**Rotary District 7850 Club Speech Contest Script**

Join me in welcoming\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our wonderful partner at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (partner high school) and who has been so supportive of our contest and in getting students to participate in our speech contest today. Students please stand.

The year’s Speech Contest topic is:

**Why is Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Important?** (see details on contest poster). Speakers were asked to incorporate this theme into their speeches using peer examples as well as Rotary principles and values.

Club Round 1 has $200 prize from our club (by Feb 20th), given at Area Round 2.

Area Round 2 has $300 prize: (insert date, by Mar 15th) given by District at Round 3.

District Round 3 has $500 for the two winning finalists on Sat April 1st at District Assembly at Lydonville, VT, prize given at Round 4.

District Round 4 has $750 for Winner & $500 for Runner-Up prizes to be held

on Sat April 29, 2023 at District 7850 Conference at Jay Peak Resort, Jay Peak, VT.

Students drew numbers to decide the speaking order and will be called to speak by their drawn number and speech title. Names of students and their school will be shared during their interviews after the contest is completed.

We’ll welcome them with applause as they come to the lectern to speak for 5 minutes. Following each speech there will be one minute of silence to give judges time to mark their scoring sheet. It’s only 60 seconds – no whispering or texting.

Please turn off all electronic devices now and keep them off during the contest.

After all speeches are completed, our Club president \_\_\_\_ will interview each student while judges are completing their scoring and counters tally scores.

After scores are tallied, we’ll announce Club Round 1 - Winner & Runner-Up; Winner will compete in Area Round 2 with a potential to win a $300 Prize, where our contest winner will receive Club Round 1 Club’s $200 cash prize. Winners must participate in the preceding Contest Round to receive their previously won contest cash prize.

I want to thank all the contestants and ask the Contest Moderator/Club President to come forward to interview the students.

---when completed certificates for Winner & Runner-Up are delivered to Club President / Contest Moderator, finish interviews and Runner-up should be called first, then Winner.

Again thanks everyone, take pictures and close contest.