



ROTARY CLUB INSTRUCTIONS

SPEECH CONTEST

CLUB LEVEL COMPETITION INSTRUCTIONS

- Before a contestant may participate in the District-level competition on May 2, 2026, they must first compete in a club-level contest or be sponsored by a club.
- Each student competing at the club level must complete the “Contestant Registration & Consent Form” and return to their sponsoring Rotary Club.
- The club will retain this form and send a copy to the Pageant of the Arts Chair, Debbie Wehbe at debbie.rotary5280@gmail.com.
- See General Rules for more information.

DISTRICT LEVEL COMPETITION INSTRUCTIONS

Rotary Clubs: Please complete the steps below ONLY for students that are advancing to competition on May 2, 2026.

- **PAYMENT**
 - Rotary Clubs (not student) send the fee for each contest by **April 18, 2026**.
 - **Small Clubs** (20 members or less): \$115 per contest
 - **Medium Clubs** (21-49 members): \$175 per contest
 - **Large Clubs** (50+ members): \$220 per contest
 - Send payment to Rotary District 5280 Office:
 - 8055 W. Manchester Ave., Suite 460, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293
- **ONLINE APPLICATION**
 - Rotary Clubs (not student) must complete the online application for all contestants advancing to the District-level competition by **April 18, 2026**.
 - The online application can be found at www.rotary5280.org/page/pageant-of-the-arts/
 - **Note:** The online application is ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS ADVANCING TO THE DISTRICT-LEVEL COMPETITION.

Visit the Pageant of the Arts website for more information:

www.rotary5280.org/page/pageant-of-the-arts/





OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

SPEECH CONTEST

GENERAL CONTEST RULES FOR ALL CONTESTS AND CONTESTANTS

Location, arrival time and performance/presentation times will be sent prior to the contest.

- **The Pageant of the Arts is an annual competition for high school students:**
 - There are five separate contests - Art, Dance, Speech, Instrumental Music and Vocal Music.
 - Separate rules and applications apply for each contest.
 - Only one contestant per Rotary Club may be sent to the Art and Speech Contests.
 - Clubs may enter soloists or groups for Dance and Music.
- **Contestants must:**
 - Be currently enrolled in high school, home-schooled, or an alternative program;
 - Of high school age;
 - Have won 1st place at a Rotary Club Contest or may be sponsored by a Rotary Club.
- **Contestants may enter more than one contest if:**
 - The contestant qualifies;
 - Has the sponsorship of a Rotary Club.
 - Note: Separate rules and application apply for each contest.
- **Prizes for each contest:**
 - 1st Place - \$1,000.00; 2nd Place - \$500.00; 3rd Place - \$250.00.
- **The Contestant Registration & Parent/Guardian Consent Form must be:**
 - Signed by the contestant and their parent/guardian;
 - Submitted to your sponsoring Rotary Club.
 - The Rotary Club will register contestants online and pay the entry fee.
 - **Deadline for this is April 18, 2026.**
- **Judges are experts in their field:**
 - A Judging Rubric is used in evaluating contestants;
 - The rubric is available from your Rotary Club, the Contest Chair, or the Rotary District 5280 website.

SPEECH CONTEST RULES

- Speech Topic: **"Unite For Good"** (The 2025-26 theme of Rotary International).
- As a contestant, you should structure a speech that explains, promotes or clarifies how this theme is a positive solution to life's challenges. You may choose a challenge within the nation, state, community, school, family or a personal challenge and apply "Unite For Good" as the message of the speech.
- Speech content must be original to the contestant. Quotes may be used but must be limited to 10% or less of the speech.
- All performances/presentations/exhibits must be live, in person at the venue.
- Speech must not be read or delivered from notes. One 3"x5" note card will be allowed.
- Speech must be between 4 to 6 minutes. Timing cards will be shown at 4 minutes, 5 minutes, and 6 minutes. There is a grace period of 15 seconds. At 6 minutes 15 seconds they will be asked to stop.
- Speaking order is determined by randomization.
- The winner will be announced the day of the contest.

For questions or clarification, contact:
Debbie Wehbe, Pageant of the Arts Chair
debbie.rotary5280@gmail.com

Visit the Pageant of the Arts website for more info:
www.rotary5280.org/page/pageant-of-the-arts/



CONTESTANT REGISTRATION & CONSENT FORM

SPEECH CONTEST

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

This form must be filled out for each and every participant

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

High School/Alternative Study: _____

Address: _____ Grade: 9th 10th 11th 12th

SPEECH PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Title of Speech: _____ Length of Speech (*not to exceed 6 minutes*) _____

Brief Description of Speech: _____

CONTESTANT CONSENT

I have read and agree to abide by the Rotary District 5280 Official Speech Contest Rules. If I have questions, I will reach out to the Pageant of the Arts Chair, Debbie Wehbe, at debbie.rotary5280@gmail.com.

Contestant Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

If the above named contestant qualifies at the Rotary Club level for the District contest, I/we give permission for them to compete in the Rotary District 5280 Pageant of the Arts Contest to be held May 2, 2026. I/we give permission for their presentation/performance to be photographed and/or videotaped, to be used by Rotary District 5280.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Students: Please complete this form and return to your sponsoring Rotary Club.

Rotary Club: Please fill in the Rotary Contact info below. If your club selects this student to advance to the District Competition, complete the Rotary Club Submission Form at the Pageant of the Arts website, www.rotary5280.org/page/pageant-of-the-arts/

Rotary Club: _____ Rotary Club Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



JUDGE'S EVALUATION FORM

SPEECH CONTEST

Contestants and Rotary Clubs:

This form will be used in judging art contestants at the 2026 District-level Speech Contest and may be used by Rotary Clubs when judging their own speech contests.

Contestant Name: _____ Title/Topic: _____

Criteria	20-18 Exceptional	17-14 Very Good	13-10 Commendable	9-6 Competent	Score
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic • Purpose 	Fully focused topic with clearly communicated understanding of the speech's purpose: "Unite For Good" , the theme of Rotary International.	Appropriate focused topic with understanding of speech's purpose.	Focused topic with some understanding of speech's purpose.	Some sense of topic with a vague sense of the speech's purpose.	
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation • Organization 	Commanding grasp of related facts & information within full development of points; clearly & logically organized with distinct introduction, body, & conclusion, with appropriate transitions linking the sections.	Clear use of related facts & information with development of major points, organized with a sense of beginning, middle, and end. Some transitions used.	Facts & information relate to topic, but explanations lack connections & organization falters.	Facts & information loosely connect with topic; however, explanations are limited or incomplete; poorly organized.	
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Language (includes appropriateness & correctness) 	Use of sophisticated & varied language suited to topic & audience; language is well-chosen, concise & grammatically correct.	Use of appropriate, varied & somewhat sophisticated language, well-chosen & grammatically acceptable.	Use of appropriate language yet lacks a level of sophistication, originality & expressiveness; few if any grammatical errors.	Use of language unsuitable to topic, audience, & purpose; word choice does little to convey an appropriate tone; noticeable errors.	
Delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal • Non-verbal 	Combination of appropriate & effective eye contact, vocal clarity, & projection, tone, pace, & gestures serves to enhance speaker's words. Speech fully memorized.	Good use of a combination of appropriate eye contact, vocal clarity & projection, tone, pace & gestures add to speech's effect. Minimum use of notes.	Some use of eye contact; vocal clarity & projection adequate; pacing & gestures somewhat contrived. Some use of notes.	Inconsistent use of eye contact, vocal clarity, & projection, poor pacing & awkward gestures interrupt the flow of the speech. Reliance upon notes.	
Overall Effect:	Speaker maintains enthusiasm & audience attention throughout; purpose is clearly achieved.	Speaker shows some enthusiasm; audience interest is maintained most of the time; purpose of speech is achieved.	Speaker shows limited enthusiasm; audience interest falters at times; purpose of speech only partially achieved.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm around topic & no clear purpose emerges.	
Time: _____	Minimum Time: 3 min 30 sec Maximum Time: 6 min				
Total Points: (out of 100)					
Judge's Signature					