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 17th-19th**, **2017** 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 5th, 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. 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. We will love to have your judges here!! One judge covers two TIPDA entries or four IPDA

# Schedule

**Friday, November 17th, 2017**

11:30 Early Registration

12:00 Draw Round 1 Team

1:15 Draw Round 2 Team

2:30 Draw Round 3 Team

4:00 Draw Round 4 Team

5:30 Coaches Check

6:15 Team Quarterfinals

7:30 Team Semifinals

# Saturday, November 18th, 2017

8:00 Team Finals

8:30 Registration

9:30 Draw Round 1

11:00 Draw Round 2

12:30 Draw Round 3 2:00 Lunch – Pizza

provided

2:30 Draw Round 4

4:00 Draw Round 5 7:00 Fireworks (If rain,

Draw Round 6)

# Sunday,

**November 19th, 2017**

(if it rains, see schedule below)

8:00 Draw Round 6

9:30 Coaches check

10:00 Octofinals

11:30 Awards

12:00 Quarterfinals

1:15 Semifinals

2:30 Finals

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| **Rain Schedule:****Sunday, November 19th, 2017** |  |
| 8:30 Coaches Review9:00 Octofinals10:30 Awards11:00 Quarterfinals12:15 Semifinals1:30 Finals |
| **Hotels.:****We do not have blocks reserved at these hotels, but these are the current rates. We recommend booking soon!!** |
| Hampton Inn | (318) 354-0010 $114 + tax |
| Fairfield Inn & Suites | (318) 354-8007 $189 = tax |
|  |  |
| Quality Inn | (318) 352-7500 $95 + tax (downstairs)\* \***They do offer $65 +tax for a group rate, Mention NSU**  |
| Econo Lodge | (318) 214-0700 $54.40 (Fri)/ $92.65 (Sat)\* **\*Mention NSU for this rate**  |
| Days Inn | (318) 352-0783 $76.50 + tax\* **\*Mention NSU for this rate** |
| Super 8 | (318) 352-1700 $69.95 + tax |

**Directions:**

Take Exit 138 from 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.) and turning into the second parking lot after the security kiosk.

**Parking:**

Although the Northwestern State University campus will be letting out for Thanksgiving break the Friday of competition, there is a football game Saturday afternoon and a concert event Friday night. We do not, however, 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 and in the smaller lot before the student union lot on Caspari, nearest the Police station. 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 Kyser Hall, where we will be holding most of the debate rounds.

Awards

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

Points Formula

* 1. All of a school’s top four competitors in a division will count towards sweepstakes totals.
	2. Points will be awarded according to the following formula:
		1. 3 points for each preliminary round win
		2. 3 points for breaking to elimination rounds
		3. 5 points for 1st speaker
		4. 4 points for 2nd speaker
		5. 3 points for 3rd speaker
		6. 2 points for 4th speaker
		7. 1 point for 5th speaker
	3. Tiebreakers
		1. Debate: for determining competitors advancing to elimination rounds we will look first at the number of wins, second to high/low adjusted speaker points, and third to the number of total speaker points. For determining speaker awards in individual debate, we will look first to high/low adjusted speaker points and second to total speaker points.
		2. Sweepstakes: in the event of a sweepstakes tie, we will look first to number of competitors advancing to elimination rounds and second to preliminary round win percentage (debate).

Meals and Student Services:

Since our university will be letting out for Thanksgiving break, much of campus will be closed during competition time. There is, however, a Starbuck's on campus in the Watson Library that will be open and accessible throughout the tournament.

We will be running Emilie’s Café, to raise funds to help with the medical expenses of Emilie’ Gibson, daughter of Trey Gibson at LSUS. We ask for your donations and your support for the challenges this member of the IPDA debate family is facing.

In addition, 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. 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 sometimes means 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 (Sushi)-** Located on Front Street **(and Hibachi)** second location on Keyser Avenue

Very near to campus:

**Smoothie King** - across from campus

**Dickie's BBQ** - across from campus

**Sonic** - across from campus, but a little further than SK and D BBQ

Entry Fees and Submissions:

FEES IPDA (Covered) @ $25.00 each

IPDA (Uncovered) TIPDA (Covered) TIPDA (Uncovered)

@ $15.00 additional

Please email entries to **Davina McClain** at **mcclaind@nsula.edu**no later than **5 pm November 13th with corrections accepted no later than 5 pm November 14th**. After that time, any late entries, corrections, or drops will incur a $10 late fee.

Thank you for your support in joining us at our second tournament.

Best wishes, The Northwestern State University Demon Speech and Debate Team

@ $40.00 each

@ $25.00 additional each