

2020 United States Universities Western Regional Championships
Pacific Lutheran University
March 21-23, 2020

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the staff and students of the T.O.H. Karl Forensics Forum at Pacific Lutheran University, I would like to invite you to the 2020 United States Universities Western Regional Championships, to be hosted on Pacific Lutheran University's campus in Tacoma, Washington, on the weekend of March 21-23, 2020. Our tournament will include 8 preliminary rounds of British Parliamentary style debate, a novice break-out, and an open break to quarterfinals.

To assure a well-run tournament we are proud to announce Jacob Witt as Tabulation Director, Lauran Schaefer and Angie Tinker as equity officers, and Rob Ruiz, Cody Walizer, and Alice Jones as Chief Adjudicators.

We are excited to host you on our campus for what is sure to be an enjoyable tournament. If you have any questions, please email Justin Eckstein at ecksteja@plu.edu. We hope to see you in Tacoma in March!

Sincerely,

Justin Eckstein
Director of Forensics | Pacific Lutheran University
ecksteja@plu.edu | (253) 535-8175

Angie Tinker
Assistant Director of Forensics | Pacific Lutheran University
tinkerar@plu.edu

Tournament Information

Entry Fees

80 per person (competitor, judge, or observer).

Fees for the tournament will be \$80 per person attending the tournament (this include participants, judges, and observes). This charge covers security and cleaning costs, chief adjudicators, two lunches, three light breakfasts, late afternoon snacks, and quality awards.

Fees can be paid in advance with credit card online on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-united-states-universities-western-regional-championships-at-plu-tickets-91408079025>

To purchase entry with a credit card, tickets are available for each two person team competing in the tournament. If you choose to pre-purchase with a credit card, please be aware that Eventbrite charges an additional fee per entry sold in U.S. dollars.

If you pay by credit card, please bring your receipt to registration.

If you are paying by check or purchase order please make payable to: **Pacific Lutheran University.**

All fees will be calculated **on March 20th, 2020** at 5 PST. **No Drops will be credited after that time.** Your school will be responsible for all people listed as of that time.

We reserve the right to refuse further entries once the physical capacities of the PLU facilities have been met. First come/first serve entries guarantee a reserved spot for early registration. Once the reserved spots have been taken, no other entries will be accepted.

Internet Policy:

We will allow internet during prep this year to provide more depth to argumentation and debates. Internet usage will be permitted during the fifteen-minute pre-round prep time. Teams may use this time to access online briefs or conduct research. Teams are forbidden from using this time to communicate electronically with other competitors, coaching staff, or any other individuals. Teams are not permitted to access the Internet during rounds. Violation of the Internet policy may result in disqualification from the tournament.

Equity Policy

Debaters and adjudicators are expected to act in a respectful manner towards all other participants. Disparaging remarks will not be tolerated towards any individual or group on the basis of non-political identity, including but not limited to race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, age, national origin, etc. No participant may harass, threaten, or intimidate other participants in a manner that limits their ability to participate in the tournament. All participants are expected to treat the facilities with care and refrain from the destruction or damaging of any property.

At the beginning of each round, the chair adjudicator is to offer all debaters the opportunity to disclose their gender pronouns for use in the round. If a debater does not wish to disclose their pronouns, all participants are expected to refer to that debater using gender neutral language, such as by name or speaker position.

Gender neutral restrooms are located at a variety of locations across campus, including near the General Assembly. A complete map of all gender neutral restrooms can be found at <https://www.plu.edu/gender-equity/resources/trans-and-gender-nonconforming-resources/all-gender-restrooms/>

If the equity policy is violated, an equity issue can be brought to the equity officers for resolution. Resolution may include investigation, mediated conversation, warnings, general announcements to the tournament, reports to the university, reports to law enforcement officials, and other actions deemed appropriate by the equity officers.

Bidding for USU Western Champs

United States Universities' Western Debate Championship for next year will be selected via a bid process. Bids should contain information about selection of chief adjudicators, means of travel, available lodging, meals and refreshments provided by the tournament, maximum number of teams able to compete, internet use, an equity policy, costs for registration and proof of institutional support. Bids are due to host institution team one week before the tournament in order to give time for all schools to review applications. The bids will be posted on the BP Facebook page. **Bids should be sent both to Rob Ruiz, chief adjudicator, at r Ruiz@laverne.edu and Angie Tinker, equity officer, at tinkerar@plu.edu by March 13, 2020 at 5PST.** Each institution present at the tournament will be allotted one vote, to be cast by an institutional representative via an open voting system. Votes will be made on the last day of the preliminary rounds of the tournament.

Judging

Uncovered Team Fee: \$180 per debate pairing (100 to pay the judge and 80 to cover their food)

We seek to have three quality judges per preliminary round. As such, entries must provide at least one judge per school, and beyond that the number of judges can be one less than the number of teams entered by a given program (N-1). To ensure a quality judging pool, the tournament staff reserves the right to limit the entry of those schools that bring significantly more teams than judges.

All judges are obligated through quarter finals. Judges with teams participating in elimination rounds are obligated one round past their team's elimination.

Meals

Tournament fees cover breakfast, lunch and snacks on Saturday and Sunday. As we are providing meals, it is important for us to know of any food allergies or other dietary restrictions. Our caterers require ample time to accommodate dietary restrictions. **Please send those by March 15th to Sarah Calvin-Stupfel at calvinsj@plu.edu with the subject line "Dietary Restrictions".**

Registration

Entries must be submitted via Forensicstournament.net. **Registration deadline is March 17, 2020** at 5pm PST. You have until March 20, 5pm PST to make changes without any penalty.

Trophies

All breaking teams will receive trophies crafted by Hilltop Artists, a local art cooperative dedicated to providing art education to area youth from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. To learn more visit: <http://hilltopartists.org/>

Parking

Parking will be available in the Mortvedt Library Parking Lot and street parking. Below are directions.

Address:
Pacific Lutheran University
12180 Park Ave S
Tacoma, WA 98447

From I-5 North or South...

1. Take exit 127 for WA – 512 East toward Puyallup
2. If coming from North of PLU, turn left onto WA – 512 East, if coming from South of PLU, turn right onto WA – 512 East.
3. Take the WA – 7 South/Pacific Avenue exit toward Parkland/Spanaway
4. Turn right onto WA – 7 South/Pacific Ave South
5. Turn right onto 121st ST South
6. Take the 2nd left onto Park Avenue South. Anderson University Center will be located on the right
 - a. There is a large clock tower in front of the building as well as a Viking ship.
7. Parking is available in the Mortvedt Library Parking Lot between Garfield and Wheeler.
<http://www.plu.edu/admission/first-year/visit-plu/directions.php>

On Campus

Please respect the PLU community. You are guests on our campus so we ask that you respect the people and facilities. There will be administrative personnel and PLU faculty in the buildings we are debating in. We would ask that you respect their work by keeping the volume to a reasonable level in competition rooms and common areas.

Internet access will be provided on campus. We will have login credentials when you register.

Smoking, including use of electronic cigarettes, is not allowed on PLU's campus. If you must smoke, please go across the street to the designated smoking area.

It is a violation of PLU policy to use, possess, or distribute any drug or controlled substance. As per federal law, possession, use or distribution of marijuana and cannabis products are not allowed on campus.

Lodging

There are many proximate, reasonably priced hotels near campus.

We have a group block at the Holiday Inn, Address: 8402 S Hosmer St, Tacoma, WA 98444. The Holiday Inn will offer a group rate of \$129.00 + tax for double queen and breakfast. To get these rates, please call the front desk at [253-548-1212](tel:253-548-1212) and ask for the “PLU Debate Team” block. The cut-off date for the block is March 13, 2020. Below is a list of other hotels in the region.

Candlewood Suites Lakewood

Address: 10720 Pacific Hwy SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

Phone: (253) 584-0868

The Western Inn of Lakewood/Tacoma

Address: 9920 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98499

Phone: (253) 588-5241

Comfort Inn Tacoma

Address: 8620 S Hosmer St, Tacoma, WA 98444

Phone: (253) 531-3118

Schedule

Saturday, March 21st

8:00 am	Registration at Anderson University Commons (AUC)
9:00am	Tournament Briefing
9:30am	Round 1
11:30am	Round 2
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Round 3
4:00pm	Round 4

Sunday, March 22nd

9:00am	Roll Call
9:30am	Round 5
11:30am	Round 6
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Round 7
4:00pm	Round 8
6:00pm	Awards & announce breaks

Monday, March 23rd

9:30am	Roll Call
10:00am	Quarter Finals
11:30am	Lunch ON Your OWN

1:00pm
3:00 pm

Semi Finals (Novice Finals)
Finals