

Local Forecast Contest

The local forecast contest is sponsored by the University of Utah Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Contestants forecast twice a week for 8 weeks during two regular seasons--fall and spring--and conclude the year with a playoff season lasting 3 weeks, forecasting five times a week during the playoff rounds. Contestants for the playoffs are comprised of the top 3 forecasters from each semester and the top overall non-automatic qualifiers to fill out the field of 8 playoff forecasters.

In both seasons, as well as in the playoffs, contestants forecast high and low temperatures, as well as a precipitation category, for the selected city for a next day forecast. The precipitation category is a measurement of liquid equivalent. Validation times will be 0600 UTC – 0600 UTC. Contestants can miss up to 12 total forecasts for the entire year before they are disqualified, even if they are a top three forecaster in one of the semesters. Average error multiplied by an absent multiplier will be given on days of missed forecasts. The absent multiplier starts at 1.0, and increases 0.2 for each absence. While the absent multiplier resets for the spring semester, the number of missed forecasts as it relates to disqualification does not reset.

Contact Andy Lesage if you are interested in signing up.

Fall

Contestants will forecast for Salt Lake City International Airport (KSLC) for the fall season. Forecasts will be made on Tuesday and Thursday for Wednesday and Friday validation. The validation time for the Wednesday forecast will begin at 0600Z on Wednesday and end at 0600Z on Thursday. The validation time for the Friday forecast will begin on Friday at 0600Z and end at 0600Z on Saturday. The fall schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, 1 October 2013	Thursday, 3 October 2013
Tuesday, 8 October 2013	Thursday, 10 October 2013
Tuesday, 22 October 2013	Thursday, 24 October 2013
Tuesday, 29 October 2013	Thursday, 31 October 2013
Tuesday, 5 November 2013	Thursday, 7 November 2013
Tuesday, 12 November 2013	Thursday, 14 November 2013
Tuesday, 19 November 2013	Thursday, 21 November 2013
Tuesday, 3 December 2013	Thursday, 5 December 2013

Spring

Contestants will forecast for Alta-Collins, Utah (CLN) for the spring season. Forecasts will be made on Tuesday and Thursday for Wednesday and Friday validation. The temperatures forecasted will be the highest and lowest hourly value. The validation time for the Wednesday forecast will begin at 0600Z on Wednesday and end at 0600Z on Thursday. The validation time for the Friday forecast will begin on Friday at 0600Z and end at 0600Z on Saturday. The spring schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, 14 January 2014	Thursday, 16 January 2014
Tuesday, 21 January 2014	Thursday, 23 January 2014
Tuesday, 28 January 2014	Thursday, 30 January 2014
Tuesday, 4 February 2014	Thursday, 6 February 2014
Tuesday, 11 February 2014	Thursday, 13 February 2014
Tuesday, 18 February 2014	Thursday, 20 February 2014
Tuesday, 25 February 2014	Thursday, 27 February 2014
Tuesday, 4 March 2014	Thursday, 6 March 2014

Playoffs

The three contestants with the best scores from the fall season and the three contestants with the best scores from the spring season will automatically be entered into the playoff round if they meet the participation threshold (12 or fewer missed forecasts over the entire year). The remaining two spots, and any extra spots available if a forecaster was top three both semesters, will go to the forecasters with the best yearlong score (avg. fall error + avg. spring error) who are not an automatic qualifier. Playoff forecasts will be Monday through Friday each week at different cities determined later based on what part of the nation has the most interesting weather. The playoff schedule is as follows:

Round	Dates	Forecast Location
Quarterfinals	17 March 2014 – 21 March 2014	TBA
Semifinals	24 March 2014 – 28 March 2014	TBA
Finals	31 March 2014 – 4 April 2014	TBA

The playoff champion will have their name added to the plaque in the 8th floor of WBB awards case and will be formally announced at the Annual Atmospheric Sciences Banquet in May. (The results will, of course, be known shortly after the final validation period is over).

Local Forecast Contest Entry

Enter your forecast in the fields below. If you encounter any problems, please contact the contest manager Andy Lesage. Contest entries must be in by 5 PM on the day before the forecasted day.

Scoring is 3 error points for each degree of temperature error, and the number of categories of error squared for precipitation. The only precipitation categories that can verify are categories 0, 5, or 10; however, an in-between category can be used in order to hedge your bet.

Example

Forecast: High: 65 Low: 53 Precipitation: category 8

Verification: High: 61 Low: 54 Precipitation: category 10

This forecast would result in 12 error points on the high, 3 for the low, and 4 for

precipitation, 19 total.

Current Forecast Site: Salt Lake City International Airport (KSLC)

Tuesday Forecast Validation Time: 0600 UTC Wednesday - 0600 UTC Thursday

Thursday Forecast Validation Time: 0600 UTC Friday - 0600 UTC Saturday