

MDUDL

SPEAK. THINK. LEAD.

MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



MDUDL 2026 SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE KICKOFF

We are excited to see you August 2, 2026 for our first day of Summer Debate Institute! Our virtual kickoff will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM. All students registered for camp should have received an email with the kickoff link. All coaches also received the kickoff link.

Students will receive lab assignments and locations at the virtual kickoff for all in person days.

Please remember to bring:

- Your laptop (or technology)
- Water bottle
- Notebook/Pens
- A sweater - sometimes classrooms can be chilly!

Students and parents, please reach out to your coach directly for any questions.



www.miamiudl.org



@miamiurbandebate

2026 SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE STAFF



DEVEN COOPER

Deven Cooper is the current Vice President of the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) and Director of Debate at CSU Long Beach, where he coaches multiple formats of intercollegiate debate, including Policy, Parliamentary, IPDA. Cooper was the CEDA National Champion in 2008, a finalist at the 2009 CEDA, and a quarterfinalist at the 2009 National Debate Tournament while he attended Towson University. At the 78th National Debate Tournament he was recognized as the 2024 Ross K Smith Coach of the Year.



JAYSYN GREEN

Jaysyn Green began her debate career in 2011 through World Schools Debate and mock trial, developing a passion for advocacy and competition. She competed in both speech and debate at California State University, Long Beach, qualifying twice for AFA Nationals in speech. Jaysyn concluded her collegiate career as a two-time CEDA All-American and qualified for the 2020 National Debate Tournament. She now coaches at CSU Long Beach, The Harker School, and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League and was named the 2026 Matthew Grindy Outstanding Graduate Student Coach.



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ISAIAH SALGADO

Isaiah Salgado has spent the past decade developing as both a competitor and coach in speech and debate. He competed in Public Forum and Policy Debate at California State University, Fullerton, where he served as Debate Team President and earned NCAA All-American recognition. Isaiah has coached at CL Academy, The Harker School, SVUDL, and LAMDL, and taught history at Fusion Academy. Beginning in fall 2026, he joins the coaching staff for the Policy Debate team at California State University, Long Beach.



DANIEL MEDINA

Daniel Medina is a rising junior at CSU Long Beach, where they compete in intercollegiate policy debate. Daniel has earned multiple speaker awards and advanced to numerous elimination rounds. Most recently, they were ranked as the fifth team in the nation, earning a spot as a Copeland Award panelist. Daniel reached the final round of the 80th National Debate Tournament and the CEDA semifinals. They also coach Huntington Park High School, adapting their coaching style to support students with diverse backgrounds and goals.



2026 SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE STAFF



MICHAEL PORRAS

Michael Porras is a student at Florida International University with a passion for debate, leadership, and civic engagement. He has served as an instructor at the University of Miami Debate Summer Institute, mentoring students in research, argumentation, public speaking, and competitive debate. As a competitor, Michael represented Florida at the NAUDL National Policy Debate Tournament and competed in Mock Trial. At FIU, he serves as BRIDGE Chapter President, a Model United Nations team member, and Student Government Senator.



SEBASTIAN JERI

Sebastian Jeri grew up in Upstate New York, where he led his high school Mock Trial club and supported fellow students in debate. After moving to Miami, he joined the Speech and Debate Forensics Society at Miami Dade College, where he developed his skills as a collegiate debater and reached multiple final rounds. Sebastian also works as an English tutor, creating resources to support his students' learning beyond the classroom. He is passionate about mentorship, advocacy, and helping others grow.



2026 SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE STAFF



ALESSANDRA ESCOBAR

Alessandra Escobar is an undergraduate student at California State University, Long Beach, pursuing a degree in English Literature with an expected graduation in Spring 2027. As the daughter of Honduran immigrants and a bilingual student from East Los Angeles, she is passionate about advocacy, education, and centering Latine voices in academia. Alessandra is an active member of the CSU Long Beach Debate Forensics Team and hopes to pursue graduate studies in Latin American Studies, focusing on politics, migration, and writing that reflects her community and experiences.



MARTIN SAENZ

Martin Saenz is a college student, policy debater, writer, and youth health advocate from Los Angeles, California. He began debating as a high school sophomore and was named Los Angeles' 2023 New Debater of the Year. Martin went on to become a four-time Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League tournament winner, NAUDL semifinalist and top speaker, and earned a TOC bid. He has coached Huntington Park High School's debate team while continuing his work in youth advocacy, journalism, and community engagement.



2026 SUMMER DEBATE INSTITUTE STAFF



ISABELLA BARRETO

Isabella Barreto is a student at Miami Dade College pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Mass Communications. She has developed strong skills in leadership, public speaking, research, and communication through her involvement with MDC's The Reporter and Forensic Society. Through her academic and extracurricular experiences, Isabella continues to strengthen her ability to analyze issues, engage diverse audiences, and advocate through effective storytelling and public discourse. She is passionate about communication, learning, and empowering others through education.



DOMINIQUE SALAZAR

Dominique Salazar is a pre-law student, bilingual administrative professional, and competitive debater with a passion for advocacy, public speaking, and lifelong learning. Through experiences in debate, mock trial, legal internships, and leadership roles, Dominique has developed strong skills in critical thinking, research, and persuasive communication. As a debate mentor and assistant coach, she works to help students build confidence, strengthen argumentation skills, and achieve their goals while continuing to grow as an advocate and future trial attorney.



INFORMATION STATION

What Should I Bring to Camp?

Please make sure to bring the following items each day:

1. Laptop or Chromebook - **MUST HAVE!**
2. Notebook or Legal Pad – for notes, drills, and prep work
3. Pens and Highlighters – bring multiple for color-coded notes and flowcharts
4. Chargers – for any electronic devices
5. Refillable Water Bottle – hydration is key
6. Sunscreen or Light Jacket – some activities may be outdoors or in cold classrooms
7. Personal Snacks – if desired, in addition to provided breakfast and lunch



2026-2027 SY CALENDAR

3-6 AUG MONDAY- WEDNESDAY	12 SEP SATURDAY	17 OCT SATURDAY
Location: University of Miami	Location: MDC - North	Location: MDC - Hialeah
Arrival: 7:00 AM	Arrival: 7:00 AM	Arrival: 7:00 AM
7 NOV SATURDAY	12 DEC SATURDAY	23 JAN SATURDAY
Location: MDC - Kendall	Location: Barry University	Location: MDC North
Arrival: 7:00 AM	Arrival: 7:00 AM	Arrival: 7:00 AM
20 FEB SATURDAY	19-21 MAR FRIDAY- SUNDAY	TBA TBA
Location: FIU Biscayne	Location: High School Nationals Wake Forest University	Location: Middle School Nationals Virtual
Arrival: 7:00 AM	Arrival: N/A	Arrival: N/A



2026–2027 SY CALENDAR

TBA TBA	TBA	1 MAY	SATURDAY
CD3		Inaugural Award Gala	
Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. U.S. Courthouse		Briza on the Bay	
Arrival: TBA		Arrival: 6:00 PM	

