7th Annual
Utah Tournament of Excellence
Saturday, April 3, 2021
@ The University of Utah

The John R. Park Debate Society is excited to announce the seventh annual Utah Tournament of Excellence (UTE). The UTE aims to bring together the absolute “best of the best” from across the state for a single day of focused, high-level, academic debate. Additionally, the UTE will offer students the opportunity to compete in a “tournament of excellence” hosted by Utah’s premier research university, adjudicated by experienced, knowledgeable critics. In 2021, the UTE will be conducted online via Zoom. Only registered guests (competitors, judges, and coach/chaperones) will be allowed to participate in the tournament video conferencing. No recording will be allowed.

As indicated by the tournament information below, the tournament will be limited to the winners of each division of State competition (or the next most highly ranked competitor in state competition at each classification level).

We hope you are as excited about this event as we are to host it. In the meantime, we hope you are having a safe, successful, and educational 2020-2021 season.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Middleton
Director, John R. Park Debate Society

Jason Jordan
Tournament Director

Selection Process: Following the conclusion of all UHSAA State Tournaments, the John R. Park Debate Society will extend invitations to the winners of each debate event (CX, LD, PF) at the 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A tournaments, unless an event is not offered at that classification. We will, however, create a field of six teams in every event by taking wildcards from the other classifications based on performance at state, and other publicly available competitive records. Students will have 3 days from the time of invitation to accept the invitation. Following this, the invitation will go to the next highest finisher (2nd place, then 3rd, etc.) until a team/debater accepts the invitation.

Tournament Format: The tournament will be a round-robin style tournament.
Costs & Other Requirements: THERE ARE NO COSTS FOR ATTENDANCE. Students need only supply a coach or parent who will supervise the team/debater during their time participating in the event. In other words, all that is required is attendance to participate.

Competitive Rules: Where not specified in this document, the tournament will refer to UDCA competitive rules and guidelines. Any tournament disputes not resolved by these procedures will be adjudicated by the Tournament Director.

Tab Procedure: Each preliminary round will be judged by two critics. After preliminary rounds, each team will be ranked in the following order: ballots won, win/loss record, head-to-head record, adjusted speaker points, total speaker points. If additional tie breakers are required, they will be determined by the tournament director.

Awards: The second and first place finisher, as well as the top two speakers in each debate event, will receive high-quality awards. All participants will receive a t-shirt.

Topics: The UTE will host competitive debates on the following topics:

- Lincoln-Douglas: MARCH/APRIL 2021 TOPIC
- Public Forum: MARCH 2021 TOPIC
- Policy: 2020-2021 TOPIC

Date: Saturday, April 3, 2021

UTE Schedule
Check-in – 7:30 AM
Round 1 – 8:00 AM
Round 2 – 10:00 AM
Round 3 – 12:30 PM
Round 4 – 2:30 PM
Round 5 – 4:30 PM
Finals – 7:30 PM
Awards – 9:00 PM

EVENT TIMELINE
Approx. Mar. 15th – Initial Invitations Released
Mar. 18th – Deadline to Accept Initial Invitations
ASAP – Additional Invitations will be sent with a 48-hour deadline
April 1st – Drop Deadline
April 2nd – Final Participant List Released
April 3rd – Utah Tournament of Excellence