

Bow Rotary's Four-Way Test Speech Contest Application Form

Application: Please email this this completed form to dcascadden@bownet.org

Applicant's Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

School: _____ **Grade:** _____

The Rotary Four-Way Test: Of the things we think, do or say:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Rules, Obligations, and Contest Details

The Rotary Club of Bow conducts an annual public speaking contest to challenge high school students to develop their public-speaking skills and to explore how they make decisions that affect other people. The basis of the contest is Rotary's "Four-Way Test," a tool to encourage ethical decision making. Bow Rotary awards cash prizes to the top three speakers and sends the winner on to compete against winners from other clubs in our district, which includes much of southern New Hampshire and Vermont.

Eligibility - Our Four-Way Test Speech Contest is for local high school students who either attend Bow High School or who are Bow or Dunbarton resident students who attended other schools or are homeschooled. Bow High School tuition students from other towns are also welcome.

February 24, 3:00 pm: **Application deadline.** Email your application to: dcascadden@bownet.org

March 8, 6:00 pm: Bow Rotary contest will be held live at the Baker Free Library. The top speaker from Bow's contest will go on to the semi-finals. (If the winner cannot participate, the runner up will represent Bow at the semifinals.)

March 10, 7:45 am Top three place winners will present their speeches at the Bow Rotary Club meeting.

March 19, 1:00 pm: District semifinals contest at the Henniker Community Center, located at 57 Main Street. Contestants must sign in by 12:30 PM. The top four speakers from the semifinals will go on to the Rotary District finals.

April 29, time TBD Rotary District finals contest at Courtyard by Marriott, 10 Morgan Drive, Lebanon, NH

Rules for the speech:

1. Subject: The speech must be original in content and apply the Rotary Four-Way Test (**ALL FOUR QUESTIONS**) to decisions about our everyday relationships with other people. *The best speeches are personal.*
2. Delivery: the speech may be given from memory, it should not be read, though adequate notes are acceptable
3. Speakers *may not* use: background props, music, or assistants.
4. Length: the speech shall be no less than five (5) nor more than seven (7) minutes in length or it is automatically disqualified.

Prizes: **Bow Rotary:** **1st prize: \$500** **2nd prize: \$300** **3rd prize: \$200**
 Rotary District: 1st prize: \$650 three runners up: \$350 each

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Note to Speakers: This is the first time Bow has held its contest both live and on Zoom. Contest participants are expected to present their speeches **live** at the Baker Free Library. Parents and family members may watch in person or watch the contest via Zoom. We plan to email all contestants a zoom link a day or two before the event. The club's zoom account cannot handle more than 100 participants so please do not share the link with a broader audience. There will be a live panel of judges and informational speakers during the judges' deliberations.

Judging Criteria:

CONTENT

- Practical and effective demonstration of the Four-Way Test throughout (all four questions)
- Use of examples from peer group experience
- Human interest appeal and color
- Clarity and expressiveness of language

ORGANIZATION

- Introduction: captures attention & establishes major theme
- Development: ideas presented & explained clearly and logically with smooth transitions
- Conclusion: emphasizes major theme & leaves clear concise message

DELIVERY

- Clear enunciation and pronunciation
- Good voice projection (easy to hear) and voice expressiveness (tone and pacing)
- Good eye contact and engagement with audience
- Relaxed and professional presentation