Climb Programs for
High School Students (9ᵗʰ-12ᵗʰ graders)

Winter 2026

High School students are encouraged to participate in our Speech and Congress Programs.

Register!

Locations, Dates, Times, Fees

---High School Speech Program

Online Wednesdays	**Jan 14-Mar 4 +** Mar 11 **No Class Feb 18**	**630 to 740pm**	**$319**
Redmond Wednesdays	**Jan 14-Mar 4 +** Mar 11 **No Class Jan 21, Feb 11**	**615 to 730pm**	**$369**
Seattle Sundays	**Feb 1-Feb 22 +** Mar 8* **No Class Feb 15, Mar 1**	**1230 to 150pm**	**$349**

---High School Congress Program

Online Wednesdays	**Jan 14-Mar 4 +** Mar 11* **No Class Feb 18**	**630 to 750pm**	**$319**

Each Weekday Program has 6 classes. Sunday Speech is 4 classes.

Middle school students are also in these classes.

You are encouraged to sign up for the Seattle U Tournament separately and it includes an additional preparation class on the date noted in small font above. *The cost ranges from $60 to $80. Students taking the program are prepared fully to participate in this tournament. Tournament Dates:*

Friday March 13, Online, 4 to 930pm Speech OR Congress
Sunday March 15, In Person, 2pm to 6pm Speech (no congress on Sunday)

Locations
* ONLINE is over Zoom, Link will be provided.
* REDMOND Location is Redmond ADA Studio at 16126 NE 87th St. Redmond WA 98052.
* SEATTLE Location is at Seattle University. 901 12th Ave, Seattle WA 98122.

Register!

About the Speech Program

Speech is great for students that like to work more on their own and wants to gain presentation skills including organizing material with relevant and engaging information along with good delivery.

Students in our Speech program will prepare, practice, and present a PowerPoint or Manuscripted speech and they will engage in Impromptu or Extemporaneous speaking. By the end of the program, students will have improved delivery skills, the ability to communicate ideas more clearly and effectively, and a quality speech to be proud of. Students are highly encouraged to sign up for a culminating experience in a Speech tournament at the end of the program (additional fee).

BEGINNER SPEAKERS: Students learn effective content and delivery all while gaining self-confidence. We teach students step by step how to prepare speeches. Students incorporate supporting material into their speeches that keeps audience interest and strengthens their speech argument. Students practice speaking with an emphasis on energetically connecting with their audience including poise and eye contact. Throughout, each student works with other friendly participants who are just as interested in ideas and communication.

RETURNING/EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS: Students advance their preparation, practice, and presentation skills. Experienced speakers get advanced work with our instructors to take their speeches from good to great. Students put into practice carefully crafted rhetoric that distinguishes their presentations. Students become more polished speakers delivering in a way that impresses those listening.

Yes—students can do both speech and congress programs (just pick programs that happen at different times/days).

About the Congress Program

Congress is great for students that like to work more on their own but also to reach out to others to examine, research, and discuss government policies. Students in Congress learn bill advocacy and argumentation skills.

High Schoolers in CONGRESS learn how to argue policy proposals using congressional like procedures. They will research bills, how to make a persuasive case for change, and how to question, refute, and defend their bills. As they progress, they'll learn parliamentary procedure and effective, strategic ways to advocate for and against change. This is an excellent event for students who want a balance between speaking and debating. Students are encouraged to participate in the Congress tournament shortly after the end of the class, showing off the skills and knowledge they have developed.

BEGINNERS IN CONGRESS: High School Students in Congress will learn the foundations to prepare, practice, and advocate for and against bills. Students learn how to craft a bill, how to argue for and against the bill, ask and answer challenges and questions to the bill. Throughout, students engage with other smart and collegial students who are interested in policies and the needs of our communities.

RETURNING/EXPERIENCED CONGRESS MEMBERS: Students advance their preparing, practice, and presentation skills in congressional debating. Experienced congress members work at a higher level to make their arguments the strongest possible. The result is stronger, more advanced levels of congressional argumentation.

Register!

About Fees and the Refund Policy

Lower income household? When you register, choose one of the two options for 50% or 95% fee reduction (no forms--just a click). We want our programs to be affordable to all families.

Fees include: All instruction in small 6 to 8 person labs for personalized attention, example arguments and speeches, materials with extensive tips, and a feedback system for students and parents that provides guidance for improving.

Refunds

If you drop 7 or more days before the first class, you will receive 95% refund.

If you drop 72 or more hours before the first class, you will receive 85% refund.

If you drop 24 or more hours before the second class starts, you will receive 65% refund.

If you drop 24 hours or more before the third class starts, you will receive 45% refund.

After the third class, there are no refunds.

We do NOT refund for missing a class, for being late to a class, nor for missing a tournament that is part of the program, nor for dropping the class after the first 3 classes.

Students can makeup missed classes by viewing our program's PowerPoints and/or joining the class on a different day (arrange with Jim Hanson).

You can switch days of the week at no cost IF there is space available to do so. You do not receive a refund for switching to a lower cost program unless you do so 72 hours or earlier of the first class.

You cannot switch to another session such as moving from a Fall to a Winter program.

The refund policy is based on the fact that registration processing takes our time and once we hire a staff member--we have to pay them for the entire program even when students drop and it is disruptive to teams and labs who have to be reconfigured.

Register!