Greetings Volunteers,

Welcome to the Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL) community! Thank you for your willingness to support us. Our mission at SVUDL is to empower Silicon Valley students, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status, to reach their full potential to become professional and community leaders by teaching critical thinking and communication skills through speech and debate programming. When you volunteer your time to serve, you are helping to advance that mission.

As you serve our students, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team. We are here to support your efforts and look forward to building critical skills in our students, particularly as they unpack the timely and complex topic of criminal justice reform. If there is anything we can do or provide to enhance your experience volunteering with us, please let us know!

Sincerely,

Rolland Janairo, Executive Director
Silicon Valley Urban Debate League

Volunteer Opportunities

At each of our partner schools, Teacher Coaches prepare students to compete in one of two activities:

**Speech**

Students primarily compete in impromptu, extemporaneous, oral interpretation, and dramatic interpretation. If you have experience either as a competitor or a professional who uses public speaking skills in the workplace, or if you have an interest in the dramatic arts, we would love to connect you with students who are passionate about Speech in our partner schools!

**Debate**

Students primarily compete in policy debate. This year’s resolution states, “The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.” If you have experience in the field of criminal justice, a background as a competitor in debate, or a professional in a field related to politics and the law, we would love to connect you with students who are passionate about debate in our partner schools!
Here are ways you can volunteer to support Speech and Debate students:

**Assist Speech and Debate practices at one of our partner schools.**

Each of our schools has a different online practice schedule. Assistants help our coaches to teach key concepts that both beginning and advanced students need for competitive success. They judge practice rounds, and help students practice public speaking and argument construction. They help us build a community of learning at each of our partner schools!

**Judge at a Speech and Debate tournament.**

Here is a calendar of virtual tournaments. At each tournament, we need judges! Judges volunteer their time to decide preliminary and elimination rounds at tournaments sponsored by SVUDL or partner leagues. These are typically held on the weekend and last 1-2 days. Judges can sign up to judge one round, one day, or a whole weekend, depending on their schedule. They help us to grow our students’ skills in a constructive competitive environment alongside members of other high schools from throughout California and the nation.

**Introduce a specialized skill or topic lecture to our students on our Discord virtual community.**

We announce specialist lectures and skill building sessions to our partner schools and students periodically, and only need a two-week period prior to the proposal of a workshop to advertise it at our partner schools. We have held forums with members of the legal and business community, invited college students and former competitors to lecture on various styles and topics of argumentation, and invited professors to lecture our students on the academic topics intersecting with Speech and Debate.

**Support Tournament Operations.**

The logistics of running a major tournament require a team effort. Student volunteers with administrative skills and are able to help us with tournament organization and administration. If you are a high school or college student in need of service hours, our team is happy to verify your volunteer support with your teachers or professors. All volunteers are required to pass a background check prior to volunteering with SVUDL.

No matter how you choose to serve, we can use your passion and experience to enrich our community. Together, we empower students in our league to develop skills they can carry with them to college and the workplace and cast a vision for ways they can use those skills to change their world!

**CONTACT US TODAY**

e-mail us at info@svudl.org OR call us at (408)337-2493