

*Congratulations!*

**YOU MADE IT TO THE  
STATE FINALS  
OF  
POWER OF THE PEN**

---

THE COLLEGE OF  
**WOOSTER**

---

May 26th and May 27th, 2011

*Here is What has been Planned for You...*

**GENERAL INFORMATION & CONFERENCE FEES**

The College of Wooster, founded in 1866, is a coeducational undergraduate college of the liberal arts and sciences located 55 miles southwest of Cleveland. It is noted for being the home of the Ohio Light Opera Company, for its renowned Scot Marching Band, and for its Independent Study Program.

Since all activities relating to the tournament take place on its beautiful campus within a very tight time frame, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of one of several on-campus options available to you: 1) meals, lodging and activities for both Thursday and Friday, for \$130 per person (double room occupancy); 2) Thursday and Friday meals and activities, for \$50 per person, or 3) Friday only meals and activities \$40 per person. A very small number of single rooms are available at \$150 (meals and activities included).

**Conference I.D. Pass:** *Every participant conferee* at the State Tournament– student, adult, teacher, guest– is expected to carry a “Conference I. D. Pass” at all times. This is a “ticket of admission” to all campus facilities, Power of the Pen conference activities, and events. There is no additional charge for the “Conference I.D. Pass” for those who have selected one of the Power of the Pen-sponsored room/board options above.

Those who do NOT opt to take advantage of one of the on-campus room and board arrangements must pay a \$25 fee for their “Conference I.D. Pass”. Please note that this is a “cover charge” designed to defray the costs not only of the College facilities for hosting the tournament itself but also for all the chargeable “extras” that are there to be used and enjoyed by all participants and guests: auditoriums and assembly space, security and janitorial services, bowling, billiards, zumba, DJ dance, beverages and snacks, expenses for the guest author, etc.

**THURSDAY ACTIVITIES**

To reap the maximum enjoyment from this State event, we encourage schools to arrive on Thursday, May 26th. The College of Wooster is opening five large residence halls to accommodate students, parents (who are welcome to attend), and teachers along with access to their recreational and supporting facilities. A DJ dance at 7:30 P.M. in Lowry Center will allow young writers to make friends and have fun while coaches register early and attend a preliminary orientation session. Other reasons for arriving Thursday are avoiding the hassle of registering on Friday morning; enjoying a more leisurely and in-depth judge orientation; and locating convenient parking for your school bus or car.

This year, because of major construction, Timken Gymnasium and the swimming pool are not available for use. FINDING AND RETAINING A PARKING SPACE MAY NOT BE EASY; THIS IS GOOD REASON FOR TAKING YOUR MEALS ON CAMPUS.

Rooms in the residence halls will be available at 12:00 Noon on Thursday for those arriving early. Games, bowling, crafts, tennis, music, and other activities will be offered. The dance (chaperoned by teachers and parents), will be held from 7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on the outdoor back patio of Lowry Center, weather permitting. Power of the Pen T-shirts, souvenirs and author books will be on sale Thursday night in the Lowry Center Lounge. Sale items will also be available on Friday.

Power of the Pen is renting the College’s bowling lanes, including bowling shoes. Please wear socks if you plan to bowl.

Dinner will take place in the Lowry Dining Room, Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 P.M. (Group A) and 6:30 - 7:15 (Group B). Pop and snacks will be served at the dance, and there will be drawings for door prizes.

Schools planning to arrive after 8:00 P.M. will have to make special arrangements in advance with Power of the Pen's State Office for picking up keys to the residence halls.

### **FRIDAY ARRIVALS**

Schools which have chosen to arrive on Friday may make reservations for breakfast and lunch (and afternoon snack) at a fee of \$40 per person— student or adult. Those who arrive on Thursday but are not staying in the dorm may reserve Thursday dinner meal tickets for an extra \$10 (use the Meal Reservation Form to reserve these Thursday dinner tickets. These food prices include the cost of activities.). Schools which choose to make their own food arrangements off-campus are cautioned that while there are many fast food restaurants in Wooster, strict adherence to the conference schedule must be observed. **ONCE A PARKING PLACE HAS BEEN VACATED, IT MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE UPON RETURN. IT IS THEREFORE HIGHLY ADVISABLE TO REMAIN ON CAMPUS. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO OPTS NOT TO EAT ON CAMPUS THERE IS STILL A \$25-PER-PERSON FEE FOR THE CONFERENCE I.D. PASS.**

### **OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students staying in residence halls are supervised by parents and teachers. Separate buildings have not been designated for boys and girls. Room assignments are made in pairs (two girls to one room, or two boys to one room). A very limited number of triples are available and will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. Those who want the privacy of a single room will have to pay \$150— which covers room, meals, and all conference activities. (The cost of a single room is higher because a single means the loss of a room that two or more could share.)

Five residence halls will be open for overnight guests: Bornhuetter, Compton, Holden, Kenarden, and Luce (see locations on map). All meals will be served in Lowry Center on Thursday. Friday meals will be served in Lowry and Kittredge.

**No students may stay in a dorm without adult supervision.** If a contestant is accompanied by a parent instead of a teacher, the parent is required to remain on campus at all times. (Parents may elect to share a room with their child on campus.) If a student arrives without any adult supervisor, that student is prohibited from participating. A school that sends no school representative must provide Power of the Pen in advance with the name, address, and home telephone number of the adult chaperone. We request that the lodging registration form clearly states the relationship of the chaperone to the contestant(s). If a student or adult has special needs, they must be communicated to the State Office of Power of the Pen by e-mail or fax before the event.

**Please be advised that only a limited number of meal tickets will be sold on campus for unexpected guests.** Campus Dining Service must know in advance the numbers they will serving. If you do not reserve and prepay meal tickets, you must bring food or be prepared to have someone drive off-campus to obtain it or eat in the College Snack Bar. **PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT FOR EACH PERSON WHO OPTS NOT TO EAT ON CAMPUS THERE IS STILL A \$25 CHARGE FOR A CONFERENCE I.D. PASS.** (This charge covers a part of the College's fees for the use of its various facilities, classrooms, recreational facilities including the bowling lanes, and the college personnel assigned thereto. This cover charge also helps to defray a portion of the costs for the Guest Author, DJ dance, and incidental snacks and beverages served at various times and at various campus locations.)

### **FOOD & LODGING- RESERVATIONS AND SPECIAL REQUESTS**

All reservations for meals and lodging should be mailed to Power of the Pen. **The deadline for receiving reservations is May 10th. Reservations may also be made by FAX (330-659-6291), by phone (330-659-3226), or by e-mail (webmaster@powerofthepen.org).** Power of the Pen's State Office will answer any queries you may have or attempt to assist you make arrangements for students or adults with special needs, but we ask that you state clearly, in advance, and in writing— what those special needs are and how we can best be of assistance. Credit cards may not be used to pay for fees due. ***We urge everyone to pay or provide a PO # in advance to avoid problems at registration.***

## **RESIDENCE HALL SECURITY and CURFEW RULES**

The College of Wooster has a highly efficient security system. All residence halls have automatic lock systems, and there are Security Guards patrolling the campus at all times. Please advise students that after the dance on Thursday night, all contestants must report to their residence halls by 11:00 P.M. and observe a Midnight curfew. This means that students are to be in their own rooms and quiet by 12:00 Midnight. Those who create a disturbance risk disqualification of their schools from tournament competition.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

The College will be providing one blanket and one pillow, but NO linens (towels, washcloths, sheets). This means you should plan to bring either linens or a sleeping bag to make up your bed. You should also bring towels, washcloths, and soap. You may want to bring a robe since bathrooms are a short walk down the hall. It is also advisable to include umbrellas or rain gear in case of rain. Guests may also want to bring bowling shoes, and other recreational equipment. Bowling shoes will be provided for those who wear socks.

**Contestants must bring their own pens and (optional) rough draft paper for the tournament. Black medium point ball points work best. No notes, books, cell phones, or computer aids of any kind are permitted in the writing rooms; *you risk disqualification if you break this rule.***

## **PARKING**

Parking on campus is limited. School busses are advised to park behind Lowry Center. Those arriving for the Friday assembly and/or Awards Program should plan to arrive earlier to allow sufficient time for parking at a distance and walking to McGaw. Parking locations include: the space behind McGaw; the lot behind Freedlander Theater, across from McGaw, accessible off Bever Street; the lot between Holden Residence Hall and the football stadium, accessible off East University Street; the lots between Scheide Music Hall, Luce Residence Hall, and College-owned houses off East University Street; and the lot behind houses at the corner of Beall and Wayne Avenues.

## **INFORMATION TENT**

On Friday, a tent will be set up near McGaw and staffed to provide information. This Information Center also serves as a Lost and Found center, the sales center for books, souvenirs, and T-shirts; and marks the area where a refreshment snack is served on Friday afternoon.

## **REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Schools should make sufficient copies of the enclosed campus map and schedule to share with extra parent visitors. Extra copies of the campus map and the schedule of events will be available at the Information Tent.

**Thursday Arrivals:** Once on campus, follow your map to Lowry Center to check in and obtain your room assignment, key, and Conference I.D. Pass.

There is parking behind Lowry Center to use temporarily before you check into your rooms. Registration begins at 12:00 Noon.

**Friday Arrivals:** If you have prepaid your breakfast and lunch tickets, you may go directly to Lowry Center to pick up your meal tickets and passes, and then have breakfast. Then register at the Scheide Music Center afterwards. If you are **not** purchasing meals on campus, you pick up your I.D. passes at Lowry and then register at Scheide from 7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M. Friday morning. A pre-Tournament Assembly will take place at 9:00 A.M. in McGaw. If for any reason you arrive too late to go to the Scheide Music Center first, packets and meal tickets will be waiting for you at McGaw (stage area) and thereafter at the Information Tent. **Please note that all Judges are required to attend an Orientation session in Scheide- listed on the Schedule.**

## TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS

Please note that the College no longer provides telephones in the residence halls. Guests are free to use personal cell phones but NOT in the writing rooms. *Cell phones should also be turned off in all assemblies.*

## OPENING ASSEMBLY

**The Opening Assembly at McGaw is primarily for the benefit of Contestants and Judges.** A parent acting in the place of a Judge should also attend. To avoid overcrowding, Ballot Runners will NOT go to McGaw; they will, instead, go directly to their assigned buildings. Visitors on campus (that means all additional family members who have no specific role in the writing process) may enjoy a cup of coffee in the Snack Bar on the lower level of Lowry Center; enjoy the beauty of the campus; return to the residence halls; or report to the Tab Room (Freedlander Theater Lobby) to lend assistance as needed. Coffee, snacks, and lunch will be provided at no charge to volunteers who assist in the Tab Room. PLEASE REMEMBER- AS A 501-C3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WE HIGHLY VALUE VOLUNTEER HELP. *NOTE:* This year the Campus Dining Service will have the Old Main Cafe open on Friday, from 7 A.M. - 11 A.M. for quick coffee and snacks.

## VOLUNTEERS

Student Ballot Runners and adult Tab Room workers are needed to help if the Friday competition is to run smoothly. Please let us know in advance if parents are planning to participate as volunteers. Runners MUST arrive Thursday, and be on hand to attend a special orientation session at Mateer Auditorium at 3:00 P.M.

A "Contract of Commitment" is required of all student volunteers. Contracts must be signed and returned to Power of the Pen by May 10th. A "Contestant Information" form is also required for each volunteer. Students who attend the conference as volunteers must still pay the fees for meals and lodging required of all contestant writers.

## TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The tournament will follow a format that consists of three morning rounds for all writers. The top 54 contestants from each grade level (approximately 18%) who make it to the ONE afternoon final Power Round- Round IV- will be informed at the McGaw assembly after lunch. Three (or two) judges will be assigned to ALL rounds of competition. Judges will conference by pairing and make decisions on single ballots. To facilitate early departure from campus, there is no Fifth Round. In its place, a panel of Judges will read #1 and #2 papers from the Power Round and award additional bonus points of 1 - 10. Each round of writing is 35 minutes long.

## AWARDS

Certificates for all contestants, savings bonds and plaques, and various special awards will be presented at an Awards Assembly in McGaw at approximately 4:00 P.M. There will also be awards for writers who have won recognition for Best Responses to single topics written at the thirteen Regional tournaments (Best of the Best). Special awards in the categories of Humor and Poetry will also be included.

Schools are requested and strongly advised to remain on campus through the final awards ceremony. A great deal of planning has gone into providing a full day of activities for students, and you are responsible for remaining on campus until the conclusion of the day's activities. Schools which are eliminated and choose to leave earlier will not be eligible for Regional Best of the Best Awards. These will not be announced until the Awards Program.

**Any school or contestant not present to receive an award in person will be disqualified from receiving it. Contestants who have won a Regional Best of Round are strongly advised to remain through the conclusion of this program in case you are selected to receive an additional award.**

## TAKE-HOME PACKETS

Take-home packets containing all writing at this event, ballots designating scores received and Judges' comments, and certificates for each contestant will be available for pickup in the Lobby of Freedlander Theater after the Awards program. Schools which opt to leave campus early may contact the State Office to make special arrangements **AFTER** the tournament is over to pay for the mailing of these materials. Post-tournament stats—including the announcement of State Best of Best Awards— will be sent within 7 - 10 days after the College of Wooster State Finals. We will also post results on the website ([www.powerofthepen.org](http://www.powerofthepen.org)).

### **PAYMENT OF CONFERENCE FEES**

A check or Purchase Order Number must be received by May 10th, to confirm reservations. All past due fees should also be paid by that time. If you are in doubt whether you have any outstanding fees, please call Power of the Pen at the number designated below. If students, parents and other teachers are paying for meals and lodging individually, please collect all fees for your group and forward a lump payment from your school. If this is not feasible, please advise individual check-writers to identify the school and city/town/village with which they are associated. Record-keeping for this event is a massive job, and you must keep in mind that there are many schools in Ohio which have the same name. **Please identify your reservations and remittances clearly.** Make all checks payable to: **POWER OF THE PEN.**

### **DISCLAIMER**

By participating in the Power of the Pen State tournament at The College of Wooster on May 26th - May 27th, 2011, participants and their parents or guardians agree to release, discharge, and/or otherwise indemnify the Power of the Pen, its affiliated organizations and sponsors, their employees, officers, directors and agents, and the College of Wooster, against any claim by or on behalf of the registrant as a result of the registrant's participation in the Power of the Pen State tournament.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have any questions or special concerns relating to the State Tournament, contact Lorraine Merrill, Executive Director, at **Power of the Pen**: 330-659-3226, or FAX your query to Power of the Pen at 330-659-6291. Our e-mail address is [webmaster@powerofthepen.org](mailto:webmaster@powerofthepen.org).

### **Power of the Pen**

Interscholastic Writing Tournaments for Young Writers  
Box 442 Richfield Ohio 44286  
Telephone: 330-659-3226 FAX 330-659-6291  
e-mail: [webmaster@powerofthepen.org](mailto:webmaster@powerofthepen.org)

## ***Things You Can Do to Help Insure the Success of this Event***

The teachers who work so diligently behind the scenes in this remarkable annual event do so without compensation. They offer their time so selflessly because they are dedicated to the program and its educational mission as a non-profit organization.

You can do *your* part by—

- 1) helping us reduce the long lines, delays, and aggravation at Registration. *Pay ALL fees due well in advance of the event.*
- 2) encouraging parents to offer their time as volunteer workers in the Tab Room at Freedlander.
- 3) selecting and bringing along responsible non-writing classmates as Runners. In addition to providing a source of encouragement to their school's official team members, they will be acting in a much needed, and greatly appreciated support role for a worthwhile activity involving more than 1,200 students and teachers from across the State of Ohio.

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER**

- *It is advised that you use the directions that follow to get to Lowry Center for Registration.*
- *Gasche Street will be closed due to construction.*
- *It is highly recommended for Friday arrivals that you come early to find parking on campus.*

### **Lowry Center address for your GPS:**

**1189 Beall Avenue Wooster, Ohio 44691**

*Please note that the directions below lead you to Lowry Center.*

### **From Canton:**

- **Rte 30 W for 30 miles to Madison Avenue Exit in Wooster**
- **Turn right off exit and proceed into Wooster on Bever Street**
- **Turn right onto E Bowman Street**
- **Turn left onto Beall Avenue**
- **Lowry Center will be on the right hand side after University Street.**

### **From Akron:**

- **I 76W to Rte 21 S**
- **Rte 21 S to Rte 585**
- **Rte 585 W for 21 miles into Wooster**
- **Rte 585 turns into Bowman Street**
- **Turn right onto Beall Avenue**
- **Lowry Center will be on the right hand side after University Street.**

### **From Cleveland:**

- **1 71 S to Rte 83 (Wooster Exit)**
- **South on Rte 83 for 14 miles to Wooster**
- **Once you enter Wooster, turn right at Friendsville Road**
- **Go through 4 stoplights until Burbank becomes Bever Street (stay in left lane)**
- **Turn left on Wayne Avenue**
- **Turn right onto Beall Avenue**
- **Lowry Center will be on the left hand side before University Street**

### **From Columbus:**

- **1 71 N to Rte 30 E**
- **Rte 30 E for 28 miles into Wooster**
- **Exit onto Madison Avenue**
- **Turn right off exit and proceed into Wooster on Bever Street**
- **Turn right onto E. Bowman Street**
- **Turn left onto Beall Avenue**
- **Lowry Center will be on the right hand side after University Street**

*Please be aware that new construction of the Scot Recreational Center is underway and will continue into 2012 in the area of Armington Physical Education Center, located behind Lowry Center. This will be an active work zone, with dump trucks and other heavy equipment. It is critical that pedestrians exercise extreme caution when moving near this location.*