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TIPS FOR RECRUITING CONTESTANTS

Any high-school age student qualifies as a contestant, whether enrolled in a public school, or private, or home schooled, or in a vocational school, so the number of potential candidates is large.

Places to recruit:

- **Word of mouth at your club.** Children and relatives of Rotarians qualify, as long as they have no ties to the judges in the contest they wish to enter.
- A prime source are **high schools in your area.** Try to find who is the person in charge of scholarships and events – often an assistant principal or counselor. Try to get them to publicize the event in the school's social media
- Reach out to **teachers of the particular Art** – music teachers, art teachers, speech or debate teachers. You may not be able to reach them by phone, so go there physically and ask to put the fliers in their mail cubbies.
- Find the school's **social media** – Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, whatever – and comment or reply to something.
- If there are any **Interact clubs** in your local schools, that is a rich source of contestants. Talk to the teacher/coordinator, as well as to the student Interact president.
- Any school that has a Kiwanis club or other service club – treat as equivalent to an Interact club.
- Find and approach **outside schools. of music, or Art. Dance studios also.** Speak to the owner or manager and leave behind fliers for their students. Often, they do not really know what Rotary is, so impress upon them that we have sterling credentials as an A-rated global non-profit with a strong reputation – that we are only in it for the benefit of the kids.

- Find Boys' and Girls' clubs. Talk to their leaders.
- Find Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders.
- Put fliers into even Starbucks; many have notice boards. Try nail salons, as the moms will be interested.

NOW is a good time to recruit, as the semester is in full swing, and the service clubs have elected their officers.

Be aware of the deadlines. Your club may schedule a preliminary contest, usually in January or February, to choose a contestant. If you do not have enough candidates, you may simply sponsor someone. If you choose this route, please have the student perform for your club so you know that they have the skills to qualify.