

Purpose

The Rotary Clubs of District 5170 sponsor the Richard D. King Annual Youth Speech Contest each year with three goals in mind for the club members and each contest participant:

To increase personal knowledge and awareness of the importance of being able to speak effectively before a group.

To increase public knowledge of what Rotary is and does throughout the world, especially among young people. Through this knowledge, we hope that they will learn, as we have in the past, "He who profits most serves best."

To increase participation in the contest and to provide all high school contestants with an opportunity to win prizes as top public speaker, or runner up, in District 5170.

Prizes

| <u>Club</u> | <u>Area</u> | <u>Regional</u> | <u>District</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1st: \$150 | 1st: \$300 | Top 2: \$700 | 1st: \$3,000 |
| 2nd: \$75 | 2nd: \$150 | Participants: \$300 | 2nd: \$1,500 |
| 3rd: \$25 | Participants: \$50 | | Finalists: \$750 |
| Others: \$25 | | | |

The prizes are awarded with "no strings attached." However, it is hoped that the award might be used to further the students' education. Our goal as Rotarians is to recognize and support these young people, who are tomorrow's leaders.

Judging

Judging criteria and a copy of a Judge's Ballot will be supplied to every contestant for review. These references are provided to ensure that students understand how their speeches will be evaluated and scored. Please note that it is required that ALL four of the principles of Rotary's Four Way Test be integrated into the speech.



Rotary 
District 5170



**RICHARD D. KING
ANNUAL YOUTH
SPEECH CONTEST**

**Jill Duerig
District Governor
2024-2025**



Levels of Competition

Club Level

Each of the 64 clubs in Rotary District 5170 is eligible to hold a speech contest, drawing contestants from the high schools in the club's local area. From each club, the **first place winner** will participate in the Area Level competition. The club level speech contests are to be completed by **March 21, 2025**.

Area Level

Within the district, clubs are grouped into twelve areas, with four to seven clubs in each area. Every Club Level winner will compete with the winners from the others clubs in "joint" Area Contest. The **first place winner*** will be selected as the finalist to participate in the Regional level competition. The area level contests are to be held between **March 24 and April 4, 2025** at a designated Rotary club.

* For Area Contests with 6 participants, **second place** may also go to the Regional Contest.

Regional Level

The district sponsors two Regional Contests. The two regions are the Northern Region (Areas 1 through 7) and the Southern Region (Areas 8 through 12). The **top two finalists** from each Regional competition will go on to the final competition at the District Learning Assembly. The regional level competitions will be held between **April 7 to April 18, 2025**.

District Finals

The four Regional Finalists, with parents/guardians, will be Rotary's guests at the District 5170 Conference. The speech contest will be held at the

West Valley College in Saratoga on Saturday, April 26, 2025.



Rules of Competition

Eligibility

Contests are open to student speakers in grades 9 through 12 who attend a local public or private high school within District 5170. Student speakers are to enter only **one** contest.

Original Work of Student

The speech must be the original work of the contestant.

Theme

The theme for the speech shall be **"Service Above Self"**. The theme must be clearly identified in the speech but need not be the topic for the speech.

Topic

Each student may choose any topic they is timely and of interest, as long as the content of the speech relates to the theme of **"Service Above Self"** and incorporates ALL four principles of **The Four Way Test**.

The Four Way Test Principles

Each speaker must clearly relate, apply, or interweave the four principles of the **Four Way Test** into their speech. These principles, which Rotarians have adopted as a guide for everyday living, are as follows:

The Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Is it **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Time Limitations

Speeches are between **four and five minutes** in length. Timing will begin when the contestant first speaks, not after the student's salutation to the chairperson or audience. A penalty of 2% shall be deducted from each judge's score for each 30 seconds (or fraction thereof) the contestant speaks under four or over five minutes.

Use of Props, Prompters, and Notes

At the **club level only**, a speaker make use a smart device to **glance** at their notes, or **one** 3" x 5" notecard. At other levels, the speaker shall **NOT** use a smart device, props, displays, or prompters of any kind. Notes may be used if they are on one 3" x 5" card.

Identification of Speaker or School

There shall be **NO** implicit or explicit identification of the speaker or of the speaker's school in the content or title of the speech, the attire of the contestant, or by other means whatsoever.

EACH CONTESTANT IS EXPECTED TO KNOW AND FOLLOW EACH OF THESE RULES AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE CONTEST. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE RULES SHALL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE SPEAKER.

Contestants may only compete once at the club level. The final decision, whether or not a violation has taken place, will be made by the District Youth Speech Contest Chairperson.

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Prizes

| <u>Club</u> | <u>Area</u> | <u>Regional</u> | <u>District</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1st: \$200 | 1st: \$300 | Top 2: \$700 | 1st: \$3,000 |
| 2nd: \$100 | 2nd: \$150 | Participants: \$300 | 2nd: \$1,500 |
| 3rd: \$50 | Participants: \$50 | | Finalists: \$750 |
| Other: \$35 | | | |

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