

# 2026 ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST

Updated August 11, 2025

## 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 - March 13, 2026

**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 14 - April 18, 2026

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

The four First Place Semi-final winners will compete in the

**SATURDAY, May 2, 2026, Time TBD, Final Speech Contest at the District Conference, Caesars Republic Lake Tahoe (Previously Harvey's Lake Tahoe), 18 Highway 50, Stateline, NV.**

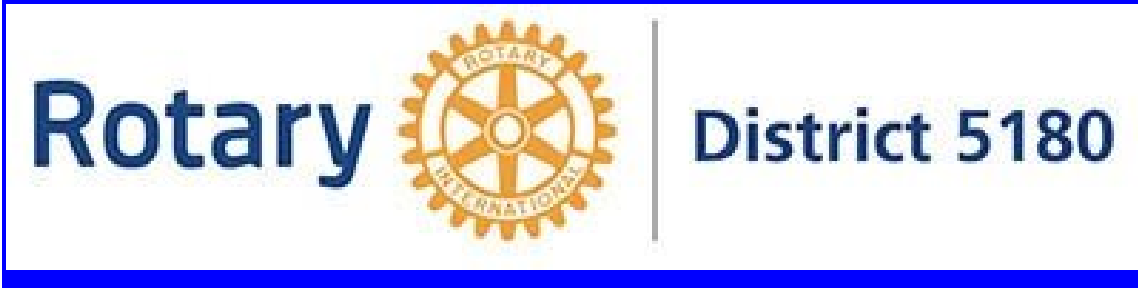
**Final Speech Contest Prizes: 1st- \$2,000 2nd-\$1,000 3rd-\$500 4th-\$250**

ROTARY CLUB OF \_\_\_\_\_

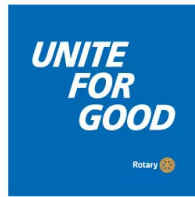
DATE, TIME, & LOCATION OF CONTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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 2025-26 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 2025 Speech Contest, return this form to:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **not later than** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

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

# 2025 - 26 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 **"Unite for Good."**
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.