



Rotary District 6890 Speech Contest

2025-2026 Speech Contest Rules

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, ***Unite for Good***. 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, <i>Unite for Good</i>
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 13, 2026 at the Bartow Public Library.

Prizes	Club Level	1 st = \$100, 2 nd = \$50, 3 rd = \$25
	Group Level	1 st = \$250, 2 nd = \$150, 3 rd = \$100
	District Finals	1 st = \$1,000, 2 nd = \$500, 3 rd = \$250

Club prize levels are suggested; individual Clubs are free to adjust their prizes as they determine.