**ARKANSAS COMMUNICATIONS AND THEATER ARTS ASSOCIATION**

**2020 ARKANSAS STUDENT CONGRESS RULES**

Because of Covid-19 and the guidelines in currently in place, Arkansas Student Congress as we have traditionally hosted the competition will not happen this year in person over the traditionally scheduled dates of November 8th to November 10th, 2020. The Committee is greatly saddened to have to make this decision, but we must prioritize the health and safety of our students and coaches during this time. However, the Committee is going to offer some ACTAA style events to allow students to continue to engage and learn with this competition. Hopefully, we will be back to our traditional tournament in November 2021. For ACTAA Student Congress Showcase 2020, students can compete in any (or all) of the following ways:

* author a bill to enter into the best bill competition
* pre-record and submit an authorship speech on a bill
* pre-record and submit a candidacy speech for office
* take a parliamentary test live through on online platform on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8th.

**Entry Limits:** High school delegations may enter up to 6 delegates. College delegations may enter up to eight delegates.

**Competition Categories:**

* **Best Bill** – This year, ALL delegates may submit a bill to be considered for best bill. Students may still co-author bills if they choose to do so; however, a student may only be an author or co-author on one bill and for high school students, authors and co-authors must be in the same house. Students should avoid writing bills with the same or very similar topics as those on the 2019 Short Title list.

These will be judged blindly by a neutral party. Awards will be given as follows:

* + House I  -  The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ House II - The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ House III - The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ Senate - The Top 3  will receive awards
* **Best Authorship Speech**- Students will submit an authorship speech video. These speeches should be a maximum of 3 minutes and clearly outline the need for the bill as well as how it solves. The authorship speech can be over a bill authored by that particular student, a bill from the student’s delegation, or a bill of the student’s choosing from the published Bill Book.

These will be judged in 3 prelim rounds with neutral judges. The video winners will be showcased on the ACTAA  website. Awards will be given as follows:

* + House I  -  The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ House II - The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ House III - The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ Senate - The Top 3  will receive awards

**Candidacy Speeches**- Students will submit a ‘candidacy speech’ video for any of the positions available for ACTAA Student Congress. The following positions are available for college students: Party Leader, Senate Clerk and Senate President. The following positions are available for high school students: Party Secretary, Speaker of the House (House I, II, or III), and House Clerk (House I, II, or III.

These will be judged in 3 prelim rounds with neutral judges. The video winners will be showcased on the ACTAA  website. Awards will be given as follows:

* + Democratic Party High School Candidates-  The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ Democratic Party College Candidates-  The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ Republican Party High School Candidates-  The Top 6 will receive awards
	+ Republican Party College Candidates-  The Top 6 will receive awards
* **Parliamentary Procedure Knowledge Exam-** Students will compete in a parliamentary procedure knowledge exam. Individuals who wish to take this exam need to be on the entry form that is sent in on October 2nd. This will happen on the afternoon of Sunday, November 8th live with a proctor from the ACTAA Congress Committee.

Students will be awarded ‘Superior’ and ‘Excellent’ medals based on scores on the examination.

**We will be offering sweepstakes for the 2020 ACTAA Student Congress Showcase.**

* For High School - Sweeps will be awarded by chamber similar to previous years (House I, House II, House III) along with an Overall House Sweepstake Division. The Top 3 will be recognized per House. Additionally, the Top 3 Overall winners will be recognized for High School.
* For College- This will be a single sweepstakes division. The Top 3 Colleges will be recognized.
* Points will be awarded as follows:
	+ 25 Points - 1st Place Entry
	+ 20 Points - 2nd Place Entry
	+ 15 Points - 3rd Place Entry
	+ 10 Points- 4th Place Entry
	+ 8 Points- 5th Place Entry
	+ 5 Points- 6th Place Entry

This will be the point system used for all categories. Points for each school will be totaled up by House based on all events offered.

All awards will be directly mailed to the coach listed on the entry form.

Awards for all of these events will be hosted virtually on the evening of Sunday, November 8th.