



INVICTUS

Speech • Debate • Moot Court • Mock Trial

Invictus Advocacy Academy Application and Rules

MISSION

A homeschool program which seeks to facilitate students in competitive speech and debate through formal classroom instruction and activities, such as tournaments, speech competitions, and essay contests. Genres of debate include Lincoln-Douglas, Moot Court, and Mock Trial.

POLICIES

Academy Sessions

- ◆ Campus sessions are held on **Fridays from 9:00 am – ~3:00 pm**, for students ages 12-19 (August to December). *Debate typically runs from 9:00 am to lunch and Speech from after lunch to ~3:00 pm.*
- ◆ During the spring, we will meet less regularly to accommodate the tournament schedule.

Academy Dates

- ◆ September: 8, 15, 22, 29
- ◆ October: 6, 13, 20, 27
- ◆ November: 3, 10, 17
- ◆ December: 1
- ◆ Spring dates: TBA upon publication of the NCFCA tournament schedule
- ◆ We are a hybrid cooperative, always offering an online meeting option with occasional in-person meeting options.

Academy Format

- ◆ **Debate:** Debate will be held in the mornings. We offer Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate:
 - **Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate** – The Lincoln-Douglas debate format is one-on-one debating, named after the famous debates between Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. Resolutions are constructed to create a clash of competing values rather than the adoption of a specific policy. Argumentation generally includes historic and philosophical sources referenced as contemporary applications.
 - All debaters will focus on research skills, respectful and ethical argumentation, refutation, rhetoric, organization and effective communication and public speaking skills.

- ◆ **Speech:** Students develop research, writing, memorization, and public speaking skills through a variety of speech categories including Platform Speeches (what we often think of when we hear “speech”), Interpretive Speeches (bringing literature to life), and Limited Preparation Speeches.
- ◆ **Moot Court:** Moot Court competition mimics an appeal being heard before an appellate court. Moot Court consists of two-person teams or co-counselors who contend with two “issues” or “questions presented.” The issues are often easily identifiable. Each “mooter” will give oral argument on their respective, assigned issue. We offer instruction in case law, oral argument, decorum, format and formality. The Moot Court packet typically is issued late fall and we will begin to moot shortly thereafter on alternating weeks with speech.
 - **NOTE:** Students must be 15 years or older to compete/participate in Moot Court.
- ◆ **Mock Trial (high school only):** Mock Trial Competition is an academic competition in which a team of 6-8 students (this may vary by competition) simulate the roles of both attorneys and witnesses in a fictional civil or criminal trial. Students prepare for their roles through the case materials, study and practice of objections and responses, opening/closing statements, witness narratives etc. Students compete against other teams for best team, attorney and witness awards.
 - **NOTE:** Students must be 15 years or older to compete/participate in Mock Trial. Additionally, auditions/tryouts are required. *Selection for Mock Trial is determined based on seniority, performance at tryouts, and space available. There are additional registration fees/costs associated with Mock Trial tournaments/competitions (outside of INVICTUS and NCFCA).*
- ◆ **Juniors Program (ages 7 – 11):** Juniors will have fun while learning about NCFCA speech categories. We will use games and activities to build confidence and teach presentation skills. Juniors will also get great tips and valuable feedback from INVICTUS national competitors.

Fees

NOTE: Fees and applications are due on or BEFORE September 1.

- ◆ **Membership Fees:**
 - **1st Student:** \$175.00 (additional charge will be assessed for each Moot Court or Mock Trial participant)
 - **2nd Student:** \$85.00
 - **3rd Student:** \$60.00
 - **4th Student:** No charge
- ◆ **Moot Court / Mock Trial Fees**
 - \$100.00 per mooter
 - \$100.00 per mocker
- ◆ **Junior’s Program Fees (ages 7 – 11)**
 - **1st Student:** \$50
 - **2nd Student:** \$25
 - **3rd+ Student:** No charge
- ◆ ***Please note anyone needing assistance or scholarship may contact INVICTUS leadership as no family will be denied for financial reasons.***
- ◆ **Additional Expenses:**
 - Additional expenses may be associated with certain events or genres (i.e., Mock Trial).

- NCFCA and STOA affiliation and tournaments require additional fees as set forth by each respective league. **NCFCA affiliation is required for all INVICTUS members.** NCFCA offers “early bird” affiliation pricing of \$135 through July 31 that saves you an additional \$25. Follow this link to affiliate: <https://shop.ncfca.org/product/1023/2023-Family-Affiliation> (if you are brand new to NCFCA, you may be asked to create your account first). Additional information on NCFCA may be found at <https://www.ncfca.org/>. Information regarding STOA affiliation (although *not* required for INVICTUS members) may be found at <https://stoausa.org/>.
- Please note, there are additional registration and travel fees associated with any tournament or competition that must be paid by the families. Club leaders can answer any questions you may have.

Academy Participation

- ◆ **The parent of each student is required to attend and participate in all academy sessions unless special consideration, upon request, is provided. Such consideration will be given on a case by case basis.**
- ◆ **Parents must commit to judge each week in both debate and speech.**
- ◆ Families are required to affiliate with NCFCA prior to September 1st (see <https://www.ncfca.org/>). STOA affiliation is optional, although may be required for participation in STOA tournaments.
- ◆ During the first semester, homework assignments may be issued. As such, students need to commit to completing and submitting assignments in a timely manner.
- ◆ During the first semester, students will be required to advise the instructors and coaches of what speeches they intend on running. By week six of the fall semester, students are encouraged to commit to speeches (by topic/subject matter) and by week eight students are encouraged to begin practicing their speeches during academy sessions.
- ◆ Active participation and teachable/coachable attitudes are expected, with a goal of excellence.
- ◆ The dress code for academy sessions is modest business casual (no shorts, spaghetti straps, flip-flops allowed). Young ladies are encouraged to wear skirts below the knee, slacks or capris. Young men should wear collared, button down or polo styled shirts with trousers (jeans and khakis permitted).
- ◆ Students ages 12-19 are highly encouraged to attend one camp and compete in at least one qualifying NCFCA tournament.

Important Considerations / Requirements

- ◆ INVICTUS Speech and Debate Academy is a cooperative effort between instructors, parents and competitors. We all share a passion for speech and debate. Parents are an integral part of our academy and are required to participate in sessions with their student/s and to assist in running the daily requirements of INVICTUS Advocacy Academy.
- ◆ Parents are ultimately responsible for their children and have authority over them in all matters - to include their participation in INVICTUS Academy activities. Parents are a crucial factor in the success of INVICTUS. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in the academy. To this end, parents are expected to participate in and assist with coaching, judging, decision-making, and general supervision. Parents are also expected to assist in the running of any tournaments and/or

events INVICTUS may sponsor. They are to be committed to arriving to academy sessions on time and ensuring their student(s) has/have completed assignments for sessions and is/are prepared for tournament competitions.

- ◆ It is the expectation that parents will work and learn alongside their student and give feedback to all students about their debate round, moot court oral arguments and speeches. Despite your experience or lack thereof, your input is valuable because we are training our students to communicate with a wide variety of people.
- ◆ Parents are responsible to work with their student(s) outside of the program to develop a system of accountability for assignment completion and tournament readiness.
- ◆ Parents and students are required to recruit community judges for academy sessions and tournaments, if applicable. We hope to get feedback from members of the community during sessions to better prepare our competitors for tournament season.
- ◆ Committee assignments will be given to students and parents. Each committee will consist of a minimum of two students and one parent-supervisor. We will do our best to give you duties and responsibilities which fit your gifts and requests.
- ◆ As Christians we are called to be peacemakers and encouragers, thus parents and instructors need to extend grace often, model Biblical conflict resolution, and ensure that feedback given to students, and/or other parents is gentle and honest.
- ◆ Parents and students should adhere to the dress code.
- ◆ Absences and Tardiness – Parents need to commit that their family will arrive on-time and be present at the majority of academy sessions. Your family's and the academy's success depends upon your presence and punctuality throughout the tournament season (fall and spring). Absenteeism and consistent tardiness can be disruptive to students, instructors, and families. However, because we understand scheduling conflicts we ask that you notify us three days prior to academy day that you will not be in attendance.
- ◆ Student leader positions are available by invitation for experienced students who demonstrate exemplar conduct toward instructors, parents, and peers. Responsibilities may vary year to year depending on the desires of the instructors, student leaders and their parents. Additional information regarding positions and responsibilities will be provided to recommended students and their parents.
- ◆ Student Mentor positions are available. INVICTUS leadership believes strongly in the mentor/mentee student relationship and encourage experienced competitors to formally mentor less experienced competitors. Pairings will be assigned and approved by Invictus leadership.

INVICTUS 2023-2024 STUDENT APPLICATION

Instructions to join:

- ◆ Complete the Application Form **and** Statement of Faith, and email to INVICTUSAdvocacyAcademy@gmail.com or snail mail to Maria Gerber, Invictus Debate at 1435 E. Venice Ave., Suite 102, Venice, FL 34292.
- ◆ Submit forms and membership fees by **September 1, 2023**; make checks pursuant to the aforementioned sums from page 2, payable to *INVICTUS Speech and Debate* **OR** pay via **PayPal to: @invictusclub**.
- ◆ **Affiliate with NCFCA on or before September 1st (separate fee)**. Affiliation with STOA is optional for those families which seek to compete in STOA tournaments.

Mother's name:	Father's name:
Mother's email:	Father's email:
Mother's cell:	Father's cell:
Street address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Home phone:	
Student #1	
Name:	Email:
Cell:	Birthdate:
Registering for (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Speech <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln-Douglas <input type="checkbox"/> Moot Court <input type="checkbox"/> Mock Trial <input type="checkbox"/> Juniors	
Student #2	
Name:	Email:
Cell:	Birthdate:
Registering for (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Speech <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln-Douglas <input type="checkbox"/> Moot Court <input type="checkbox"/> Mock Trial <input type="checkbox"/> Juniors	
Student #3	
Name:	Email:
Cell:	Birthdate:
Registering for (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Speech <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln-Douglas <input type="checkbox"/> Moot Court <input type="checkbox"/> Mock Trial <input type="checkbox"/> Juniors	
Please include the first name and age of any additional siblings who are not yet of competition age (and not participating in our Juniors program) and will be accompanying the family while at INVICTUS:	
Initials Required: I have read and agree with all the policies referenced in the "Application Information" form and the "Statement of Faith."	
Mother: _____ Father: _____ Student #1: _____ Student #2: _____ Student #3: _____	

Invictus Statement of Faith Oath Form

I acknowledge herein that **INVICTUS** is a Christian club/organization of home school families. I believe the Christian faith and doctrine are intertwined with all academics and potential club instruction or engagement, and I further understand that the Christian faith will undoubtedly be discussed at club, therefore, in joining **INVICTUS** I fully agree with and abide by the foregoing Statement of Faith. Further, I understand that topics of discussion will be consistent with a distinctly Christian worldview.

I agree with and will abide by the aforementioned Statement of Faith provided. I agree to and understand it is my obligation to enforce team-building policies (defined as the action or process of causing a group of people to work together effectively as a team, especially by means of activities and events designed to increase motivation and promote cooperation) with my own children as well as the other children attending club for the benefit the entire group/community. More, I hereby give authorization to **INVICTUS** Communications Club to photograph and or video tape my children at club, community, tournament and social events. Additionally, I further agree to have my child(rens') pictures published in printed materials, on **INVICTUS'** website and/or for them to be shared with other club members.

I hereby affirm that I believe the following:

1. There is only one God, eternally existent in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; together they are God. (**Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1,3 & 4:24; Acts 5:3,4; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 4:5,6; 2 Corinthians 13:14**)
2. The Bible is the verbally, totally inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God; the supreme and final authority for all faith, life, and truth. (**2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21**)
3. Man was created in the image of God; he sinned; through that sin he incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death (separation from God); and all people are born with a sinful nature and are guilty sinners in thought, word, and deed. (**Genesis 1:26,27 & 3:1-24; Romans 3:23 & 5:12-18; 1 John 1:8**)
4. The deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, (**Philippians 2:5-8**) His virgin birth, (**Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38**) His sinless life, (**2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:5**) His miracles, (**John 2:23**) His atoning death through His shed blood, (**Isaiah 53; John 3:16-18; Romans 3:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 2:2**) His bodily resurrection, (**Matthew 28:6; Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:14**) His ascension, (**Acts 1:9**) and His imminent return in power and glory. (**Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**)
5. Salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin. (**Romans 5:1; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:7 & 2:8-9**)
6. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for Godly living and service. (**Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9, 11; Ephesians 1:13; John 14:16-18**)
7. As believers we have spiritual unity through our common faith in Jesus Christ. We have no denominational affiliation and although we acknowledge individual doctrinal differences may exist such should not hinder the collaboration, cooperation and unity of our Club. (**1 John 4:11-12; John 17:21-22; 1 Corinthians 1:11-17**)
8. We believe that marriage is a sacred relationship between a man and woman. Marriage is used as a symbol that describes the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church. (**Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 19: 7-9**)

Signature/Date

Signature/Date

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Signature/Date