

SWIFT

October 2025

SPEECH WORKERS OF IOWA FEATURE THEMSELVES

IHSSA + YOU

HELLO! HELLO!

**What's
in this
issue?**

- **HALL OF FAME**
- **COACHES CONVENTION**
- **MEMBERSHIP DUES**
- **JUDGE CERTIFICATION**
- **IHSSA CALLBOARD**
- **CONTEST SITES**
- **NFHS LEARN**

"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."

stacy@ihssa.org
515.401.1834

5000 Westown Parkway, Suite 150
West Des Moines, IA 50266

pam@ihssa.org
515.288.9741

A Lil' Acorn

Most mornings, the first voice I hear isn't from my alarm clock or the radio. Instead it's my dad. It's our thing. On my drive to work each day, he calls with his daily dose of Audubon County and whatever else is on his mind. Yes, I get the Southwest Iowa Almanac version of the crops, the creatures, and the current weather systems. Honestly, his "program" beats any local morning talk show host.



If my dad were an IHSSA category, he would radiate all things "Radio News". Both group and individual. His sign on: "Welllll, Gooood Morning!" His sign off: "Stay between the ditches." That's my dad's way of saying, "Be smart. Stay safe. And I love you."

Today's feature story? It's salsa-making season on the farm! Dad said they'd just bought a couple dozen new Mason jars all ready to roll out until tragedy struck. (*Cue throbbing pulse sound effect.*) Mom discovered they were out of cornstarch! (*Pulsing sound increases in both speed and volume.*) They made a quick run to the DG in town and the production line was up and running again without a hitch. (*Cue triumphant fanfare music.*)

Dad then shared with me the play-by-play of the process and walked me through their methodology from chopping vegetables to sealing jars. "The real reward, Stac," Dad reminds me, "comes months later. Say on a cold January weekend when you crack open a jar and taste summer all over again."

And that's what got me thinking. Why not do the same thing with *our days*? Seriously. Why not grab a jar, and every night jot down one good thing that happened on this day? One really awesome moment you shared with another,

something you accomplished, a thought that made you laugh, or just a little win. The look on that student's face when you saw the lightbulb flash, the taste of the pumpkin bread, or when you finally understood the lyrics to that one song. Then, when those dreary mornings roll in, pop open the jar and pull out a reminder of the sweetness of summer gardens. Savor those affirmations!

And, stay between the ditches!



Stacy S. Hansen, IHSSA Executive Director

2025 HALL OF FAME IHSSA INDUCTEES

DEBBIE DEVORE Maquoketa Valley



Growing up on a farm outside of Gray, Debbie was educated in the Audubon Community School District. She attended Buena Vista University and began her teaching and coaching career at Algona High School. In 1999, she married her biggest cheerleader, Matthew. Eventually, they began teaching at Maquoketa Valley. One of Debbie's greatest joys was coaching her son Noah. Alongside their coaching team, Debbie and Matt have hosted multiple district IE contests and are excited to be hosting the State IE contest this March for the first time. Debbie has continued to grow through leadership roles in the IHSSA, serving on the IE All-State Committee, Judge Certification Committee, Coaches Convention Committee, and the IE Task Force. In 2020, she was humbled to receive the National Federation State Speech, Debate, and Theatre Award. For Debbie, the quote "Where we love is home" rings true—not only for the spaces she's created, but for the people who've filled them. She has found home again and again—in the laughter backstage, the quiet courage of a first-time performer at an IHSSA contest, and in the shared stories that connect all of us.

MATTHEW DEVORE Maquoketa Valley

Many foundational characteristics were instilled into Matthew DeVore outside of Estherville. Matthew attended Iowa Lakes Community College and finished at the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Mathematics Education. He began his teaching career at Villisca High School, where he also coached large group and individual contest speech, directed drama productions, and participated in community theatre. After teaching at Villisca and Clear Lake, his last stop for teaching high school mathematics took him to Maquoketa Valley High School in Delhi. His rockstar wife, Debbie, devoted coaches, and his talented son, Noah have offered unwavering support. Matt has been a contest manager for numerous conference and district speech contests, served as a NE District Officer, was a member of the Coaches Convention Committee, worked on the IE Task Force Committee and has received the National Federation State Speech, Debate, and Theatre Award. If Matthew were to sum everything up with one word, it would be BLESSED. Blessed by his students, by his school district and all staff members, by his community, and by the relationships garnered from his fellow IHSSA coaches.



Debbie and Matthew will be honored at a reception and banquet Friday evening of the Coaches Convention.

2025 IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION

IHSSA + YOU: EMBRACE YOUR SHINE

Friday, October 10 & Saturday, October 11



NEW COACH
TRACK

	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	OTHER	NOTES
FRIDAY 9:30 AM	CONTEST MANAGERS MEETING		NOVICE COACHES FORUM ★ 9:30 - 11:00 Lauren Ernst, Erin Hoffman, Elizabeth May, Christina Moyer	CONVENTION REGISTRATION LOBBY 9:00 - 12:15 GALLERY LOBBY	EXPERIENCED COACHES FORUM HARVEST ROOM 9:30 - 11:00 Dirk Waller
10:00 - 11:30	BREAKOUT IE CONTEST MANAGERS	BREAKOUT LG CONTEST MANAGERS			COACHES CONVENTION FOR UNI CREDIT LOBBY 11:00 Marilyn Shaw
12:15 - 1:20		KEYNOTE ADDRESS ★ JJ KAPUR		MINI SESSIONS	FRIDAY'S LUNCH: ★ MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED*** Lunch in the Garden Room 11:15 - 12:00 TICKETED LUNCH REGISTER ONLINE
1:30 - 2:30	ALL LG EVENTS ★ Cole Berkenpas, Debbie DeVore, Matt Devore	PREPPING FOR NON-PREP EVENTS Kenton Engels, Brianna McCollum	CREATING AN ORIGINAL ORATORY JJ Kapur	1.FOCUSING STUDENT TALENTS Kelly Thompson 2.STUDENT LEADERSHIP Emily Hintze/ Stacie Kintigh	
2:30 - 3:20	NON-TRADITIONAL COACHES Jenna Hendrix, Liesl Roorda	ORGANIZING STUDENT-WRITTEN EVENTS Susan Ackermann, Kirk Kelloway	1ST YEAR SURVIVAL TIPS ★ Kimberly Cavalier, Rylee Gehlsen, Kaitlyn Vasey	1.REDISCOVER 1-ACT Noel Wotherspoon 2.IMPLEMENTING AI Emma Bedard	
3:30 - 4:20	MIME Cynthia Koster, Amy Toye	ALL IE EVENTS ★ Christine Meader, Laurel Olsen	WARM-UPS Emily Hageman	1.DEBATE Sam Magner/Jen Tovar 2. HOSTING CONTEST Michelle Nystel	
4:30 - 5:15	SE	NE	NW	SW Harvest Rm	HALL OF FAME Meeting
6:30 - 7:00		HALL OF FAME RECEPTION Gallery Lobby ★		FRIDAY NIGHT IS A TIME TO DRESS UP and CELEBRATE. We suggest BUSINESS DRESS.	
7:00 - 9:00		HALL OF FAME BANQUET Garden Ballroom ★			
9:00 - ???		DESSERT/COFFEE Meadows Room ★			
SATURDAY 7:30 AM		BREAKFAST BUFFET, DOOR PRIZES, & MESSAGE Garden Ballroom ★			SWIFT PRESENTERS Scott Davidson Jodi Grant Emily Hintze Molly Holkesvik Suzi Jones Stacie Kintigh Teresa Lawler Jacki Pleggenkuhle Brenda Reeves Layne Sheetz Marcine Tracy Gabe Twedt Pam Wymer
9:10 - 9:55		SWIFT: Speech Workers of Iowa Feature Themselves Experienced, Intermediate, Novice Tracks ★			
10:20 - 11:10	OUTSIDE THE BOX WITH CR/MT Jennie Flinspach Kevin Hosbond	VIDEOCASTING: NEW IE CAT Deb Benjamin, Kim Carlson, Molly Holkesvik, Carl Rankin	BUILDING STUDENT RESILIENCE ★ Ben Hirdler, Allison Rasmussen	2 BLOCK TECH WORKSHOP: Abby Avis, Rachel Burrow, Tim Clay, Dixie Forcht, Skip Olson	
11:15 - 12:05	READING THE ROOM AND PEOPLE Jackye Bowlin, Kelsey Dinkla	VIDEOCASTING: NEW IE CAT Deb Benjamin, Kim Carlson, Molly Holkesvik, Carl Rankin	COPYRIGHT & SCRIPTS ★ Liz Hansen, Dani Helmich		
12:10 PM		MORE DOORPRIZES! Gallery Lobby ★		ALL CONVENTION CHECK OUT 9:55 - 10:15	
12:30 - 2:30	JUDGE CERTIFICATION ★				



The IHSSA Convention Committee meets throughout the year to plan an engaging, educational, and entertaining event! APPLAUSE APPLAUSE and GRATITUDE for extending their inspiration and creativity to us all!

IHSSA Convention Committee

JACQUE SEIDLI

Adel DeSoto Minburn: SW

I love attending the IHSSA Coaches Convention because I am inspired by the amazing ideas from coaches around the state. The Coaches Convention is the way I get re-energized for the upcoming season!



DARRIN CROW

Cedar Valley Christian: SE

I love speech! I love Coaches Convention! So if I have the chance to help make both better by helping to plan convention? You bet! By being on the committee I get to meet great people, learn from these great people, and help make our speech world a better place.



ROBIN CROW

Cedar Valley Christian: SE

Robin is super excited to be on the Convention Committee because she loves to plan a great party! And because she has learned so much from coming to Convention every year. The expertise in the sessions is the best PD we could ask for!



WENDY BUSEMAN

Hampton-Dumont-CAL: NE

I enjoy serving on the IHSSA CCC because the convention is a great kick-start to the new speech season. I love getting to know coaches from other districts across Iowa. It's a great way to get involved in IHSSA and to meet people!



EMILEIGH EILDERTS

Hampton-Dumont-CAL: NE

I am so excited to serve on the Convention Committee. I love being able to showcase other coaches and their strengths as presenters. It is also a way for me to meet more coaches from across the state beyond my own district.



LINDEY KRUG

Fort Dodge: NW

One of my favorite things is the IHSSA Annual Convention. It gets me fired up! As the freshman member of the planning committee, I'm excited about being part of the spark for my fellow coaches.



IHSSA 53RD ANNUAL SPEECH COACHES CONVENTION

OCTOBER 10-11, 2025

GATEWAY HOTEL, 2100 GREEN HILLS DRIVE, AMES, IA

800.367.2637/515.292.8600

WWW.GATEWAYAMES.COM

CONVENTION

REGISTRATION:

ALL CONVENTION
REGISTRATION IS
ONLINE AT

WWW.IHSSA.ORG.

LINK: WWW.IHSSA.ORG/DEFAULT.ASP

WOW!

2 GRADUATE CREDIT HOURS!

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO
EARN 2 GRADUATE CREDIT
HOURS AT THE
CONVENTION.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE
AT [THIS UNI LINK](#).



*Coaches Convention
October 10/11, 2025
Gateway Hotel, AMES*

HALL OF FAME
DINNER IS A TIME TO
DRESS UP A BIT.
WE SUGGEST BUSINESS
ATTIRE.



[CLICK
LINK.](#)

CONVENTION
SPONSORS



[CLICK
LINK.](#)



[CLICK
LINK.](#)

**SIMPSON
COLLEGE**

[CLICK LINK.](#)



UPPER IOWA
UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION BUILT FOR LIFE

[CLICK
LINK.](#)

**POETRY
OUT
LOUD**

[CLICK LINK.](#)

IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION

NEED LUNCH ON FRIDAY? BE SURE TO PURCHASE A LUNCH TICKET FOR FRIDAY. LUNCH IS A TICKETED EVENT. YOU WILL NEED TO PURCHASE A TICKET ON YOUR REGISTRATION.



**SPECIAL
THANKS TO
THE IGHSAU**

OVERFLOW COUNTRY INN & SUITES:

\$150

515.233.3935

**TELL THEM YOU ARE
NEED A ROOM IN THE
IHSSA SPEECH BLOCK.**

**ROOMS WILL BE
RELEASED! RESERVE
YOUR ROOM EARLY!**



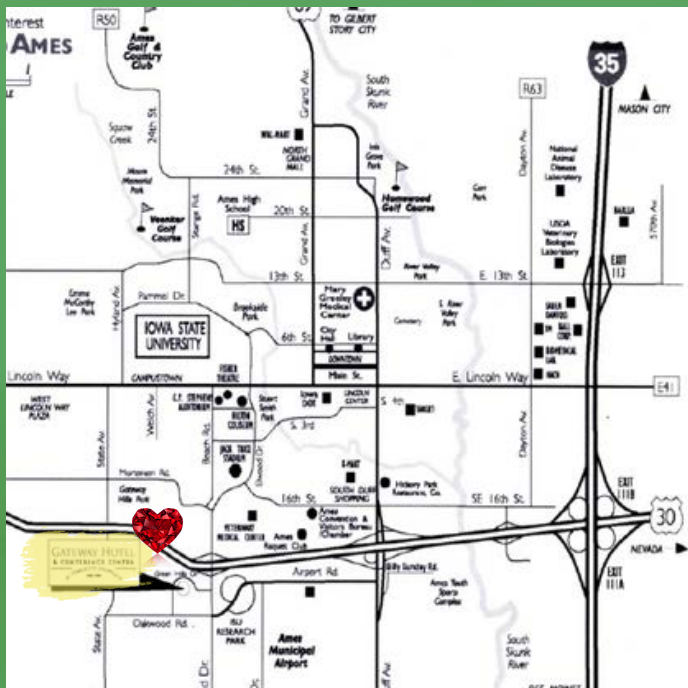
OVERFLOW RADISSON HILTON:

DOUBLE: \$169

515.259.1973

**CHOOSE "OPTION 2" TO SPEAK WITH ON-DUTY
AGENT. TELL THEM YOU ARE NEED A ROOM IN
THE IHSSA SPEECH BLOCK.**

**DUE: SEPTEMBER 26! AFTER SEPT. 26, THESE
ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED! RESERVE YOUR
ROOM EARLY! HERE IS THE [DIRECT ONLINE LINK.](#)**



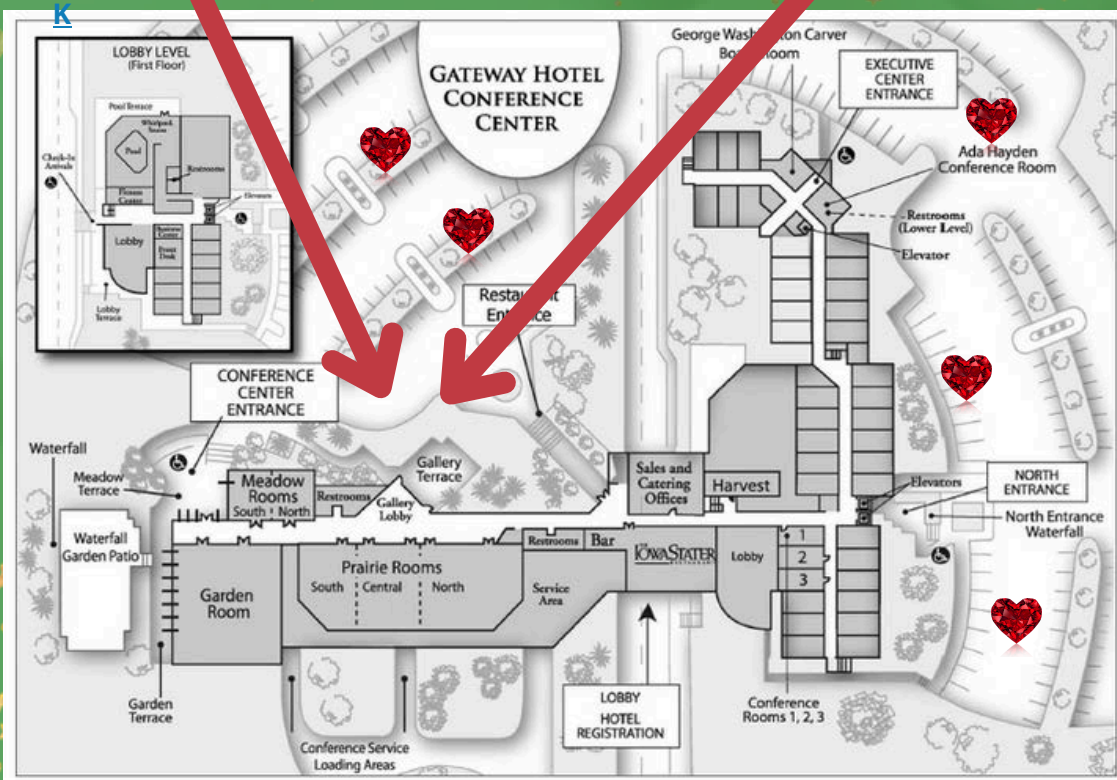
DIRECTIONS to the GATEWAY HOTEL:



Take HWY 30 into Ames.
Exit at 146 or Elwood Drive.
Head south on Elwood Drive.
Turn right (or west) on Green Hills Drive.
You can see the GATEWAY from the HWY.

**NOTE: The GATEWAY HOTEL has fantastic "Express Checkout."
This will allow you to check out without going to the front desk
on Saturday AM. Inquire at the front desk upon check in.**

**REGISTRATION on Friday morning is right inside
the GALLERY LOBBY.**



PARKING



is
FREE all
around the
hotel. Park in
the **NORTH** lot
for hotel or the
WEST lot for
Convention.

NEED Continuing Ed Credit?



UNI is partnering with the IHSSA to offer a 2 credit online course. \$200.

TITLE: Voice, Narrative, Storytelling, and Visual Imagery in Radio/Television Broadcasting
Click HERE for UNI COURSE DETAILS.



FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET

Friday night HALL OF FAME banquet is a time to dress up a bit. We suggest business dress. Feel free to put on your SPARKLE!!!

BREAKFAST @ CONVENTION

Breakfast starts at 7:30 AM. It is a buffet and will go until 8:15.

DOOR PRIZES, the RIGGLEMAN AWARD, an ADDRESS, and SWIFT sessions will follow.

NFHS: Teacher Satisfaction Survey



YOUR voice is IMPORTANT and NEEDED NATIONALLY! Please take the NFHS Teacher Satisfaction Survey. We want to know why you became a Speech/Debate/Theatre Coach! We will be using this information to help create recruitment efforts for younger generations to become teachers and advocacy efforts to help support current coaches in the future.

THEATRE TEACHERS [Survey Link](#)

SPEECH/DEBATE TEACHERS [Survey LINK](#)

Your
VOICE
MATTERS

CALLBOARD

October 2-4: SIOUX CITY NORTH Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really
October 9-12: WAUKEE Inherit the Wind
October 18-19: WOODBURY CENTRAL Dupont, Mississippi
October 31-November 2: DES MOINES HOOVER Shakespeare in Love: Teen Edition
October 31-November 2: FAIRFIELD Enter the Body
October 31-November 2: NORTH SCOTT Clue
November 6-8: CENTERVILLE Between The Lines
November 6-8: FORT DODGE Macbeth
November 6-8: HUMBOLDT White Christmas
November 6-8: WATERLOO WEST Legend of Sleepy Hollow
November 6-8: WEST LYON Into the Woods
November 6-9: INDEPENDENCE Bringing Down the House
November 7-8: MFL MARMAC Disney's High School Musical
November 7-8: BALLARD A Trip to the Moon
November 7-8: BONDURANT-FARRAR Bad Auditions by Bad Actors
November 7-8: DENISON Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
November 7-8: EAST UNION Last Day of School
November 7-8: IOWA FALLS - ALDEN Mama Mia!
November 7-8: JOHNSTON Fall Play
November 7-8: NORWALK Bringing Down the House
November 7-8: OSKALOOSA All's Well in Roswell (Isn't It?)
November 7-8: WINTERSET Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
November 7-9: AMES A Midsummer Night's Dream
November 7-9: ANAMOSA Shrek the Musical
November 7-9: CLINTON Beware the House on Haunted Hill
November 7-9: PLEASANTVILLE Once Upon a Mattress Youth Edition
November 7-9: WEST DES MOINES VALLEY Hamlet
November 7-9: WOODBINE The Lightning Thief
November 8-9: EMMETSBURG Clue: On Stage - High School Edition
November 8-9: MADRID Freaky Tiki
November 8-16: MONTEZUMA Spamalat



Want YOUR EVENTS published?

SUBMIT YOUR SPEECH/THEATRE/DEBATE

DATES for our IHSSA Callboard at this LINK:

[IHSSA CALLBOARD DATES \(CLICK LINK\)](#)



CONTEST NOTES



**DIRK WALLER
AT WDM VALLEY**

JUDGE CERTIFICATION SITES are listed in this issue of SWIFT. We encourage all coaches to attend. When you as a coach get certified, you are truly supporting your students by gaining a better understanding of the IHSSA Constitution and the rules. Judge Certification is available at Convention on October 10. Too, we encourage you to look for individuals in our communities who would be fantastic judges for the IHSSA. It is the mission of the IHSSA to continually strive to represent all students' communities.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID?

Have you paid your 25-26 Membership Dues? Membership forms were sent from IHSSA Office mid August. These are due NOVEMBER 15, 2026. 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](#)

USERNAMES

The usernames/passwords for on-line forms are the same 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.

OCTOBER JUDGE CERTIFICATION SITES

SOUTHEAST

Wednesday, October 1
Washington High School in Washington, IA
6:30 PM (NOT in Cedar Rapids!!)

VIRTUAL

Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 PM
Intermediate and Experienced Judges Only
Email Stacy@ihssa.org for link by Oct. 24

SOUTHWEST

Saturday, October 4
East Union High School, 10:00 AM

Thursday, October 16
TJ Council Bluffs High School, 6:30 PM

CONVENTION

Saturday, October 11
Gateway Hotel, Ames, 12:30 PM

NORTHEAST

Wednesday, October 1
UNI, Lang Hall, Room 308, 3:00 PM

Tuesday, October 7
Waverly-Shell Rock High School, 6:30 PM

**You do not need to
pre-register for in-
person clinics.
Just show up!**



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: IHSSA + YOU!

IHSSA JUDGES + YOU!

Judge Certification sessions last for 1 1/2 hour. Please arrive 10 minutes EARLY! If you are unable to attend a session please contact stacy@ihssa.org. If you are a certified judge a letter will be sent to you with more info about certification. Please bring \$10 certification fee for the year and a writing utensil. ONLINE PAYMENT is now available at [THIS BOUND LINK](#). Or use the QR code. Here is the [BOUND HELP ME GUIDE LINK](#).



NEED A MENTOR? BE A MENTOR?

MENTEE/MENTOR SIGN UP Link! The IHSSA together with the IOWA ARTS ALLIANCE wants to connect new IHSSA teachers/coaches with experienced teachers/coaches. If you are in NEED of a MENTOR, please complete. If you can be a MENTOR, please complete.

For those individuals enlisting in the program that are also full-time speech/drama/debate/language arts teachers, **opportunities exist for a small stipend \$\$--both for the MENTEE as well as the MENTOR.**



NFHS: FREE Courses!

The National Federation of State High School Associations provided FREE learning opportunities. You are strongly encouraged to educate yourself regarding COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE and THEATRE SAFETY. These online courses are FREE and are provided as a courtesy by the [NFHS Learning Center](#).

[COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE](#)
[COURSE Link](#)

[THEATRE SAFETY COURSE](#)
[Link](#)



FREE!

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
PCM

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Vinton-Shellsburg

STATE DEBATE:
ANKENY DMACC CAMPUS

LG.GROUP ALL STATE FESTIVAL:
IOWA STATE

IE ALL STATE FESTIVAL:
UNI



HONK! HONK!



R1SE UP!



R1SE ENSEMBLE



WE SEE YOU!



R1SE



Support provided by the
Iowa Farm Bureau.

IHSSA + 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!

