

Contest Rules for a Rotary High School Speech Contest

The following outline is designed to facilitate setting up and running a Rotary Speech Contest in partnership with community schools.

CONTEST DETAILS:

Each year the Rotary District will choose a topic which will relate to the “The 4-Way Test”, “Service Above Self” and/or the current year’s Rotary International theme or some combination of the three. In addition, the District will establish the schedules for the contest rounds and prizes to be awarded. Details on the topic, schedule and prizes will be provided on the Speech Contest Poster.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE & RECEIVE CONTEST PRIZES

1. Any High School Student or high school aged student who resides in the club’s service area is eligible, unless the student has been a previous District 7850 Final Contest Winner.
2. All Contestants who win any Contest Round are responsible to participate at the next Contest Round or will not receive a prize check from the previous Contest Round. Club Round 1 Prize provided by Club is given at Area Round 2. District Round 2 Prize is given at District Round 3. District Round 3 Prize is given at Round 3 or at Round 4 if there is a Round 4 Contest. When there is no Round 3 and/or no Round 4, then the last prize check will be given at whichever Round is the last Round held that year.

RULES OF CONTEST

1. Eligibility: Any High School Student or high school aged student who resides in the club’s service area is eligible, unless the student has been a previous District 7850 Final Contest Winner.
2. Subject: Adhere to this year's contest theme. Apply this year's contest theme in everyday relationships with other people and include examples and practical application of the subject. Your message must have human interest components. Your speech must be original.
3. Delivery: A written copy of the speech must be presented prior to the presentation. The contestant is not required to memorize the speech and may refer to a copy of the speech during its presentation. It is recommended not to read the speech word for word. Contestants will be graded on (see score sheet for more details):
 - a. Content
 - b. Organization
 - c. Delivery
 - d. Rotary principles and values (More on Rotary principles at www.Rotary.org)
4. Length of Speech: The speech should be 5 minutes. Penalty points will be given if the speech is under four minutes or over six minutes. If over seven minutes, the Contestant will be disqualified.
5. Language: Since Rotary District 7850 is a bilingual district, the speech may be presented either in English or French as is appropriate for the sponsoring Rotary Club. English is required for speeches given at the Area and District Contests, Rounds 2, 3 & 4.
6. Prizes: Winners of the local club round are required to participate in the area round in order to collect the local club prize. Winners of the area round are required to participate in the district round in order to collect the area prize. If there is a round 4, district winners are required to participate in order to collect the district prize.

7. The Rules and Format for Speech Contests at each Round are the same whether there is one contestant or more than one, and whether the contest is held in-person or remotely.

CONTEST FORMS, RULES AND GUIDELINES

All contestants must be given:

1. Contest registration form
2. Contest poster
3. Contest rules
4. Judge score sheet

All contestants should review all these documents and will be responsible for the information contained within. These may also be found here:

<https://www.southburlingtonrotary.org/sitepage/speech-contest/welcome>

Contact South Burlington Rotary Club organizer Tom O'Keefe for Round 1 & 2 - Call/ Text 802-233-3473 Email: okeefeonline@gmail.com.

Contact Rotary District organizer Dona Bate for subsequent rounds - Call/Text 802.229.1111 Email: dbatespeaking@gmail.com .