



○ **Who We Are**

- The John R. Park Debate Society (the speech and debate team) is sponsored by the Department of Communication and has been a campus organization since 1869.
- In 2017, the John R. Park Debate Society won the National Parliamentary Debate Association's Season-Long National Championship.
- In 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 the team finished in the top 10 at the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championships.
- In 2020 the team finished first at the National Online Forensics Festival.
- Utah's Invitational Tournament, the Great Salt Lake Invitational, is one of the oldest and most distinguished tournaments in the Western United States.

○ **What We Do**

➤ **Competition**

- Lincoln-Douglas Debate – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
- British Parliamentary Debate – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the United States Universities Debate Association (USUDA).
- Individual Events – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association (NFA).

➤ **Public Events**

- Public Debates - Public debates are where intercollegiate debate started. We host a public debate each semester. Past debates have focused on locally relevant public issues, i.e. guns on campus, Utah liquor laws and public safety, immigration, and nuclear waste storage.
- Election Debates & Forums – Part of our public debate programming is done in partnership with the Alliance for a Better Utah, including an ongoing legislative debate series.

➤ **High School Outreach**

- Volunteer Coaching - Our students provide nearly 1,000 hours of support each year for local teams by judging at local tournaments and offering volunteer coaching for teams with limited resources.
- High School Tournament - Utah Forensics hosts the Beehive Bonanza. This tournament hosts teams from throughout Utah and around the country. Scholarships are awarded to top competitors. The team also hosts the Utah Tournament of Excellence for the top competitors in the state.

○ **Ways to Join (Choose one):**

- Email: Contact the Director of Forensics, Dr. Jeannie Hunt (jeannie.hunt@utah.edu).
- Enroll in Forensics Practicum: Enroll in COMM 3270 (fall) or COMM 4270 (spring) which runs concurrently with weekly team practice. These courses often fulfill Upper-Division CW and/or CEL credit requirements. See the most current schedule of classes for confirmation.
- Attend Practice: Practices are open to all students enrolled at the University. We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00pm until 9:00pm in the Utah Forensics Squad Room, LNCO 2890.



○ **Reasons to Join:**

➤ ***Research & Writing Skills***

- Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and support sound claims, as well as to hone critical reasoning skills.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and deliver their ideas and arguments in concise ways.
- Speech & Debate teaches students effective research practices.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to “think on their feet” and to present their ideas with confidence.

➤ ***Organizational Skills***

- Speech & Debate teaches students to organize large quantities of information for effective retrieval and use.
- Speech & Debate teaches students effective organizational skills through opportunities to judge and help administrate tournaments.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to organize effectively team efforts to maximize team productivity.

➤ ***Relationships***

- Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to develop close advising relationships with faculty and instructors in the Department of Communication.
- Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to travel and develop relationships with students at other campuses in the state and nation.
- Speech & Debate fosters a sense of camaraderie among teammates that is rare in most college settings.

Fall 2022 Competition Schedule

DATES	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION
Sept 22-25	Northwest College (Mandatory)	Powell, WY
Oct 6-8	Beehive Bonanza (Mandatory)	SLC, UT
Oct 13-17	Biggest Little City Classic	Reno, NV
Oct 20-24	Al Johnson Memorial	Colorado Springs, CO
Dec 1-5	PSCFA (Mandatory)	Norwalk, CA