

Dear Colleagues,

The Northwestern State University Demon Speech and Debate team proudly extends to you this invitation to join us in **Natchitoches, Louisiana** on the weekend of **November 18th-20th** to compete in the inaugural **“Festival of Lights Invitational”**.

The Festival of Lights began in 1927 as a one-day festival, but is now celebrated over the course of a six-week Christmas season which begins the Saturday before Thanksgiving and ends on January 6th, Epiphany. It has been ranked in the “Top 100 Events in North America” and was ranked 3rd “Best Holiday Light Show”, only behind the Rockefeller Center and Disney World. We hope you will join us for some early holiday cheer, while also continuing in our debate season.

We will offer **4** rounds of TIPDA, and **6** rounds of IPDA for each of the four divisions of IPDA. Rules and regulations of the IPDA constitution will be followed. Please note the following:

- 1) 30 minutes prep time will be given. This includes time to get to rooms. The rooms are all fairly close to the prep space, but please allocate your time wisely.
- 2) **NO TECHNOLOGY ACCESS IS ALLOWED IN A ROUND.** This includes use of phones by judges. If your school is found to be in violation of this, a competitor will be disqualified at random from your school.
- 3) The Tabulation Room will be closed to all but coaches and tournament staff. If you have traveled without a coach, please let us know and we will accommodate you accordingly.

On Saturday, November 19th, we will begin rounds **early** in order to watch fireworks on the riverfront later that evening to kickoff the Christmas season in Natchitoches. We will also provide a food option for lunch during the day.

The tabulation room will be run by Anthony McMullen of UCA and Bob Alexander of BPCC, and we hope to have a pool of NSU student and faculty judges to help us along the way. Please note, however, that your schools are still required to bring judges to cover your team. One judge covers two TIPDA entries or four IPDA

Schedule:

Friday, November 18th, 2016	Saturday, November 19th, 2016	Sunday, November 20th, 2016
11:30 Early Registration	8:00 Team Finals	(if it rains, see schedule below)
12:00 Draw Round 1 Team	8:30 Registration	
1:15 Draw Round 2 Team	9:30 Draw Round 1	8:00 Draw Round 6
2:30 Draw Round 3 Team	11:00 Draw Round 2	9:30 Coaches check
4:00 Draw Round 4 Team	12:30 Draw Round 3	10:00 Octofinals
5:30 Coaches Check	2:00 Lunch – Pizza provided	11:30 Awards
6:15 Team Quarterfinals		12:00 Quarterfinals
7:30 Team Semifinals	2:30 Draw Round 4	1:15 Semifinals
	4:00 Draw Round 5	2:30 Finals
	7:00 Fireworks (If rain, Draw Round 6)	

Rain Schedule:

**Sunday, November 20th,
2016**

8:30 Coaches Review

9:00 Octofinals

10:30 Awards

11:00 Quarterfinals

12:15 Semifinals

1:30 Finals

Hotels:

Hampton Inn	(318) 354-0010	129/night
Fairfield Inn & Suites	(318) 354-8007	159/night
Best Western	(318) 352-6655	149/night
Quality Inn	(318) 352-7500	65/night
Econo Lodge	(318) 214-0700	65-75/night
Days Inn	(318) 352-0783	70/night
Holiday Inn Express	(318) 354-9911	114/night

Mention NSU when reserving at the hotels highlighted in yellow

Directions:

Take Exit 138 on I-49 onto Hwy 6. Continue north into Natchitoches. The University is on the right. Registration will be in the Student Union; it can be most easily accessed by taking the second entrance (Caspari St.).

Parking:

Because the Northwestern State University campus will be letting out for Thanksgiving break the Friday of competition, we do not foresee any parking issues. Therefore, there will be no parking passes required for this event. Vehicle parking preferably will remain behind the Student Union in the faculty parking lot, however, parking will be open anywhere on campus. We ask that large buses park on the first lot on the left, upon entrance from Caspari St.

Prep Space

Prep will be in the Student Union Ballroom. We recommend extension cords and power bars, as the ballroom does not have excessive power access. The Student Union is only a short walk from Keyser Hall, where we will be holding most of the debate rounds.

Awards

Awards will be given beginning at Quarterfinal Rounds in all divisions. Speaker awards will also be awarded for Fifth and better. Sweeps will be awarded for TIPDA, IPDA, and Overall Sweepstakes.

Meals and Student Services:

Since our university will be letting out for Thanksgiving break, much of campus will be closed during competition time. This means the cafeteria, grill, and Student Union eatery will

not be available for food purchase. However, there are vending machines around campus at your disposal, and a number of fast food restaurants, if you so desire. Also, we have a list of “team approved” restaurants in Natchitoches. Be warned, you will most likely have to split up your team at most of these restaurants. We’re a quaint town with small-town charm, which registers in small table sizes!

Nicky’s (Mexican)- Located on University Parkway near I-49

Mama’s and Papa’s (Southern cuisine/burgers)- Located on Front Street

The Pioneer Pub (Bar food)- Located on Front Street near the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

Trailboss Steakhouse (Steak and more)- Located on South Drive by Stage

Chili’s (Everything)- Located on Keyser Avenue across from Walmart

Hana’s (Japanese Steakhouse)- Located on Front Street, second location on Keyser Avenue

Entry Fees and Submissions:

FEES IPDA (Covered) _____ @ \$25.00 each = \$ _____
IPDA (Uncovered) _____ @ \$15.00 additional each = \$ _____
TIPDA (Covered) _____ @ \$40.00 each = \$ _____
TIPDA (Uncovered) _____ @ \$25.00 additional each = \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

Please have all entries submitted to **Davina McClain** at mcclaind@nsula.edu no later than 12 pm **November 14th with corrections accepted no later than 4 pm November 15th**. At this point in time, any late entries or corrections will be met with a \$10 late fee.

Thank you for your support in joining us at our first tournament. We hope to see you throughout the rest of the season at tournaments to come.

Best,

The Northwestern State University Demon Speech and Debate Team