**Vox Rationis Savannah Speech & Debate Club 2019-2020 Information**

**Vox Rationis Savannah** is FEFC’s very own speech and debate club and is officially affiliated with the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association. The purpose of the club is to prepare students to compete in the speech and debate tournaments sponsored by the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association (NCFCA).

NCFCA is a national Christian homeschool organization that believes

“that formal speech and debate can provide a means for

homeschooled students to learn and exercise analytical

and oratorical skills, **addressing life issues**

**from a biblical worldview in a manner that glorifies God**”.

**Who may join Vox Rationis Savannah?**

\*Homeschooled students

\*Members of FEFC

\*Between ages of 12 and 18 on September 1, 2019

**Requirements**

\*Each family must join (“affiliate”) with NCFCA by September 30, 2019. (www.ncfca.org)

\*Each student is expected to attend a practice event or qualifying tournament with a parent.

\*Students are to maintain a notebook of weekly assignments and handouts.

\*A parent or adult sibling is required to participate in certain scheduled meetings.

**How much does it cost?**

**\***Family membership with Family Education for Christ ($30 per family)

\*Family affiliation with NCFCA ($125 per family before October 1st)

\*Vox Rationis **per student** charge of $25

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

**When do we meet?**

\*Wednesdays – Speech 1-3 PM, Debate 3-4 PM

Meetings end promptly.

\* We meet twelve times before breaking for Christmas. We meet only about 4 times after Christmas break.

**Where do we meet?**

St. Andrew’s Anglican Church

608 Hampton Street

Savannah, GA 31405

(Located off of Waters Avenue, between Derenne and Stephenson Avenues.)

**What speech and debate events are available?**

NCFCA offers two styles of debate (Team Policy and Lincoln Douglas Debate) and eleven individual speech events. Students may compete in whichever events they prefer, but **we will be focusing on five speech events and Lincoln Douglas Debate**.

**Dress Code:**

Club Meetings – modest attire, "business casual" preferred (khakis, polo shirts, button downs for gentlemen; skirts or slacks for ladies). ***Jeans or t-shirts should be avoided for club meetings***.

Tournament attire-

a. Gentlemen: Gentlemen shall wear suits or sport coats with dress slacks, together with a dress shirt and tie. (And dress shoes, too!)

b. Ladies: Modesty is the key and may include suits, dresses, and skirts with

hemlines to the middle of the knee. Tight-fitting/low-cut clothing is inappropriate. Midriff must remain covered when gesturing in speeches.

**Tournament information**

Georgia is in Region 8, which includes Florida and South Carolina.

Tournament schedule:

1. Fall- Students write speeches, learn interpretive pieces, and research debate arguments.
2. Winter/Spring – Students compete in “qualifying tournaments”. Club meetings are suspended during this time because of the time demands of competition.

**At a tournament:**

The first day is a half-day used for orientation, judge training, and script submission. The second and third days are filled with competition. The fourth day is semi-finals and finals and the award ceremony.

Debaters will debate six times, three times as “Affirmative” and three times as “Negative”. Those who have a winning record will advance to “Elimination rounds”.

In speech events (called Individual Events or IE), each student will compete in three rounds of speech. In each round, the speaker will compete against seven other students. Three judges will rank these students from one to eight. Those students with the best ranks will advance to semi-finals.

Tournaments are judged by parents, alumni, and community volunteers. NCFCA emphasizes a conversational style of debate and real-world communication skills.

**Qualifying tournaments** NCFCA sponsors four regional qualifying tournaments and three “national opens”. The tournaments last 3 ½ days. Students who place in qualifying tournaments advance to the Regional Championship, and then to the National Championship.

**Other expenses**

There are other expenses involved in participation in NCFCA tournaments. These include tournament attire, travel costs, registration fees, hotels, and food. There are creative ways to trim the expenses. **NCFCA offers need-based scholarships**. Guest housing is often available. Meals may be packed instead of purchased. Most debaters I know find terrific suits at thrift shops and have them professionally altered. Also hotel and traveling expenses may be shared with other members of the club.

**Student obligations**

Students are expected to attend class with completed homework.

They are expected to write and deliver speeches and/or debate briefs, to listen to others’ speeches, and to deliver constructive feedback. Club time is a wonderful time to encourage one another and build one another up in our faith.

**Parent obligations**

Parents are not required to attend regular meetings.

***A parent will be required to attend a few special meetings when students will be performing their speeches or practicing debates.***

**A parent is also required to attend either a practice tournament or a qualifying tournament with the student.** At the tournament, the parent will serve as a judge. The value of this can not be underestimated! It is not only important because it gives the parent a close-up look at what competitive speech and debate is all about, but also because it will inspire both parent and student alike to see what these Christian young people are doing to glorify God through speech and debate!

To REGISTER: Complete the Registration form available on fefconline.com and either

1. Mail it and a check to Cyndi Mullins at 1950 Turners Rock Road, Savannah, GA 31410

or

2. Fill it out and bring it and a check to the information meeting on September 4th or at the FEFC Kick off Meeting.

or

3. Bring it and a check to a club meeting.

**Registration deadline is September 18, 2019. First meeting is September 4, 2019.**