

Dear Drama Competition Chairs,

We recognize that you are the crucial, dynamic link to helping NSAL achieve a memorable Drama competition for our 75th anniversary in May of 2019. Marion Michael, the National Category Chair, and I look forward to working with you and making this a most successful and exciting competition. When you have questions, you can call either of us for help. I live in Illinois in the central time zone and Marion lives in Indiana, in the eastern time zone. That may help you plan your call times a little better, although I tend to stay up very late, so you can call me at almost any time of the day or night. I can be reached at 847-726-7127 or 847-710-7127 and you can get Marion at 812-336-5343 or 812-322-9557.

Some of you have run NSAL competitions before, but some of you are new at this. I will try to make the instructions comprehensive enough for those of you who are new. If you are a veteran Competition Chair, however, you may be able to skip over some of this information.

Because this is a National competition, we remind you that it is very important that we all follow the same rules and regulations. We want every interested, young, qualified actor to have the opportunity to apply and be judged fairly by the most competent judges you can find. While we still tend to find most of our young competitors in the theater classes of the local colleges and universities, be sure to check out acting schools and community theaters, and do not underestimate the value of social media to help in your search. It can also be very helpful if you can make arrangements for someone to visit some of the theater classes and actually talk to the students about the competition and the awards.

Guidelines to Follow as You Plan Your Drama Competition

All of this information appears on the national website in one or another of the documents posted, but these are the things to which you and your committee should pay the most attention:

1. All Chapters must require contestants to conform to all the prescribed National rules for eligibility. The most important considerations in this area are their age (contestants who have passed their 18th birthday but not yet reached their 28th birthday as of May 20th), the citizenship or legal resident requirements and the necessity for the contestant to have a social security number. Additionally, the contestant may not be under exclusive contract to a theater, film or television agent and must not be under professional management.
2. Contestants may not be related to an NSAL member who is, in any way, involved with decision making for the competition at the local or the national level and may not compete in more than one Chapter competition.
3. Upon arriving for the competition, the contestants must provide the judges with **one** copy of the play from which each of their monologues has been taken.

Contestants will identify on the front cover of each play their contestant number, character name and reference page number(s) for each of the monologues. These same copies may be used for the National competition by simply replacing the contestant's number on the front page. **We will rely on you, as the Chapter Drama Chairs, to make certain that the material comes from one of the approved playwrights on the list that is posted on the National website.**

4. The winner from each Chapter competition shall compete in the National Career Awards Competition. It is expected that every Chapter will hold a Competition. The minimum number of contestants required for a competition is three. If you have trouble attracting contestants, we will try to help you find more than the minimum required number. As soon as you make your calendar for your competition deadlines, please send that information to me and keep me posted on how many contestants you have.

Adjudication

1. Adjudication shall be done by three qualified judges having no connection with or knowledge of any of the contestants. **No judge may be a member of NSAL.** An alternate judge will be available in the event one of the judges has to disqualify himself or herself because of knowledge of a contestant.
2. Adjudication shall conform to the procedures presented under Adjudication on the National website.

Delivery of Contestants' Materials to National

1. When your winner has been determined, the application form shall be forwarded to **Judy Park** at <tlaloc31@comcast.net> as early as possible, but **no later than April 5, 2019.**
2. The following shall also be furnished by April 5:
 - a. proof of date of birth and citizenship in the form of birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers. (Do not accept a driver's license.)
 - b. a **high resolution** JPEG black and white head shot suitable for publicity and for the various programs related to the NSAL Drama Competition. The digital image should be submitted via email along with the rest of the paper work.
 - c. a check made out to NSAL by the Chapter in the amount of \$100.00. This is the Chapter's fee for participating in the National competition. **The check should be mailed to Judy Park, 3135 Shagbark Lane, Long Grove, IL 60047.**

Contestant Attendance at the National Competition

The first place winner of the Chapter competition must be in attendance at the National Drama Competition from Thursday, May 20 through Saturday evening, May 22 for the Career Awards Banquet.

The first place winner of the Chapter competition shall be sent to the National Meeting in Washington, D.C., at the expense of the sponsoring Chapter. The Chapter Competition Chair should make the arrangements for the contestant's airfare if a flight is necessary. If a contestant is driving, the Chapter should reimburse him or her for the mileage and any incidental expenses incurred during the trip and the time spent in Washington, D.C.

The registration form for the contestants' hotel rooms in Washington will be printed in the Newsletter in January. Since it is customary that the contestants room with another contestant, please fill out the information and forward the form to me (Judy Park) by email: <tlaloc31@comcast.net>. I will pair the students up and make room reservations for them. Occasionally, a contestant wishes to room alone for any number of reasons. If your Chapter wishes to incur the cost of a single room, that is your choice. Also, sometimes, a contestant comes with a spouse or parent(s) and wishes to room with them. This information should be indicated on the rooming form. It is expected that the Drama Chair (or someone representing the Chapter) will be at the meeting to pay for the contestant's room.

For additional information concerning the National Competition or clarification of any questions you may have, please contact:

Marion Michael, National Drama Chair, michael@indiana.edu, (home)—812-336-5345 or (cell)—812-322-9557.

Judy Park, National Career Awards Chair, tlaloc31@comcast.net, (home)—847-726-7127 or (cell)—847-710-7127.

Suggestions for Drama Chairs

Some people work best alone, but generally, with a job of this type, it is better to have a committee, even if that means only two people. The tasks that you will have to complete are listed below. While they do not necessarily have to be accomplished in the order listed here, the most important tasks are the first two listed. If you are totally new at the job of chairing a competition, seek out the advice of people in your Chapter who have run competitions before. There's no point in reinventing the wheel.

Establish the deadline for submission of the materials for your competition. Be sure to allow yourself enough time. **Please let me know by e-mail what date you have set as your deadline, so that, if contestants who need to be assigned to Chapters contact me, I can give them the necessary information.**

Secure the best judges you can find. You may know some well-known actors or teachers, but most of us do not. If you know that some live in your area, you might approach them to determine if they would be willing to serve as a judge. Explain who we are, and see if you can get them intrigued enough by what NSAL does to commit to helping us in this endeavor. Some of the universities have actors of renown on their faculty permanently or as visiting professors. Some of your best chances for judges are theater professors at universities, and they may also be able to suggest the names of other qualified judges. Try not to pick professors from a school where many of your contestants might be studying or have studied, because those judges may have to disqualify themselves because of knowledge of some of the contestants. It would be preferable to contact professors in schools at some distance from your Chapter. A director from a local theater or a casting director, artistic director or director from a regional theater would make an excellent judge as well, if you can find one. You will need three judges and an alternate. You might want to have an additional person or two on your list in case one of the judges has to back out at the last minute. **Please remember that members of NSAL may not be judges. Also, someone who is going to be a national judge may not judge a local competition.**

Currently, information and applications for our competitions are disseminated on line, but you may find that you need to make personal contact with a professor or department chair at the university or college in order to get the word out and secure participation. If you can't make a personal visit, at least make a call or send an email letting them know the materials are on our website. A follow-up call or e-mail to make sure that the information has been located is always a good idea, as well as few calls to see if they have been successful in generating interest in our competition.

As you begin to receive inquiries from potential contestants, try to stay in contact with them by e-mail to keep their interest piqued and to encourage them to apply. Keep reminding them of the deadline for submitting their application.

As soon as your first place winner has been determined, email the required materials to me: contestant application form; proof of citizenship; social security number; high-resolution, black and white head shot in jpg format. **The deadline for submitting these items is April 5th. Do not forget to mail me the \$100 check made out to NSAL for the contestant's participation fee. (Judy Park, 3135 Shagbark Lane, Long Grove, IL 60047.)** I will contact you by e-mail to let you know that I have received your materials.

As mentioned earlier, it is your job to secure the airfare for your contestant. If the contestant lives within driving distance of Washington, D.C., and plans to arrive by car, he/she should be reimbursed for mileage and given money for food and incidental expenses that will be incurred while in attendance at the meeting.

Although these contestants will be of an age that they do not need a chaperone, it is required that someone from the Chapter be present at the National Convention to be their sponsor, to attend the orientation with them on Thursday and to make them feel welcome among us. It is best that you, as the Competition Chair, be that person. If you are unable

to attend, please designate someone from your Chapter to go in your place. It is always a great feeling to hear the name of your contestant read out as one of the National winners. That is your reward for all of the hard work you have done. You shouldn't miss it!

That is all I can think of at this time, but I will be in touch as new things develop. Marion and I wish you great success in your efforts to help NSAL find some of the next generation of successful actors.

Good luck to you all and best wishes for an exciting competition,

Judy Park

Career Awards Chair