



2025-2026 District Speech Contest Information for Judges

Rotary District 5190 is pleased that you have accepted the responsibility of judging its annual Speech Contest. To help assure continuity in judging at all levels of the competition, please read carefully the criteria outlines below and become familiar with the score sheet prior to judging.

Judging Procedures

Please do not identify yourself to contestants prior to or during the contest. When scoring, total your scores between speakers to make sure the sum represents your relative opinion of the speakers. Try not to have tie scores on your sheet, because this means the tellers will have to resolve ties. Also, no matter how good the early speakers are, leave room for improvement. That way a later speaker can possibly receive a higher score.

When the contest is over, give your score sheet to the scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will check your math and tally scores to determine a winner. In case of ties, the highest score for Delivery will determine the winner. Scores submitted by the judges and the decision of the tellers is final. Score sheets are confidential and will not be made available to contestants or coaches.

Delivery

- **Enunciation & Pronunciation:** Can you understand the speaker's words easily, without straining? Does the speaker pronounce words clearly and correctly?
- **Expressiveness & Poise:** Does the speaker change pace, sentence structure, and volume levels? Does the speaker stand straight, maintain eye contact, and gesture appropriately?
- **Sense of Humor:** Is there a light touch? Does the speaker enjoy the topic? Is the humor poignant?
- **Sincerity & Tone:** Does the speaker believe what he or she is saying, or is the speech just so many words?

Delivery is the tiebreaker, so pay close attention to how you score Delivery. Try not to give the same number of points in Delivery for any speakers.

Originality

- **Uniqueness:** Have you heard these points before, or is this a new way of approaching the topic?
- **Imagination:** Are the illustrations unexpected, fresh? Is this creative, original and unconventional?
- **Engaging:** Is the audience rapt? Are they really tuned into the speaker or merely listening politely?

Content

- **Relevance to Subject:** Is the opening relevant to the development of the topic, or is it merely dramatic? Are the stories and anecdotes critical to the main idea of the speech, or are they merely colorful?
- **Logical Development:** Could you easily outline the speech? The opening and conclusion should consolidate the approach to the topic.
- **Clarity of Ideas:** Are the major points clear, and are they supported by convincing data or logic?



Club Contest Contacts

Club Contest _____

Area Contest _____

District Contest _____

Restaurant Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Area Contest Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Newspaper Contact: _____ Phone: _____

High School #1 _____

Teacher: _____ Room: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

High School #2 _____

Teacher: _____ Room: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

High School #3 _____

Teacher: _____ Room: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____

Contestant: _____ Phone: _____



District 5190 Speech Contest Sample Letter to Judges

Date: _____

(Name and Address of Speech Contest Judge)

Dear _____,

Thank you for volunteering your time to be a judge at our Rotary speech contest.

The contest you will be judging is the Area(Club or District) _____ contest for Rotary District 5190. There will be a total of _____ participants. The date is _____ at _____.

I have enclosed a sample judging form and contest rules so you can review them before the contest.

I'll give you additional copies on the day of the contest.

Again, thank you so much for taking your time to be a judge. I look forward to seeing you on _____.

Sincerely,

Area Contest Chairperson

Sample Letter to Area Contest Winner (Revise for Club or Area Contest)

Date: _____

(Name and Address of Speech Contest Winner)

Dear _____,

Congratulations on winning the Rotary District 5190 Area level speech contest!

As you may have been informed, next up is the Rotary District level speech contest, which will be held on the morning of **Saturday, May 2, 2026** at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, NV – Crystal Rooms 1 & 2. Time: 9:00 am.

The contest start time is scheduled for 9:15 am. Contest rules stipulate that ALL contestants must arrive no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of the contest. NO EXCEPTIONS. The First-Place winner will be one of our featured guests at the District Conference lunch, to be held the same day. As the winner of the Speech Contest, we have planned on you joining us for lunch to perform the winning speech for the conference attendees. You and (2) guests will be provided meals, courtesy of the district committee. The lunch will begin around the noon hour.

You may want to plan on arriving 15 minutes or more prior to the contest beginning, so we can orient you, arrange for your seating and introduce ourselves to you.

Thank you for participating in our District Speech Contest. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 2, 2026. If you have any questions or need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Zybert
District 5190 Speech Contest Chairman
dzybert@gmail.com
775-232-6736