

Grand Monadnock Rotary Club 2025 Four-Way Test Speech Contest

I. Introduction

- A. Grand Monadnock Rotary Club is sponsoring a speech contest based on the Rotary “Four-Way Test”:

Of the things we think, say and do:

- 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?**

- B. Any high school age student, including home-schoolers and private schoolers, from towns in the Conval School District is eligible to participate.

- C. Rules for the speech:

1. Subject: the speech must be original in content and apply the Rotary Four-Way Test (**ALL FOUR QUESTIONS**) in our everyday relationships with other people.
2. Delivery: the speech may be given from memory, it should not be read, although adequate notes are acceptable.
3. Length: the speech shall be no **less than five (5) nor more than seven (7) minutes in length** or it is **automatically disqualified**.

II. Contest Dates

- A. Entry applications are to be submitted via email to bobmacdonald@pobox.com by **midnight Tuesday, March 18, 2025**.
- B. The Grand Monadnock Four Way Test Speech Contest presentations from all participants will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**, at the Peterborough Town Library. Depending on the number of registrants, presentations may continue on a second evening on **Thursday, March 27, 2025**. Speaking times and dates will be provided to contestants a week in advance. Speakers should arrive by the start of the assigned 30 minute block and are encouraged to stay to hear all the others. Speakers are further encouraged to invite parents and others to attend their session and also serve as a respectful audience to other speakers.
- C. Finals for the top three contestants will be held on **Tuesday morning, April 1, 2025 at 7:30 am** at a regular breakfast meeting of the Grand Monadnock Rotary Club at Noone Falls (50 Jaffrey Road/Rt 202 S).
- D. This year’s Four-Way Test Speech Contest will determine which participant will be able to also participate in Rotary District 7870 **Semi-Finals in Henniker on Sunday afternoon, April 6, 2025** and, possibly, the **Rotary District Finals in Londonderry, NH, on Saturday morning April 26, 2025**. The winner of the qualifying round will be invited to the Semi-Finals, but in the event that the winner cannot attend, the First Runner-up will serve in their place.

III. Prizes

Grand Monadnock Rotary Club will award the following cash prizes as well as Award Certificates:

Winner **\$250**

First Runner-up **\$150**

Second Runner-up **\$100**

Larger cash prizes are again awarded to the finalists after the District Finals.

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CONTESTANT APPLICATION

- I. **Contestants must be high school age students**, including those in home-schools and private schools, from towns within the Conval School District.
- II. **Contestants will be supplied the following items** at the time they apply to the contest:
- A. The Rotary Four-Way Test:
“Of the things we think, say and do:
 - 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?”**
 - B. A copy of this page
 - C. A copy of the rules for the contest
 - D. A copy of the judges’ scoring sheet
- III. **The speech:**
- A. THE SPEECH SHOULD NOT BE READ, BUT ADEQUATE OUTLINE NOTES MAY BE USED
 - B. THE SPEECH MAY BE DELIVERED PARTLY OR ENTIRELY FROM MEMORY
 - C. YOU MUST SPEAK FOR NOT LESS THAN FIVE (5) MINUTES NOR MORE THAN SEVEN (7) MINUTES. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE
- IV. **A contestant must prepare his or her own speech based on the Four-Way Test**, showing **ALL FOUR (4)** of the questions as applied to his or her life or a segment of society and demonstrate its impact.
- V. **Applicant Information:** Send an email to bobmacdonald@pobox.com with the following information to apply to participate.

Name:

Age:

Mailing Address:

E-Mail:

Phone:

Mobile Phone:

School:

Grade:

Sponsoring Rotary Club: *Grand Monadnock Rotary Club, PO Box 354, Peterborough, NH 03458* <https://GrandMonadnockRotary.org>

Contacts: Robert MacDonald, GMRC Youth Programs, bobmacdonald@pobox.com
Harry Wolhandler, GMRC president, Harry@Accelara.com

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Contest Rules

1. Contestants must submit an application, emailing the required information (below) before **midnight Tuesday, March 18, 2025**.
2. Three contestants will be assigned to each 30 minute time block and must appear in person for the preliminary competition by 15 minutes before their assigned 30 minute time block on **Wednesday March 26, 2025 (or Thursday, March 27, 2025 if required)**. **Speaking times / days will be assigned by 1 week before contest**. The contest begins promptly at 7pm each evening at the Peterborough Town Library and the latest block will end by 9 pm. Top three scoring contestants will be notified of finalist status by Friday, March 28, 2025.
3. Students with the highest three scores will compete in the **finals at a regular Tuesday morning Grand Monadnock Rotary Club meeting at 7:30 am on Tuesday, April 1st**. Speakers should sign in by 7:20 am, and the contest begins at 7:45 am. Prize winners will be determined following the final contest presentations and awarded based on scoring during the finals with the meeting ending before 8:30 am. Family members are welcome to attend and buffet breakfast will be available at 7:15 am.
4. The Registrar shall compile a list of all contestants, check each contestant upon-registering at the contest and assign each contestant a number, which shall also be the assigned number for the judges' scoring. Speaker order will be determined by random drawing, and speakers will be informed of their speaking position at the beginning of the contest.
5. Scoring of the contest will be blind, and done by three Rotary Club members. Each speaker will be given a number when registering, and will be called in random order. Speakers should refrain from giving their name during the presentation. Speakers will be called by number to make their presentations, and should stay connected to hear others after theirs is given.
6. A timekeeper will display a timer showing time that has elapsed. The minimum time is five minutes and the maximum time is seven minutes. Violating the time limit will result in disqualification. The timekeeper shall give an appropriate visual signal to each speaker to mark the 5-minute time, then 6 minutes 30 seconds and 6 minutes 45 seconds.
7. Judges are responsible for *independently* evaluating each speaker as to each element on the score sheet during and/or immediately after each contestant has spoken. When the judges have completed scoring a contestant, the next speaker should begin.
8. After the completion of each contestant's speech, the scorers will complete the score sheet. Scorer(s) will then add the scores from each element to obtain a total score for each judge, and then compute the average score of the judges, which will be the basis for selecting a winner. In case of a tie score, judges and scorer(s) will determine the score based on the high score for the Four-Way Test Element (judges' score sheet "1) Content – Element A").
9. At the completion of all speeches, the judges shall receive from the timekeeper any time violations. The judges and scorers will have a discussion to ensure that there are no errors in scoring or calculating. Judges should all confer concerning any violation or issue. The judges shall determine appropriate penalties for any contest violations by majority vote.
10. Once the scoring has been completed, the scorer(s) should obtain the name that corresponds to each contestant's number and provide the highest ranked scores to the moderator.

**Grand Monadnock Rotary Club 2025 Four-Way Test Speech Contest
JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET**

Contestant number: _____

Score: _____

1) CONTENT

A. Practical and effective demonstration of the Four-Way Test throughout

Show ALL four of the 4-Way Test questions (1 – 8) _____ x 2 = _____

[] Is it the truth? [] Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

[] Is it fair to all concerned? [] Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

B. Use of examples from peer group experience (1 – 8) _____

C. Human interest and appeal (1 – 8) _____

D. Clarity and expressiveness of language (1 – 8) _____

CONTENT TOTAL = _____

2) ORGANIZATION

A. Introduction – captures attention & establishes major theme (1 – 8) _____

**B. Development – ideas presented & explained clearly
and logically with smooth transition** (1 – 8) _____

**C. Conclusion – emphasizes major theme and
leaves clear concise message** (1 – 8) _____

ORGANIZATION TOTAL = _____

3) DELIVERY

A. Clear enunciation and pronunciation (1 – 8) _____

**B. Good voice projection (easy to hear) and
voice expressiveness (tone and pacing)** (1 – 8) _____

C. Good eye contact and engagement with audience (1 – 8) _____

D. Relaxed and professional presentation (1 – 8) _____

DELIVERY TOTAL = _____

OVERALL TOTAL POINTS = _____

Judge's Name: _____

Date: _____