



2025 Rocky Mountain Debating Championship at MSU Denver October 17-19, 2025

Dear friends,

You are invited to attend the 2025 Rocky Mountain Debating Championship at Metropolitan State University of Denver! This tournament, a collaboration between the University of Denver and MSU Denver, will be held on our campus in the Central and West Classroom Buildings. We are steps away from Larimer Square, the 16th Street Mall, Meow Wolf, and Denver's arts and cultural districts.

Check-in will be on the evening of **October 17**, and rounds will take place on **October 18-19, 2025**. This tournament will feature 6 rounds of preliminary debates, a novice breakout, and semifinals break in varsity (with the option to add a quarterfinal round if we reach a certain number of entries). We will follow [YODL rules](#) and procedures for this tournament including a topic strike process using the topic areas at the end of this document. **We will not be using**

open adjudication at this tournament. This is a **free tournament** open to any all participants. We look forward to hosting you at MSU Denver!!

Sincerely,

John Rief
MSU Denver
jrief1@msudenver.edu

Rob Margesson
University of Denver
robert.margesson@du.edu

Registration Information

There will be **no registration fee** for this tournament. The judge commitment per school will be N-1. Please supply as many chairs as you can. We are planning to hire a limited number of local judges but will need everyone to pitch in to reach the numbers required to run the tournament. **We will assess a fee of \$50.00 per uncovered team.**

Please enter your teams on forensictournament.net by Monday, October 13. No new registrations will be accepted after that time. All changes should be sent to John Rief by no later than **Wednesday, October 15**. If you have questions or special requests, please email John Rief at jrief1@msudenver.edu.

Tournament check-in will take place at [Degree Brewpub](#) from 7-9pm on Friday, October 17. If you are unable to join us, please feel free to email or text John Rief confirming your arrival and to let us know of any last-minute changes.

Tournament Rules

As noted above, we will follow [YODL rules](#) at this tournament including the topic strike and points of privilege procedures. **We will not be using open adjudication at this tournament.** If you have any questions about these rules, please do not hesitate to contact Rob Margesson at robert.margesson@du.edu. We will go over these rules at the Saturday morning briefing and topic release.

Food and Entertainment

We will be serving lunch both days of the tournament. You will be on your own for breakfast and dinner.

Lodging and Parking

The [SpringHill Suites by Marriot Denver Downtown](#) is located on our campus and you are welcome to make reservations there. We do not yet have a room rate with them but we are working on it and will let you know ASAP. In the past, they have offered us a 10-room courtesy block with the option to add more if needed. The rate for this block has historically been around \$200. There are many other options for lodging both in the downtown area and surrounding suburbs. We recommend that you stay near a light rail line which will allow you to easily make your way to campus each day. **We are also happy to secure parking passes for campus. Please request these in advance by emailing John Rief at jrief1@msudenver.edu.**

Schedule

- Please note that all times are MDT (Mountain Daylight Savings Time)

Friday, October 17

- Tournament Check-In 7-9pm Degree Brewpub (on our campus)

Saturday, October 18

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| • Check-in | 7-8am | Central Classroom Building, Room 109 |
| • Drop Deadline | 8am | Central Classroom Building, Room 109 |
| • Briefings | 8-8:30am | Central Classroom Building, Room 109 |
| • Round 1 | 9am | Central and West |
| • Round 2 | 11am | Central and West |
| • Lunch | 1pm | Central first floor hallway |
| • Round 3 | 2pm | Central and West |
| • Round 4 | 4pm | Central and West |

Sunday, October 19

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| • Check-in | 7-8am | Central Classroom Building, Room 109 |
| • Drop Deadline | 8am | Central Classroom Building, Room 109 |
| • Briefings | 8-8:30am | Central Classroom Building, Room 109 |
| • Round 5 | 9am | Central and West |
| • Round 6 | 11am | Central and West |
| • Lunch | 1pm | Central first floor hallway |
| • Sems + Nov Breakout | 2pm | Central and West |
| • Finals | 4pm | Central and West |

Campus Map

You will find the Central and West Buildings in the lower right hand (southeast) section of campus on the map below. The best parking area for the tournament is Holly. You can find an interactive version of the map by clicking on the hyperlink above.



UPDATES

For those of you attending the **Rocky Mountain Debating Championship**, we have two announcements:

1. As per the invite, we will use the [YODL adjudication manual](#) as our primary source for rules and norms throughout the tournament. Should any questions or concerns arise, it is the document our CA team, TAB, and tournament leadership will reference. While we will not be requiring judges to complete YODL certification, we do expect that everyone will be familiar with this document and will cover key details during our briefing on Saturday, October 18.
2. Our wonderful CA team is composed of **Geneva Luteria (Clemson)**, **Grace Admire (Ball State)**, and **Sam Young (MSU Denver)**. In consultation with Rob and myself, this team has produced an excellent slate of topic areas (below) for our tournament. We request that each team **submit at least one motion suggestion per area on or before October 14**. You can email them directly to Geneva Luteria at glluteria02@gmail.com.

Any other questions? Please contact me and I'll be happy to help!

Take care and all the best,

JR

Topic Areas for 2025 Rocky Mountain Debating Championship

Philosophy in Practice	Issues that explore the application of moral and ethical frameworks to individual and societal decision-making.
Global Resources	Motions pertaining to the management, conflict, and conservation of the global commons (e.g., water, air, minerals).
Happiness	Topics about the meaning, pursuit, and discourse surrounding happiness.
Public Health	Debates about healthcare, social welfare, health organizations, and larger narratives around individual and public health.
Animals	Issues focusing on the role, ethics, and welfare of animals in the wild and human communities.
Africa	Topics about the political, social, and economic tensions taking place in the African region.

Social Constructions	Motions about the impact of narrative, glorification, stigmatization, taboos, and romanticization in society.
Relationships	Debates dealing with the dynamics, expectations, and structures of interpersonal connections.
Information	Topics exploring the creation, access, and regulation of information.

We hope to see you in Denver!