Only a few more days until we see y'all here in Fairfax. We will send out a more detailed email on Friday with all the information but here is some information you may need in the next few days. There are a lot of links in here; just copy and paste as needed!!

1. Tournament schedule is here: https://www.speechwire.com/c-schedule.php?tournid=17174. Buildings do not open until 7 AM, so please plan accordingly. We wouldn't want students outside in the cold!!

2. Speaking of Cold, Saturday will see a high of 41 and a low of 40. Sunday will be 50 at its highest with a low of 40. So slightly better. Bring coats and winter accessories. Its not supposed to rain until Monday at least!

3. Parking....We have arranged free parking in Lot J. I have been told to tell you that buses can park in Lot J and they sent the following directions. If your bus is not needed all day, you may want to ask that come back when your day is done. Schedule of tournament is on Speechwire. Lot J isn't terribly close to Johnson Center (Tournament Headquarters). So if you find an alternative drop off/pick up spot closer to campus, I can say I told you protocol and you can say that you are just visitors and got confused by the directions. If you are in a minivan or car and don't mind paying $9-$15 a day, then you may want to park at Mason Pond. Its right next to Johnson Center and the first two floors are visitor paid parking. Also there are events Saturday and Sunday nights at Eagle Bank Arena that may cause some traffic. But hopefully not.

Please refer to the step-by-step instructions below. Please reference the campus map. https://mason.gmu.edu/~bklinger/CampusMap/maphome.html

From Braddock Rd, turn in at Roanoke River, go left at the split and Lot J is 2nd lot on left past Lot K.

From Campus Dr, turn right where the road dead ends at Patriot Cir, turn right, go thru traffic circle and then Lot J is first lot on your right.

From University Dr, turn right at Aquia Creek Ln or George Mason Blvd. Turn right onto Patriot Cir. Pass Campus Dr and traffic circle and then Lot J is on your right.

Enter Lot J and head towards back half (closer to Global Center). Buses must drop-off and pick-up students at the BACK OF LOT J.

4. Because of the size of the tournament, we do end up using quite a few rooms on campus. We will have a map with the buildings we are using circled; its not on Speechwire yet because it is being made as a type. We will also have students to direct competitors and judges to the right building stationed at the doors of Johnson Center. Additionally, we will chalk sidewalks to the main buildings. But tbh...I use Google Maps to get around campus.

5. For judges that are new to judging, we have uploaded some helpful documents. https://www.speechwire.com/c-files.php?tournid=17174 One is the Accessing your ballot document, which will help judges get online to judge. They won't have any ballots yet because we have not assigned them any rounds. They will get email notification of when they are scheduled to judge 30 minutes before each round begins. Plus we will have people available in the judges lounge and at the information table to walk people through it (info about those two things are #6) This website is a basic judge training site. I like it because it also includes sample ballots: https://sites.google.com/view/judge-training/home. And finally this great if people want to look at sample ballots: https://www.speechanddebate.org/resources/?title=sample%20ballot. I know that is a lot of information, but it could be helpful for judges who may be new to the activity.

6. We will have an information desk, recruiting (students can check VA's for info there) and wellness booths (the wellness booth will have first aid supplies and sewing kits-emergency type stuff). It will be on the first floor of the Johnson Center by the restaurants (Panera and Chipotle and others). There will be a judges lounge in the basement in a room called the Bistro. Judges can hang out there and we will have plenty of food to eat throughout the day for judges!!

7. Get text alerts!! On this page, you will also see a way to get text alerts for all judges and competitors. Its super easy and everyone gets text messages throughout the day of where they need to go for each round. https://www.speechwire.com/c-files.php?tournid=17174

8. This is our 20th Patriot Games and we wanted to make it fun!!! We will have activities and a selfie station located on the first floor of the Johnson Center for everyone to pass the downtime. More information in Friday's email!!

I think that's the bulk of info you will need as you gear up for the tournament. We are so excited to share our twentieth anniversary with y'all!! See you in a few days!!