

Rotary District 7850 Speech Contest Basic Rules & Eligibility – revised Sept. 2026

This outline, the contest poster, registration form and judge score sheets provide essential information for participants in Rotary Speech Contest.

A. ROTARY SEEKS ASSISTANCE from any interested person to distribute these core speech contest documents to high school aged students:

Potential Contestants should receive these:

Basic Rules,
Contest Poster,
Registration Form, and
Judge Score Sheet

B. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE & RECEIVE CONTEST PRIZES

1. Any High School Student or high school aged student who resides in the club's service area is eligible, unless student has been a previous District 7850 Final Contest Winner.

2. There are four Contest Rounds (see poster for dates & cash prizes). All Contestants who win any Contest Rounds are responsible to participate at the next Contest Round or will not receive prize money (check) from the previously Contest Round. (Round 1 Club Check is given at Round 2 Area Contest. Round 2 District Check is given at Round 3 and Round 3 District Check is given at Round 4.)

C. RULES OF CONTEST

1. Subject: Apply this year's contest theme in everyday relationships with other people.

2. Delivery: A written copy of the speech should be presented prior to the presentation. The contestant may refer to a copy of the speech during its presentation but should not be reading the speech word for word, nor does it have to be completely memorized.

3. Identification: The students must not identify themselves during the speech by listing their town of residence, Rotary Club or their name. All students will be recognized after all speeches have been judged to keep it fair to all concerned.

4. Length of Speech: The speech should be no longer than 5 minutes. Penalty points will be given if the speech is under four minutes or over six minutes. If it is over seven minutes, the Contestant will be disqualified.

5. Speech Content: The speech given **must be** original in content, relating to contest topic and Rotary values. Speech can be edited as long as it keeps the same approach to the topic.

6. Language: The speech may be presented either in English or French as is appropriate for the sponsoring Rotary Club.

6. The Rules and Format for Speech Contest will remain the same at each Round whether there is one or more contestants and whether held in-person or remotely. There are no ties.

D. CONTEST FORMS, RULES AND GUIDELINES

All contestants must be given this document, registration form, current contest poster, and judge score sheet. All contestants should review all of the contest documents found on the district website and will be held responsible for the information contained within.

The Contest Poster provides essential details about this year's topic, schedule and prizes. All of these may also be viewed online or printed from the Rotary District 7850 Website: www.rotary7850.org. Youth Tab.