

## 2026 SPEECH CONTEST RULES GENERAL RULES

(Copies available at [WalnutGroveRotary.org](http://WalnutGroveRotary.org))

1. Contestants must be high school students in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
2. Students being homeschooled or in a program recognized by their school district or the State of California are allowed to enter the speech contest.
3. A student may compete in only ONE Rotary District 5180 club speech contest.
4. Any prior year's winner at any level may compete again at the club level, if they are otherwise eligible, and advance to the next level if they win.
5. All contestants must ARRIVE or LOG IN at their designated contest locations NO LATER THAN TEN MINUTES PRIOR to the start of the contest. Late arrivals will be DISQUALIFIED.
6. Student contestants advancing to the Semi-final Speech Contest level may only compete in the Area Semi-Final Speech Contest for his or her sponsoring Rotary Club.
7. The theme for every contest level is **"Unite for Good."**
8. The same speech must be used for all levels.
9. No pictures or video recording are permitted during any speaker's presentation.
10. Under penalty of possible disqualification, contestants may not mention their name, school or sponsoring Rotary Club prior to or during their speech.
11. No displays, props or prompting are allowed. Clothing containing logos may be considered props.
12. Protests or concerns about the conduct of the contest at any level must be made to the moderator of the contest prior to the announcement of the winners.
13. All contestants must agree to speak at the Semi-Final and Final Speech contests should they advance that far.
14. In the event that a Club or Semi-Final winner becomes unable to compete at the next level, the runner-up in the original contest will be offered a chance to compete.
15. Enthusiastic, dignified, and polite audience applause is encouraged immediately following each contestant's presentation.
16. A speech must be at least 5 minutes, but no more than 8 minutes in length. A Timer Alert will be given to each contestant of Green at 5 minutes, Yellow at 7 minutes, and Red at 7 minutes and 30 seconds. Contestants with speeches ending before 5 minutes or after 8 minutes may be disqualified per recommendation of the Timekeeper and Speech Contest Moderator, but cannot place above fourth place.
17. A contestant agrees to and provides permission to use your biography, photo, and presentation. You understand and consent for the collection, storage, and use of your information, biography, photo, and presentation on social media platforms. To opt out – contact the Rotary Club of Walnut Grove Committee.

For Additional Information Contact the Rotary Club Committee:

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