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DATES/TIMES:

- Saturday, 3 October 2026, **7-game Main Event**, check-in at 9:00am.
- Sunday (afternoon), 4 October 2026, **5-game Late Bird**, check-in at 1:00pm.

Games begin about 20 minutes after check-in times and should finish between 4-5:00pm each day. **All listed times are in Central Time Zone.**

CITY: Auburn, Alabama.

GAMES/PAIRINGS: Division sizes will be based, at the discretion of the director, upon number of entrants and ratings of entrants. For each event: registrants capped at 40 players, Gibson Rule used if needed, and NWL23 lexicon used. These are fully rated NASPA tournaments.

ENTRY FEES: \$35 for Main Event, \$25 for Late Bird. You may play in either or both events. **If you play in both, you get a \$10 discount on the registration fee (\$50 total).** Registration is *free* if you have never played in a NASPA tournament before. Players must be active NASPA members (visit www.scrabbleplayers.org to join or renew membership). No walk-in participants allowed.

PRIZES: All money from entry fees (less ratings fees to NASPA) is returned as cash prizes. Prizes awarded to 1st and 2nd places in every division, and 3rd place in divisions of 8 players. A “High Loss” prize is also awarded in each division for each round.

EQUIPMENT: Please bring your boards, tiles, and clocks if you have them.

VENUE: **Room 3550 in the Mell Classroom Building** attached to Auburn University’s Ralph B. Draughon Library. It can be tricky finding this particular classroom in the labyrinthine building, so below I am giving directions on how to reach the "atrium" in the Mell Classroom building. Our playing room is up the giant zigzag stairs from the atrium (which most players have been to in the past). I would also encourage you to get to the library a few minutes early and just follow all of us into the building when it opens.

The library opens at exactly 9:00am on Saturday and 1:00pm on Sunday (hence the start times of the events). Easiest access is to park on the top level (open sky above you) of the parking deck off Roosevelt Drive (no parking tags are required on the weekends). 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.)

LODGING: 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 also an option.

LUNCH:

- **Main Event:** a lunch break will be taken after Game 3, and the afternoon games should resume around 1:00pm (exact time will be announced at mid-tournament).
- **Late Bird:** the games do not begin until 1:00pm, so you should plan to grab breakfast and lunch in Auburn beforehand; we will play the 5 Late Bird games straight through with no breaks.

We will be right in the heart of downtown Auburn, so research the variety of eateries nearby. There is no prohibition against food or drink in the library, so you may bring your own lunch and snacks.

PAYMENT/REGISTER: To tentatively register, send me, Eric Harshbarger, an email at eric@ericharshbarger.org stating your intent to show up (specify which day(s) you want to play). You must tentatively register by 11:59pm, Thursday, 1 October. Then:

- Send me money via Paypal to the email address above (please designate payment for "Friends and Family" not for "Goods and Services") or,
- Bring cash and pay me on site (I actually prefer this option).

CONTACT: My email address is 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 past results of my tournaments as well as tentative dates for future tournaments, visit <http://www.ericharshbarger.org/scrabble/tourneys/>