



2027 ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST

Updated September 1, 2026

Rotary District 5180 Speech Theme:



The speech must be between 5 and 8 minutes.

Notes **are** allowed at the club level, **one 3 x 5 note card** is allowed at the Semi-Final level, but **no notes** are allowed at the Finals level.

Club Speech Contests may be scheduled from January 4 through February 28, 2027

Club Level Prizes: 1st-\$200 2nd-\$100 3rd-\$50 4th-Club Discretion

First Place Club Contest Winners will participate in one of four regional semi-final competitions between March 1 through March 18, 2027

Semi-Final Prizes: 1st- \$250 2nd-\$100 3rd-\$50

The four First Place Semi-final winners will compete in the final speech contest on April 6, 2027.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2027, Time TBD, Final Speech Contest at Citrus Heights Community Center, 6300 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA.

Final Speech Contest Prizes: 1st- \$2,000 2nd-\$1,000 3rd-\$500 4th-\$250

ROTARY CLUB OF _____

DATE, TIME, & LOCATION OF CONTEST: _____

ROTARY CLUB CONTACT: _____

For further information, contact the above local Rotary Club Contact or send email with your name and town of residence to Rotary District 5180 Speech Chairperson Bill Highland: highland.bill@gmail.com



Rotary District 5180 Speech Theme:



SPEECH CONTEST STUDENT ENTRY FORM

I hereby apply to enter the Rotary District 5180 Speech Contest. I will compete on ____/____/____ at the Club Speech Contest of the Rotary Club of _____.

I agree to abide by the rules of the Rotary District 5180 Speech Contest and to create an original speech for delivery. I will enter **ONLY ONE** Rotary Speech Contest during the 2026-27 school year. I will not share my speech with any other contestant in the District.

Please fill out completely and legibly (School email addresses should be avoided and are often blocked from receiving Speech Information.)

Student Name (printed): _____ Grade: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Student Phone: Home: () _____ Cell: () _____

Student Home Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parents Names (optional): _____

School: _____

Name of Teacher or Coach (if applicable): _____

Student Signature: _____

To enter this Rotary 2026-2027 Speech Contest, return this form to:

_____ **not later than** ____/____/____

OR Send to Bill Highland District 5180 Speech Chairperson at highland.bill@gmail.com (530) 933-9040

2026 – 2027 SPEECH CONTEST RULES

GENERAL RULES:

1. Contestants must be high school students in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
2. Students being homeschooled or in a program recognized by their school district or the State of California are allowed to enter the speech contest.
3. A student may compete in only ONE Rotary District 5180 Club Speech Contest.
4. Any prior year's winner at any level may compete again at the club level, as long as they are otherwise eligible, and advance to the next level if they win.
5. All contestants must **ARRIVE** or **LOG IN** at their designated contest locations **NO LATER THAN TEN MINUTES PRIOR** to the start of the contest. Late arrivals will be **DISQUALIFIED**.
6. Student contestants advancing to the Semi-Final Speech Contest level may only compete in the Area Semi-Final Speech Contest of his or her sponsoring Rotary Club.
7. The theme for every contest level is **“Create Lasting Impact.”**
8. The same speech must be used for all levels of competition.
9. No pictures or video recording are permitted during any speaker's presentation.
10. Under penalty of possible disqualification, contestants **may not mention their name, school or sponsoring Rotary Club** prior to or during their speeches.
11. **No displays, props or prompting are allowed.** Clothing containing logos may be considered props.
12. Protests or concerns about the conduct of the contest at any level must be made to the moderator of the contest **prior to the announcement of the winners.**
13. All contestants must agree to speak at the Semi-Final and Final Speech contests should they advance that far.
14. In the event that a Club or Semi-Final winner becomes unable to compete at the next level, the runner-up in the original contest will be offered a chance to compete.
15. Enthusiastic, dignified, and polite audience applause is encouraged immediately following each contestant's presentation.
16. The speech must be **at least 5 minutes, but not more than 8 minutes in length.** A Timer Alert will be given to each contestant of Green at 5 minutes, Yellow at 7 minutes, and Red at 7 minutes and 30 seconds. Contestants with speeches ending before 5 minutes or after 8 minutes may be disqualified per recommendation of the Timekeeper and Speech Contest Moderator, but cannot place above fourth place.