

Rotary District 6890
2024-2025 Speech Contest Rules

Who: Contestants may be freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors (9-12 grade) enrolled in a public, private, or homeschool and may have competed and won in previous years.

Length: Five to seven minutes with a fifteen-second leeway (five points off for going over or under time).

Delivery: Notes may be used but are discouraged at the local club level; reading is also discouraged. Notes will not be allowed at Group Level or District Finals competitions. Memorized speeches are impressive and will earn points.

Topic: Material must be original in content and apply to the current Rotary theme, The Magic of Rotary. Contestants should prepare a speech with facts, statistics, stories, examples, and quotations. Humor and personal touches may be added, but contestants must not mention their name, school, or city. At the District Finals, the sponsoring Rotary Club may not be mentioned in the speech.

Scoring: Speeches will be scored based on the following criteria, with associated point values:

Content:

- 10 points for originality, creativity, and imagination;
- 10 points for human interest and relevant examples from peer group;
- 20 points for incorporating the Rotary theme, The Magic of Rotary.

Organization:

- 10 points for effective introduction and establishment of the Rotary theme;
- 10 points for an orderly, logical body, clear points and transitions, and vivid illustrations;
- 10 points for a brief overview or summary at the end and a persuasive and logical conclusion.

Delivery:

- 10 points for diction, pronunciation, and enunciation;
- 10 points for vocal clarity and projection;
- 10 points for body language, posture, gestures, eye contact, and purposeful movement.

Judges: Ties will be decided by actual scores. Previous District winners may compete again with a new speech. At group level and district finals, the judge cannot be a member of the Rotary Club that has a participant in the contest. Judges are encouraged to write critiques of the speeches on the judge's score sheets and give them to each participant. This will help the student improve their public speaking skills and will be especially beneficial if moving on to the next level.

Timekeeping: During Club Level competition, please designate a timekeeper whose primary responsibility is to keep the time for the contestants' speeches. Speeches are to last between five and seven minutes.

Audience: The audience for the Club Level contest is usually 10 to 100+ adults at a breakfast or lunch meeting. At the group-level competition, the audience will likely include parents, coaches, judges, and other contestants. The finalist will present their speeches at the Rotary District 6890 Speech Contest Finals at the Bartow Public Library on April 8, 2025.