



ROTARY DISTRICT 6710 SPEECH CONTEST RULES AND PROCEDURES



09-27-21

1. WHY THE CONTEST:

The District Speech Contest offers high school students an opportunity to speak on a meaningful topic, to sharpen their speaking skills, and to gain recognition in addition to monetary rewards. By participating in the Contests, students will learn about Rotary, its history, and its worldwide mission. Students will also be presented with the potential of establishing a more meaningful relationship with Rotary through one of its Interact or Rotaract Clubs or through direct involvement with its local Rotary Club. Rotarians will benefit by having a club project that provides an opportunity for local high school students to showcase their talents and that contributes to the student's continuing education. Club members learn more about Rotary and their local high schools and students. A good partnership for club and student.

2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Any high school student (freshman through senior) residing within District 6710's boundaries (Generally the Western half of Kentucky) is eligible. **Students of Rotarians MAY NOW PARTICIPATE in their parent's or relative's Club Contest** if that club is their school's closest Rotary Club, providing their parents or relatives do not serve in any capacity in the staging of the club contest. Private, public, and home taught high school students are eligible to compete. They should enroll in their nearest club holding a contest. **Students may enter only one Rotary Club contest.** **Students entering more than one club contest will be disqualified from both and will surrender any prize money awarded to them.** An alternate based on finish in each affected club will be selected to fill the disqualified slots. Clubs are to open their contest to all high school students in their service area. Students from more than one school and more than one student from any one school may end up competing in a club's contest.

3. HOW TO BECOME A CONTESTANT:

Students should enter the Speech Contest of the nearest Rotary Club having a contest in their area by completing an application / release form for the contest. These forms should be available in their high school office, guidance office, speech teachers office, their local Rotary Club or on the Rotary District 6710 web site (www.rotarydistrict6710.org) under the youth services and speech contest tabs. Entry forms must be completed and submitted or a student will not be allowed to compete. It is highly recommended that all students interested in the contest enroll as early as possible and no later than the start of the Winter Holiday Break. Students should verify the contest date with their local club.

4. COMPOSING & DELIVERING THE SPEECH:

Students are expected to read and become familiar with the contest rules included in the speech packets. Students are to read the Speech Contest Topic sheet that is part of the Speech Contest Packet. They are also expected to research and address the speech topic. Students may consult teachers, parents, Rotary members or others for information, coaching or assistance, but each student must write their own speech. Any part of the speech from other sources must be acknowledged in the speech delivery. Students should become familiar with the contest rules and scoring system. Time limits for speeches is 5 to 8 minutes. Students may use notes or cue cards while delivering their speech at the club level contests however, students will be down-scored if they read their speeches. **Student Contestants who win their club contests must deliver their advanced contest speech (levels beyond the club level) without reading or using notes or cue cards. There will be no exceptions to this rule.** Students who read or use notes at advanced contests will be penalized points, which will significantly affect their scores and jeopardize their chances of winning.

5. CONDUCTING THE CONTEST:

The Local Rotary Club Director responsible for Vocational Service, or a person designated by each club, shall serve as Club Speech Contest Chairperson. **The Chair is responsible for contacting schools, gathering applications, managing and scheduling the club speech contest, reporting the contest winners, and enforcing contest rules.** The Chairperson will be in-charge of the club contest which will be held at a regular or special club meeting. Only one contestant per club may advance to the next contest level. The second place winner shall serve as an alternate, in the event that the club winner cannot participate at the next contest level. Each sponsoring club is responsible for seeing that their winning contestant is advised of the location, time and date of the next level (Sectional) contest.

6. PROTOCOL:

For fairness, contestants should be introduced as Contestant A, B, C, etc., not by names, numbers or schools. After all speeches, while Judges, Timekeepers, and Tellers are at work, contestants should introduce themselves and their guests and provide a few words about their background, interests, and what they intend to pursue in their future studies and careers. No one should be allowed to enter or leave the room during a speech. No speech should be applauded, as this may influence scoring. Applause can take place after all contestants have delivered speeches and contestants are asked to introduce themselves. The club may conduct club business or advise the parents and visitors of what they are doing in their community or otherwise during the time it takes the scores to be tallied and winners confirmed.

7. JUDGING AND SCORING:

If contestants use notes at any advanced contest level, there will be a deduction of 25 points off their score. Judges shall weigh each speech on basis of 1 to 100 points using these criteria: 1-30 for Delivery; 1-35 for Originality; 1-35 for Content. Score sheets are included in the Speech Packets and shall be used by each judge. In addition to the quality and delivery of the speeches, the Judges will be scoring on whether the speech addresses the assigned topic or theme.

At least 3 Judges, 2 Timekeepers; and 2 Tellers should be on hand for each round of the Speech Contest. At least one of the Judges should be a Rotarian, whether from the club conducting the contest or from another club. Other candidates for Speech Contest Judges include teachers, administrators, government officials, etc. Contestants shall be allowed to have their parents or family members on hand at all contests. Timekeepers will time the speeches, and Tellers will compute the scores and assign penalties, if any. Final scoring will be calculated on a weighted point system per judge with 5 points going to each judge's highest score, 3 points to 2nd place and 1 point to 3rd.

8. CONTEST MANAGEMENT:

Club Speech Contest winners shall advance to the club's area Sectional Contest. The winner from each of the 6 Sectional Contests will advance to one of the three Regional Contests and Regional winners advance to the District Finals, which are held at the annual district conference each year in May. Regional Speech Contest Coordinators shall be responsible for coordinating the Sectional and Regional Contests in their Region. The District Speech Contest Chair will manage all levels of the contest and conduct the Speech Finals Contest. Area Assistant Governors are requested to assist the advanced contest coordinators when asked, and may be asked to serve as Judges at any contest level.

9. PRIZES:

Each participant Rotary Club shall be responsible for their club's cash award prizes of \$300 to first, \$200 to second and \$100 to third place finishers. At each club's discretion, additional prizes may be offered if there are more than three contestants. All prizes for contests beyond the club level will be provided by the District. Advanced Contest Prize amounts shall be determined yearly and published in the Speech Packets.

9. PUBLICITY:

Each Club Speech Contest Chairperson/Coordinator is responsible to see that all High Schools in their service area are contacted and provided speech contest packets and entry forms or advised how to

download them from the District Web Site. Contest posters should be provided for posting in each High School. Assistance from the principal, assistants, guidance counselors, speech teacher, debate coach, or other faculty members or parents is essential for the success of the students and the program. The Club Speech Contest Chairperson is also responsible for publicity - providing press releases to the local media (radio, television, newspapers, web) about the contest and announcing and reporting contest winners. School newspapers and announcements should also be used to get the word out.

10. DISTRICT WEB SITE:

Contest Packets, resources and up to the minute information will be available at the District 6710 web site, www.rotarydistrict6710.org throughout the contest. Look under Youth Services and the Speech Contest tabs. It is advisable to check the speech contest web pages at least one time a month during the contest.