

Speech Contest 2025-26 Information

AG, Presidents and Speech Committee

Please read and share all the attached documents with your Clubs. Work together to set up the date, time, location and contact information for Round 1 Club & Round 2 Area Speech Contests.

The poster attached is fillable for the dates.

The Contest Poster lists the contest deadlines, prizes and information for District Rounds 3 & 4.

Key Speech Contest Points:

1. Every contest registration form needs to be readable and filled out with all the contact information for the contestant, school and sponsoring Rotary Club. This information is essential.
2. Download and review the attached 2025-26 Speech Contest documents, especially understanding the concern for fair, consistent, and equitable treatment for every student within each task and activity.
3. Clubs should keep the original registration form and provide their AG with copies of the registration form and speech written out for each 1st place and 2nd place winners. These will be used by the AG in preparing the Round 2 Contests.
4. AG – please pass along registration forms and copies of speeches for each Round 2 winner and runner up to Susan Cherry to prepare for Round 3.
5. If there is only one contestant for the club round 1 or for the area round 2, there must still be a full contest held with judges and “timer” completing their score sheets. Judges must confirm that the speech is on topic, content appropriate, and within the 4-6 minute time range. All contestants are to have the same number of contests and speaking opportunities.
6. Scoring: Judge scoring is confidential, and their sheets should be shredded after ballots are tallied and awards have been decided. Counters only use the lower portion of the judge score sheet where judges have written which contestant is their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner. The counter then converts each place value as 6 – 3 – 1 for tallying (see instruction sheet). There are no ties. The chief judge must decide who will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.
7. Round 3 will be at the District Assembly on Saturday, April 18, 2026. This will be between 10 AM and 2 PM at the Northern Vermont University, Lyndonville Campus (Moore Community Building).
8. Round 4 will be on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at the hotel Estrimont, Orford, Quebec – in Canada. We estimate the timing to be between 11 AM and 2 PM. Please have students prepare for the border crossing as soon as possible.
9. Please contact Susan Cherry with any questions: Susan Cherry, 49 Frost Ave. St. Johnsbury, VT 05819; susan.cherry1@gmail.com; (802) 274-1681.