

Rotary 2020-2021 Speech Contest

Facts for Contest Chair

Topic : “Together We Open Opportunities”

Contest Dates

Club Contests – Before January 31, 2021

Area Contests – Before February 28, 2021

District Contest March 20, 2021 – Check in 9:45-10:00 Contest 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Merced County Office of Education in Room J-2 - 632 W 13th St, Merced, CA 95341

District Conference June 4 - 6, 2021 – Granibakken Tahoe City - ****District Winner Must Be Present****

The Club Contest

- The 1st place winner at each level will advance to the next level to compete. Contestants who are unavailable to commit to the dates of the next contest will not be eligible to place regardless of performance and previous award.
- The sponsoring Rotary club pays prizes of \$125.00 for 1st place, \$100.00 for 2nd place and \$75.00 for 3rd place. If the first place winner is successful in placing at the area contest, the sponsoring club of any winner pays the prize of \$175.00 for 1st place or \$125.00 for 2nd place or \$100.00 for 3rd place.
- Plan a program date for your club contest within the range of the club dates shown above. If dates in that range are unavailable then schedule earlier in February.
- Distribute fact sheets to local high schools to encourage participation. These are: **Brief Facts (personalized first), Speaker Agreement Form, Judges Scoring Sheet & Contest Seeding and Prizes Sheet**
- If your school does not have a Speech teacher then consider other faculty who teach related subjects like English, Drama or faculty who advise clubs like Interact, FFA, Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon etc.
- Encourage the school contact person to propose at least three speakers. Consider offering to assist the contact person in holding a school contest to identify potential candidates.
- Stay in touch with the school contact person to keep the contest in the forefront of their minds.
- It is best to have between three and five speakers for your club contest. Consider a runoff at the school if necessary to narrow the field.
- Early in January, check with the school to get the names of the speakers and have each complete the speaker information/agreement form.
- You will need to recruit three Rotarians from your club as judges, and two Rotarians as timers. It is wise to position the timers in different areas of the room so that all the judges can see them. You may want to make cards for the timers that say 0, 5, 10 for them to hold up for the judges.
- Club contest prizes are paid at the time of the contest. Please arrange with your club treasurer to have necessary checks ready to add the payee names after the contest is scored and prior to announcement of winners.
- Participation certificates are available in a Word Document for you to prepare prior for the contest. Update the Document to add your club name. Print these and have them available for your club contest.
- Assure that the 1st place winner and parents know the date, time, and location of the area contest. You will have this information prior to your contest.
- Preparation materials including a seeding prize chart, scoring sheets and other materials have been prepared for you and will be distributed as attachments to email. Please print as many copies as you will need. Use of color has been minimized to save on printing costs.
- **If you have questions that are not answered here and in the other documents that you receive, please contact District Speech Contest Chair, Michelle W. Allison at Allison.michelle@gmail.com or call or text 209-761 4549 (cell). If you text, be sure and mention who you are in the text.**