



**CITY:** Auburn, Alabama. This is the end of the semester at Auburn University and the library at which I hold these F.E.S.T.s will have extended hours in anticipation of the upcoming Finals Week. For me this is an opportunity to offer *a lot* more Scrabble games... and I plan to make the most of it! **You may play in any or all of the five events mentioned below.**

#### **DATES/TIMES:**

- Friday, 24 April 2026, **5 game Early Bird**, check-in at 6:00pm.
- Saturday, 25 April 2026, **7 game Main Event**, check-in at 9:00am.
- Saturday, 25 April 2026, **5 game Night Bird #1**, check-in at 6:00pm.
- Sunday, 26 April 2026, **5 game Late Bird**, check-in at 11:00am.
- Sunday, 26 April 2026, **5 game Night Bird #2**, check-in at 6:00pm.

Games will begin within 30 minutes of check-in times.

#### **GAMES/PAIRINGS:**

For all events, the exact pairing systems will be determined when the rosters are finalized. Generally, I will try to have each division size be the tourney length +1, so that we play a true Round Robin. For each event the number of registrants is capped at 32 players, Gibson Rule used if needed, and NWL23 lexicon used. These will be a fully rated NASPA tournaments.

**ENTRY FEES:** \$5 per game (example, if you plan to play in the Main Event, Night Bird #1, and the Late Bird, that will be 17 games total... so \$85). If you have any questions about how much the entry fee will be, contact me beforehand, and I'll calculate it.

**Players must be active NASPA members.** Visit [www.scrabbleplayers.org](http://www.scrabbleplayers.org) to renew your NASPA membership.

**PRIZES:** All money from entry fees (less ratings fees to NASPA) is returned as cash prizes. Prizes awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places in every division, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in divisions of 8 players. A "High Loss" prize is also awarded in each division for each round. **There will also be a special prize of a custom-made metal tile rack awarded to the single**

**player who wins the most games over the whole weekend (regardless of which divisions played in) -- see end of this flyer for pictures.**

**EQUIPMENT:** Please bring your boards, tiles, and clocks. If there is not enough equipment, players who have brought equipment will have play-priority over those who did not (and those stuck without equipment will have to forfeit rounds).

**VENUE:** The "Mell Classroom Atrium" attached to Auburn University's Ralph B. Draughon Library. The library will already be open on Friday when the Early Bird is scheduled. The library opens at exactly 9:00am on Saturday and 11:00am on Sunday (hence the start times of those events). **No parking tags are needed to park on the campus after after 5:30pm Friday or anytime during the weekend.** Easiest access is to park on the top level (open sky above you) of the parking deck off Roosevelt Drive. When you walk into the library's South Entrance, go past the circulation desk to the elevator. Take the elevator to the 2nd Floor, and upon exiting the elevator go LEFT (if you've taken the stairs, go RIGHT). You will pass by a Panera Bread restaurant and go down stairs to the atrium. (You should also be able to ask any library employee where the "Mell Classroom Building Atrium" is.) You *are* allowed to bring food into the library if you want to bring your own food or snacks.

**HOTELS:** If anyone is planning to stay the night in Auburn before, between, or after the events, there are plenty of hotel choices. The closest would be The Hotel at Auburn University which is, literally, right across College Street from the Ralph B. Draughon Library. Less expensive choices are available, including plenty near the interstate (Exit #51) on South College Street (taking College Street north, away from the I-85 exit, leads you directly toward the university/library/parking deck). AirBnB is an option, too, of course.

**PAYMENT/REGISTER:** To tentatively register, send me, Eric Harshbarger, an email at [eric@ericharshbarger.org](mailto:eric@ericharshbarger.org) (or text me at 334-821-6616) stating your intent to show up. You must at least tentatively register by 11:59pm, Thursday, 23 April. If you are sure which of the events you will be playing in, you may pay me the appropriate entry fee total beforehand via Paypal (to the email address above). If you are unsure which events you will be participating in, you may also just bring cash and pay me at the appropriate check-in time.

**CONTACT:** My email address is [eric@ericharshbarger.org](mailto:eric@ericharshbarger.org). My phone number is 334-821-6616 in case you need to call or text before/during the tourney.

**WEBSITE:** To see more information about my Scrabble tournaments (as well as NASPA club #903), visit <http://www.ericharshbarger.org/scrabble/tourneys/>

**SPECIAL PRIZE:** To encourage participation in as many events as possible, a custom-made metal rack will be awarded to the single player (besides myself) who wins the most games throughout the whole weekend. Which divisions that player may have played in is irrelevant; I will simply keep a running tally, across all five tourneys of the weekend, and whoever wins the most total games will get the rack. (So, obviously, the *more* games you play, the better your chance at winning this prize.) Below are a few pictures of the rack. (tiles are *not* included in the prize).

[pics to come]