

**Rotary District 6890**

**2024-2025 Speech Contest Rules**

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| **Who:**  | Contestant may be a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior (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 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 upon the following criteria, with associated point values:  |
| **Content**  |
| 10 pts  | Originality, creativity, imagination  |
| 10 pts  | Human interest and relevant examples from peer group  |
|  | 20 pts |   | Incorporation of Rotary theme, *The Magic of Rotary*  |
| **Organization**  |
| 10 pts  | Effective introduction and establishment of theme  |
| 10 pts  | Orderly, logical body, clear points and transitions, vivid illustrations  |
| 10 pts  | Brief overview/summary at ending, persuasive and logical conclusion  |
| **Delivery**  |
| 10 pts  | Diction, pronunciation, enunciation  |
| 10 pts  | Vocal clarity, projection  |
| 10 pts  | Body language, posture, gestures, eye contact, purposeful movement  |
| **100 Total Points**  |

At District Finals, the “Most Firsts” method will be used in tallying results with multiple judges. For example, two “firsts” and a “sixth” wins over three “seconds.”

Ties will be decided by actual scores. Previous District winners may compete again with a new speech.

**Judges:** 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, who’s primary responsibility is keeping the time of the contestants’ speeches. Speeches are to last between five and seven minutes. Please see additional timekeeping procedures: *Timekeeper’s Instructions*.

**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 on April 8, 2025 at the Bartow Public Library.