP IOWA STATE CENTER, AMES

FEBRUARY 28, 2026 - DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MARCH 14, 2026 - STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MARCH 30, 2026 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL INDIVIDUAL EVENTS, UNI, CEDAR FALLS

Get these dates to your students, parents, and administration so you can plan for these dates next year!

POST FOR ALL!

HSSA + YOU