I would like to become a member of the Lincoln-Douglas Education Project. I have carefully read the group’s vision statement and coaching ideals, and I pledge to do what is in my power to support these goals and practices in order to make Lincoln-Douglas debate as educationally valuable as possible.

Signed,

Print Name: ________________________________

The LDEP will contact you via e-mail about your membership.
The members of the LDEP believe that Lincoln-Douglas debate is primarily an educational activity to prepare students for academic and personal success in their future lives. Therefore, the competitive incentives of LD should reward students who:

- Research thoroughly and ethically
- Reason logically
- Write and speak clearly and eloquently
- Develop direct resolitional analysis
- Explain arguments thoroughly rather than superficially
- Conduct themselves professionally, courteously, and respectfully.

We recognize that students participate in debate from a legitimate variety of motives, including the joy of spirited competition. As teachers, it is our responsibility to ensure that successful debate is educationally constructive. The LDEP works with coaches, judges, tournament directors, and other members of the debate community to pursue this goal through organizational and educational initiatives.

The LDEP encourages all Lincoln-Douglas debate coaches to actively promote the educational value of the activity by:

- Prioritizing long-term educational goals over short-term competitive rewards
- Encouraging students to research and prepare their own cases
- Teaching students to conduct ethical research and citation
- Supporting tournaments that implement educationally constructive policies
- Mentoring judges to evaluate rounds objectively on the basis of argumentation and persuasive delivery
- Hiring and promoting the use of judges who demonstrate a commitment to fostering the educational value of LD
- Researching summer workshops and supporting only those with a strong educational mission and a substantial presence of adult educators
- Generally reflecting on the educational rationale for their coaching practices
- Exemplifying and reinforcing norms of tournament decorum and communal respect.