



MICHIGAN SPEECH COACHES, INC
30941 Cedar Creek Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48336
Phone: 616-915-7025
email: tbaas@portageps.org
www.michiganspeechcoaches.org

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Dear Coach:

The following invitation is designed to provide you with general information about MSCI's May Conference on Mackinac Island.

As the invitation is lengthy, the following should help you more easily find information:

- A: Communication and Registration
- B: Eligibility
- C: Rates and Housing
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- E. Special Events
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A. Communication and Registration

All communication about registration, housing, or the conference should be directed to Tyler Baas-Peterson, MSCI President. Please mail deposit checks and email the registration spreadsheet to the addresses provided. All coaches will receive a confirmation of entry via email within 48 hours of receipt of registration and deposit. Please use this information for all contact.

Tyler Baas-Peterson, MSCI President and 2024 Conference Director

Email: tbaas@portageps.org (preferred communication)

Phone: 616-915-7025

Mail: Michigan Speech Coaches Inc.
30941 Cedar Creek Dr.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

B. ELIGIBILITY:

1. The tournament is open to MSCI members and their students. If necessary, please verify your membership status with the treasurer, Ruth Kay, at the following email michiganspeechcoachesinc@gmail.com or by phone (248.417.5252). Unless otherwise approved by MSCI, a member of the teaching faculty, who is an MSCI member, must accompany all students.
2. You may register as many individuals as you wish. **MSCI accepts school entries on a "first come, first served" basis.** Once we reach our capacity, MSCI will place registrants on a waiting list.
3. All conference participants must register and pay through MSCI.
4. All conference participants must stay at the Grand Hotel.
5. All students in attendance must be competitors or judges (with the exception of non-competing siblings with no prior forensic experience).

C. RATES AND HOUSING

1. Fees include:

- a. Two nights lodging at Grand Hotel,
- b. Four meals—Friday & Saturday dinners and Saturday & Sunday breakfasts (lunches are not included)
- c. Ferry ticket to and from the island. All ferry transportation will be on Shepler's Ferry (visit their website for travel details)
- d. Baggage transfer between Shepler's Ferry and the Grand Hotel (arriving and departing)
- e. All taxes and gratuities
- f. All tournament fees
- g. Coaches may find it necessary to charge students additional fees (other than those listed below) to cover registration changes, and/or program costs like transportation, additional nights lodging, meals, etc.

2. Fees are based on **multiple occupancy**.

- a. Please place a **minimum** of 4 students in each student room. Some rooms can accommodate 5. **Students will have to share rooms and beds with other students. Fewer than 4 students to a room may NOT be combined with other schools without consent from both coaches. Therefore, rooms with less than 4 students MAY be turned away.** Coaches, please adhere to your district administration policies when it comes to rooming assignments; you know your students and families and you know your district. Make rooms accordingly.
- b. Place a minimum of 2 adults in each adult room. Adults should expect to possibly share rooms and beds with other adults. c. Children's rates apply **ONLY** to those children who are not of tournament age or those of tournament age who are non-participating siblings, **and who stay in their parents' room**. The child rates **ONLY** apply after there are **two adult rate occupants in the same room**. d. Please contact the conference director with any special housing requirements.

3. Room Rates:

- Student Competitors / Judges \$390.00 Based on multiple occupancy
- Adult Coaches/Judges \$390.00 Based on multiple occupancy
- Adults without a school or participants \$400.00 Based on multiple occupancy
- Single Occupancy ADULTS ONLY \$850.00 (Limited Availability)
- Children Ages 0-4 NO CHARGE **Must share room with two adults**
- Children Ages 5-9 \$115.00 **Must share room with two adults**
- Children 10-17 \$175.00 **Must share room with two adults**
- 18+/Non-Participant \$355.00 **Must share room with two adults**

4. **Email your registration to Tyler Baas-Peterson - tbaas@portageps.org**

5. **Mail all deposits to the corporate address: 30941 Cedar Creek Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48336**

6. Schools must pay the deposit in one payment, and the final amount due in one payment. School checks, Money orders, Ludus online payment → <https://msci.ludus.com>, or Credit Card only will be accepted. NOTE: Adults with no participants and not registered with a school may use a personal check.

7. **All checks and money orders should be made payable to "Michigan Speech Coaches, Inc."**

D. DEADLINES AND CHANGE FEES:

1. **March 9th, 2024**—Registration due with deposit. Deposit (**\$100 per participant which is NON-REFUNDABLE**) – registration and payment must be received by this date to secure your reservation.

2. **April 13th, 2024**—Schools are financially obligated for all fees and persons registered.

- a. **After April 13th, 2024**, MSCI charges the following fees for ANY and EACH CHANGE to your registration. Promptly email changes to Tyler Baas-Peterson to avoid change fees and out of courtesy to the MSCI Board members and Grand Hotel staff who work on your behalf.
- b. Expect confirmation of all changes within 48 hours. If a change is not acknowledged, please follow-up.
- c. Please note that two students swapping categories constitutes **two** changes. Any fees assessed will be due at registration.
- d. **After April 13th, the additional associated charges are:**

April 14 -April 20: \$5.00 additional fee for any/each change *All fees non-refundable from this point forward*

April 21 – April 27: \$10.00 fee for any/each change

April 28 - May 4: \$25.00 fee for any/each change

May 5 - 19: \$50.00 fee for any/each change

3. **May 17th, 2024** Balance of fees due at registration

E. SPECIAL EVENTS

1. **MSCI General Membership Meeting and Elections--Friday at 3:00 pm in the Headquarters of the Capitol Club.** This will not interfere with dinner or other evening activities. We appreciate the attendance of all members. If you have any new business you would like placed on the agenda, please email Tyler Baas-Peterson.
2. **Evening of Champions--Friday 9:15 pm in the Grand Theatre,** the MSCI Evening of Champions showcases many talented students of MSCI members. If you have a student performing in the Evening of Champions, he/she should eat at the earliest possible time so there is time to prepare in the theatre. The evening will begin with the recognition of this year's Hall of Fame recipient. .
3. **Guest of Honor Reception--**Following awards, during the student dance, there will be an ADULTS ONLY reception for this year's Guest of Honor, **Theresa Mills**, in the Grand Pavilion.

F. GENERAL INFORMATION & SCHEDULE

1. **Review with Students--**Please review the rules and procedures with your students. We recommend a short meeting before you travel with your students. The Grand Hotel is a wonderful site and student behavior has almost always maintained the special ambience of the weekend. A small amount of your time helps assure an amazing weekend for all participants. Please, emphasize the importance of curfew and appropriate behavior.
2. **Luggage--**Participants, coaches, and chaperones may bring only two pieces of luggage for transfer to and from the Grand. **NEW POLICY FROM SHEPLER'S:** No additional luggage beyond the two checked items will be allowed, with the exception of one carry-on that may be no larger than 22" x 14" x 9". The carry-on item must remain on the guest's lap or under their seat for the duration of the trip and may not occupy another seat for the convenience of other passengers.
3. **Registration** is from 1:15-2:45 on Friday, May 17th, 2024 in the Grand's Gallery, located past the concierge desk on the parlor level. Please ask chaperones not to meet with students in the Parlor area from 3:45-5:00 p.m. (High Tea is in progress.)
4. **Orientation--**All students and chaperones are expected to attend orientation in the Brighton Pavilion (1:00pm, 1:30pm, 2:00pm, 2:30pm).
5. **Room key distribution--**Do not go to the front desk. Keys will be available **only to coaches** in the Kelley Conference Room on Friday after the close of the MSCI general membership meeting (usually 4:00 or shortly thereafter). We will be using a number system where each coach gets a number at registration, and that is the order that is used to pick up keys. Meal cards will be placed in your key packet
6. **Money--**Remind students to bring money for activities, souvenirs, additional beverages at dinner, and meals not covered in the package.
7. **Competition rooms--**Contestants with rooms being used for competition must vacate their rooms for breakfast before 7:00 am on Saturday.
A list of rooms will be provided at registration.
8. **Meals --**
 - a. **Beverages--***All drinks ordered at dinner (EXCEPT milk, tea, coffee, and iced tea) require payment.**
 - i. Adults who have put a credit card on file for their room will be allowed to charge the room.
 - ii. Coaches: Please inform students in advance that they will want to take cash to dinner if they would like to order specialty beverages (milk shakes, virgin daiquiris, etc.) **Students may not bill charges to their room.**
 - b. **Student Lunch Saturday--**The Grand Hotel is making box lunches available to students on Saturday by **pre-order for \$16.00.**
 - i. Pre-ordering lunches is the best way to ensure that your students eat lunch and are in the hotel for round 3
 - ii. Coaches may pre-order by filling out the order form at registration and paying the Grand with a check, money order, credit card, or cash.
 - iii. Students will receive a color ticket corresponding to the type of lunch they requested. Boxed lunches will be available for student pick-up between rounds two and three.
 - iv. Some additional lunches MAY be available at \$16.00 each for those who do not pre-order, but this inventory will be limited and separate from pre-ordered lunches.
 - v. Lunch will consist of a sandwich, chips, fruit, granola bar, and water.
 - c. **Adult Lunch Saturday--**Grand Buffet lunch tickets will be for sale @ \$34.00/person (plus tax), no need to pre-order. Simply identify yourself as a member of MSCI. Adults may also feel free to eat at restaurants on the island.
9. **Room charges**
 - a. **STUDENTS--THE GRAND STAFF HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED THAT STUDENTS MAY NOT CHARGE ANYTHING TO THEIR ROOMS.**
 - b. **ADULTS--**The Grand Hotel will open a charge card billing for adults only to make purchasing in the Grand Hotel more convenient. Adults of an appropriate age may place a credit card on file with the hotel front desk after receiving their room key from the coach. Please take care of payment for any incidentals before the head coach checks out with MSCI on Sunday morning. Saturday evening works best.

10. Check out

- a. Sunday morning between 8:00-10:00 a.m. in Kelley Conference Room (on Lobby Level of Hotel)
- b. Head Coaches should stop at the hotel front desk to clear all adult room charges before checking out with MSCI Housing Director.
(No charges may be billed to student rooms.)

G. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Workshops & PD will be offered for those who are interested. This year's workshops will include:

- Taking That Show on the Road - tips and tricks to getting involved with competitive theater.
- AI - Next Steps - learn and share how other coaches and teachers are utilizing AI resources in the classroom.
- Online critiques Best Practices - a discussion getting the most out of online critiquing.

Any questions concerning the professional development on Mackinac Island can be directed to Past-President Amy Janz (amy.janz@grasslakeschools.com)

H. AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

MSCI strives to be of service to our students, to our speech professionals, to our schools, to our larger communities. We do that through various awards, scholarships, and grants. We announce these honors at the awards ceremony for the Spring Tournament. Nominations must be received in advance. Please, consult the MSCI website for specific application criteria, deadlines, and forms.

1. **HALL OF FAME** – MSCI is proud of its history and the coaches whose shoulders on which we stand. We preserve that history, in part, through the Hall of Fame of past coaches. Names of our Hall of Fame members are posted on the website and on a plaque displayed permanently in the Grand Hotel.
2. **COACH OF THE YEAR** – MSCI awards Coach of the Year honors in following categories: theatre, middle school, debate, forensics, and assistant coach of the year--**Application deadline listed on the nomination form posted on the website.**
3. **GENERAL GRANTS** – MSCI offers grant opportunities to members designed to help you in your role as a coach. General Grant applications can be found on the Michigan Speech Coaches website: <https://michiganspeechcoaches.org/support--grants.html>. If you have specific grant questions you can contact Charlie Rinehart at rinehart@oakland.edu.
4. **LUDUS PROFESSIONAL GRANTS** – A grant for YOU, and not specifically your team. Designed to fuel your passions and bring you joy and wellness. For more information, and to apply: <https://michiganspeechcoaches.org/ludus-grant.html>

I. REGULATIONS

1. **Curfew**--Students must comply with curfews and refrain from congregating in hallways.
 - a. On Friday and Saturday, **students must be in their assigned rooms AND QUIET by midnight.**
 - b. Tournament staff, coaches, parents, and chaperones will be expected to strictly enforce these rules for the safety of the students.
 - c. Violations outside of the hotel and within may be dealt with by Grand Hotel Security and/or the Mackinac Island Police Department at the hotel's discretion.
2. **Laws**--All laws regarding the consumption or use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs will be enforced by the hotel staff and the Island police. Smoking by all contestants is prohibited.
3. **Saturday Night After Awards - The theater will be open for students to gather. (Coaches should consider bringing cards, board games, encouraging students to plan theater games, etc.)**
4. **Supervision**--The school's head coach or faculty representative, who must be an MSCI member, is required to be at the tournament site (hotel and grounds) for the entire weekend and assume the responsibility for their students. This includes enforcing all conference rules and regulations.
 - a. HIGH SCHOOLS: Each school must provide one adult (21 years or older) chaperone for each 10 students at the conference.
 - b. MIDDLE SCHOOLS: defined as those in grades 6-8, must have one adult (21 years or older) chaperone for every 6 students at the Grand.
- c. **If students are gathering in the theater after awards, teams must provide one adult chaperone to monitor students.**
5. **Participation**--Students must participate in all preliminary rounds of competition and any elimination rounds they reach. Failure to comply will result in appropriate sanctions to the individual and the team.

J. Tournament and Spirit of Competition

1. SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

While this competition is meant to be a “fun” tournament, we expect a reasonable level of professionalism and decorum. In the “spirit of competition,” students should be prepared accordingly. Pieces should reach minimum time recommendations, be reasonably prepared, and be appropriate for presentation to a public audience (see Standards for Performance, below). Further, performance pieces should never ridicule or degrade other participants, schools, or the activity. Pieces should meet the standards for appropriateness used during the regular competition season. Failure to meet these standards may incur scoring penalties or other team sanctions determined appropriate by the tournament director and/or the MSCI Executive Board. MSCI shall base these decisions on the seriousness of the rule infringement.

2. STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE

All performances should be appropriate for a general audience. Although these presentations are not specifically designed for children, the material should be deemed suitable for family viewing. The material may contain little to no violence, no strong language, no drug use or references and no sexual dialogue or situations. The performances can contain witty jokes and humor and some snippets of language may go beyond polite conversation, but they are common everyday expressions. It is expected that in all categories these considerations will still be followed.

3. The 2024 Events

Duo Informative - (5-8 minutes) Duo Informative follows the spirit of Informative Speaking, but there are two of you!

The expectation is that the speech will be equally divided between both participants and can inform the audience on any topic that is of interest to the duo. Visual aids must be able to fit into pockets. Performances must comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. All other MIFA rules apply.

Oprah’s Prose Club - (5-8 minutes) There are over 100 books in Oprah’s Book Club and you can choose from any of them for your prose performance. Link to list of Oprah books [Here](#). Performances must comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. All other MIFA rules apply.

Putting 70s and 80s Drama in Dramatic Interp - (5-8 minutes) Putting the Drama is DI as we celebrate it during the regular season, but all content must be dramatic and published in the 1970s and 1980s. Any piece of material from those two decades is acceptable as long as it is serious. Performances must comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. All other MIFA rules apply.

Reality Television Analysis - (5-8 minutes) Reality Television Analysis is an original, persuasive speech that discusses any reality TV franchise, presenting an original analysis of the audience for a series, the arc of storylines if there is a continuing story, choices that ‘characters’ make, how editing affects what viewers see, or other analytic discussion of the elements of a series. Examples: Survivor, The Real Housewives franchise, The Great British Baking Show, America’s Next Top Model, HGTV. The speech should be presented in a persuasive manner to lead the audience to accept the presenter’s interpretation. Performances must comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. All other MIFA rules apply.

TikTok Impromptu - (6 minutes). Schools are limited to a maximum of three entries in this event. All prompts will be from trending TikTok sounds in April 2024. Each round will have a different quote that all speakers in the round will address. Students will have one minute to prep and five minutes to speak. Performances must comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. All other MIFA rules apply.

2Mini2Multiple - (7-10 minutes) 2Mini2Multiple is the presentation of a selection of prose, poetry, theatre, film, or any combination of the genres by three to five participants. Source materials for 2Mini2Multiples MUST be centered on a sequel which is defined as a story that continues a previous tale with at least one of the same characters and must NOT be a prequel even if released after an original piece had been. Examples: 2Fast2Furious (after which the event is named) Return of the Jedi, Ocean’s Twelve. The entire script (including original transitions, introductions, and conclusions) must comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. Performances must comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. All other MIFA Multiple rules apply.

Poetry Slam - Students perform their original poetry in a spoken-word competition evaluated by 5 judges (scored on a scale of 1-10, using one decimal point). Poems must be no longer than 3 minutes. Students may not use any props, stools, or musical accompaniment. Poems and physical actions must still comply with the Standards For Performance, found above. The high and low score will be dropped and the three remaining scores will be added together to determine the poet's score for the round. There will be a .5 deduction for each 10 seconds the poem goes over 3 minutes, with a 10-second grace period. This means that the penalty goes into effect at 3:11. All participants need to be prepared with a minimum of 3 poems, as students may not repeat poems and will need a third poem if they qualify for the final round. There will be 2 preliminary rounds of slam, so each poet will read at least twice. Students will be placed in sections of 4-8 for each flight. There may be 2 or more flights of slammers in each round. The final round will take place in the theatre during lunch. After finals, Slam participants will eat lunch and spend the remainder of the day participating in a writer's workshop.

Progressive Debate – In Progressive Debate individuals, as opposed to teams, debate. Debaters will present using the April NSDA Public Forum topic. There will be approximately 4-6 debaters in each round. Speaker number one will present a short constructive speech (3 minutes). Speaker two will cross examine speaker one (2 minutes). After the cross examination, speaker two will present a rebuttal to speaker one (3 minutes), then immediately move into their own constructive arguments (3 minutes). Debaters will continue until the final speaker. The first speaker will cross examine the last speaker and then present a rebuttal to the last speaker's arguments. Speakers will be scored like an individual forensic event. Judges often will be lay judges with no special debate training.

Please visit the MSCI website at www.michiganspeechcoaches.org in April for an instructional video and further information about the competitive events for this year's MSCI May Conference.

We look forward to seeing you at the Grand Hotel!

Tyler Baas-Peterson, President
Amy Janz, Past-President
Heather McKaig, President-Elect
Ruth Kay, Treasurer
Charlie Rinehart, Secretary
John Rutherford, Trustee
Beth Campbell, Trustee
Jeff Butts, Trustee