



Recording NSDA Points is Easy and Essential

Are you also a member of the National Speech and Debate Association? The point system employed by NSDA serves a number of purposes. First and foremost, **it provides your students levels of recognition in the honor society.** Any time students compete at a tournament, they earn points based on how well they did. Students can also earn points for service (public speaking, drama performances, middle school coaching, or volunteering). Reaching different levels (degrees) is a cause for celebration! Students can have seals on their diplomas corresponding to their highest level of recognition, as well as degree seals on their membership certificates. When students earn 750 points, they can be eligible for the Academic All-American Award, another high recognition (and a letter gets sent to your principal -- free publicity for your team!). NSDA points are also essential for competition at tournaments -- **a student must earn 25 points to become a member, and only members may compete at the district tournament.**

Points are also important on a larger level because they indicate school and district health. **For a school to be considered a charter chapter, it must earn 50 degrees in a three-year period.** The degrees are the levels that students (and thus coaches) reach. Why is it important to be a charter school? First of all, it's school recognition. Secondly, one of the ways our district is evaluated is by the number of charter chapters. If we have 24 active charter chapters in a school year, **we can send the maximum number of students to nationals the following year.** We want as many students as possible to represent Team Kentucky! This is only possible if you record points and earn/maintain charter status. Of course, not all schools can be charter chapters. But all schools can work to send as many students as they can to the district tournament to try to qualify for nationals. The number of entries you can have at the district tournament is dependent on how many degrees you have. Thus, **the more points you enter, the more students you can send to the district tournament.**

Junior division folks: Are you a NSDA member middle school? When students join a NSDA member high school, the points they earned as middle schoolers transfer over, giving them a head start in the high school honor society! If your team plans on attending middle school NSDA Nationals this summer (it's open to all member schools), you can bring high schoolers judges provided they meet the point requirement.

Recording points is easy! When you [link your NSDA roster to Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com), you only have to click a few buttons after a tournament has ended to record your team's points. Log into your NSDA account and click "Enter Points" on the left side menu. The tournament will be imported and you can review and add points. This is also where you can easily [add points manually](#) -- service points or tournament experiences that didn't link.

Get the most out of your NSDA membership -- record your points!