Welcome all!

We are so excited to have you here at Rice! I’m so excited to see everyone. There is some information I hope will answer common questions about the tournament.

**TAB Room**

Tab will be in Rayzor 227 but there will be a help table on the first floor of the Humanities building. We will be using the Humanities, Herring & Kraft buildings for competition.

**JUDGING**

I’ve done my best to secure a hired judge pool, and we have enough judges, but every judge is important at this tournament. Please stay on standby just in case on off rounds. I will try my best to accommodate all to have a comfortable judging obligation.

**E-BALLOT REMINDER**

We are again using e-ballots this year, through Speechwire. Remember to bring a laptop or tablet that you can rely on to cast your ballots. Don’t forget a charger! And PLEASE click on “START THE ROUND” at least fifteen minutes prior to the time the round begins so that the tab staff knows you are ready.

**CAMPUS MAP (ATTACHED IN EMAIL)**

I have attached a campus map which indicates the buildings that we will use for the tournament. Additionally, most locations on campus can be found using maps. Please note every building on campus is 6100 Main street so you will have to use the name of the building. For those of you who like map choice check them out https://www.rice.edu/campus-maps

**IMPORTANT LOCATION NOTE:** Extemp Prep will be in HUMANITIES 117

**SMOKING ON CAMPUS**

While not smoke-free, our campus restricts smoking to designated areas. Please note that the policy prohibits smoking outside in areas within 25 feet of entryways, exits, wheelchair ramps serving as entries or exits, outdoor air intakes or operable windows The use of tobacco, including smoking, is restricted to 13 designated outdoor areas on campus. The approved locations are marked with a sign that reads "Designated Tobacco-Use Area" and are within a five-minute walk from any building. We also ask that smokers take the time to place cigarette butts into the appropriate containers in the designated areas.

**FOOD OPTIONS**

[Rice village](https://www.ricevillageshops.com/listing-categories/rice-village-restaurants/) offers a wide variety of food choices and doordash, grubhub, uber eats all deliver. Starbucks is walkable and located in the Cambridge Medical Plaza (yes it’s a hospital) or [Brochstein Pavilion](https://dining.rice.edu/public-dining/little-kitchen-htx) on campus is open Saturday, Sunday | 9 AM - 5 PM and have coffee and food options. There are other walkable restaurants in the general vicinity as well. Wherever you are staying Houston has amazing food and everyone will have a recommendation of their favorites. For kicks if you are fancy [DDD recs](https://www.dinersdriveinsdiveslocations.com/houston-texas.html), [celeb chefs Houston](https://www.chron.com/food/article/houston-celebrity-chefs-17752412.php), and [Tex Mex](https://houston.eater.com/maps/houston-best-tex-mex-mexican-restaurants).

**PARKING**

There are several options, but, unfortunately, there are no free options. We plan to headquarter the tournament in the Sewall/Rayzor Hall area. There are paid visitor lots near there (Founder’s Court and Duncan Hall lots) that max out at $12.00/day and a parking garage at Entrance 3. These are the closest. Beyond that, any visitor lot is fine, but all will charge. West Lot 1 is a bit cheaper but is a 6-8 minute walk to the tournament area. Greenbriar Lot, West of the stadium, is the least expensive, but is about a 12-minute walk. There are also paid lots across Main St. from campus in the Texas Medical Center.

**WIFI ACCESS**

Participants of AFA NST may access the “Rice Visitor” network while on campus. Let us know if you have any access issues

**ALLERGIES AND ACCESSIBILITY**

We think it is important for everyone to have a healthy and happy experience on campus. If there is any way we can increase inclusion in accessibility or allergies please let us know. I will warn you that Rice campus has all [the trees](https://www.facebook.com/LowreyArboretum/) so make sure you bring allergy meds.

**WARM UP ROOMS**

Each school entered into the tournament has been assigned a warm up room; warm up rooms will be open by 7:00am each day of the tournament. Rooms can be found on the tournament document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dXM6VYlQTSO2I6EZea-IvfcUAMF2N9EahkQXzhQGsgY/edit?usp=sharing

I am so excited to see you all!!!!!!