

**PRESTON JOHNSON ROTARY DISTRICT 6920
ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH CONTEST
2017-2018 GUIDELINES**



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

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Speech Contest Information 2017-2018

1. District is divided into three zones:
Northern- Lloyd Horadan
Western- Erin Kile
Eastern- Rafe Semmes
2. Clubs may send up to two winners to the zone contest. If the club winner(s) is unable to attend their assigned Zone contest due to a valid reason (school function, family emergency etc.) contact the District Chair as soon as possible. A winner may attend another Zone contest with approval from the District Chair. **Clubs will need to hold their contests by mid March due to the Zone level contest dates. (See #6 below)**
3. There is a \$100.00 entry fee for EACH club contestant sent to the zone contest. For example, if the 1st and 2nd place contestants compete at zone the fee would be \$200.00. Please make the checks out to District 6920, for the appropriate amount, and mail to: Jan Horadan, 111 Avant Ave NW, Milledgeville, Ga 31061.
4. All high school students, including home schooled, are eligible to participate. Any student who has won at the club or zone level previously is eligible to compete again as long as they remain a high school student.
5. The theme this year is "Rotary: Making A Difference". Contestants may also use the "4 way test".
6. Zone level contests are tentatively scheduled for March 24, March 31 and April 7, 2018.
7. District Conference will be April 27-29, 2018 at Jekyll Island. The winner from each zone **MUST** present their speech at District Conference to receive the scholarship money. There are **no** exceptions to this rule!
8. Speech contest guidelines and forms are posted on the website.
Go to www.rotarydistrict6920.net
On the top of the page click on District Activities.
Drop down boxes appear and click on Speech Contest
That link should bring you to all the information you should need. It includes the guidelines, contact information for the District Chair and Zone Coordinators, the zone each club is assigned to, the Judges form and Club contest finalist form (needs to be sent to the appropriate zone coordinator and District Chair).
This page will also list the dates and venues for the zone level contests once they have been determined.
9. Please feel free to call the District Chair or Zone Coordinators for any questions.
District Chair: Jan Horadan 478-804-3192 jhoradan@gmail.com
Northern Zone: Lloyd Horadan 478-232-0942 jhoradan@oftc.edu
Western Zone: Erin Kile 478-318-3606 ekile50@gmail.com
Eastern Zone: Rafe Semmes 912-234-5052, ext 115 rafe_semmes@yahoo.com

INTRODUCTION

Initiated in 1997 by Dublin Rotarian and Past District Governor, Preston Johnson, the Preston Johnson Rotary District 6920 Annual High School Speech Contest is a special project engaging Rotarians, educators, and students in a meaningful and rewarding opportunity for personal development of our nation's future leaders. Originally named the 4- Way Test Speech Contest, the contest evolved over the years to focus on the current International President's Annual Theme or the 4-Way Test. No matter which theme is used the basic premise remains: the speech contest requires students to research and learn about Rotary in preparing a short speech; in doing so, the students as well as all audience members receive an invaluable review of the great service which is Rotary.

DISTRICT CHAIR

The District Chair is selected by the current District Governor to serve as the ultimate overseer of the Speech Contest. The responsibilities of the District Chair include:

- Gaining the approval of the District Governor for the Guidelines.
- Promoting the speech contest to all District 6920 Club Presidents.
- Gaining intent to participate confirmations from Club Presidents.
- If possible assign equal number of clubs to each of the Zone Contests.
- Identifying Zone Coordinators to serve regional clubs.
- Provide training and support to Zone Coordinators.
- Communicating to all participating clubs, educators and contestants as required.
- Acquiring zone level awards.
- Attending each Zone Contest.
- Communicating Zone Contest finalists to the District Governor
- Presenting scholarships at the District Conference following speech presentations

ZONE COORDINATORS

The Zone Coordinators are selected by the District Chair based upon a desire and willingness to serve. The responsibilities include coordinating the zone level contests. The typical zone level contest may include between twelve and fifteen participants. The participants are determined at the local club level. Club Chairs must report to the Zone Coordinator the name of the participant. Coordinator will then determine a proper date and venue at which to conduct the zone level competition. Ideally the venue will be appropriate for the purpose of presenting speeches and accommodating the expected audience size. Consideration of convenient travel for all participants should also be taken into account when selecting a venue.

The Zone Coordinators' responsibilities are as follows:

- Communicate with the District Chair regularly as progress is made.
- Collect the names of all participating clubs, Club Chairs, and contact information.
- Support Club Chairs as requested in enlisting the participation of local educators.
- Determine a date and secure a venue for the zone contest.
- Communicate zone contest date and venue to all Club Presidents and Club Chairs.
- Enlist an individual to serve as Timekeeper and assist judges with score sheet tabulation. A calculator is a must and a laptop with Excel will be helpful. (Please see the Judge's Scoring Sheet on the District 6920 website).
- Identify and enlist a minimum of three judges for the zone contest.
- Train and review guidelines with judges.

Make preparations for the zone contest:

- Bring judging forms (two for each judge).
- Bring refreshments (coffee, juice, water, pastries)
- Prepare podium and/or speech contest location
- Present an overview of the contest agenda. Conduct the contest.
- Have contestants draw a number to establish speaking order.
- In case of an emergency: late arrivals are permitted to participate as long as arrival is before last speaker begins his/her speech.
- Release judges to a secured location for collaboration and finalist determination.
- Judges must determine First, Second and Third place finalists with no ties.
- Present awards to contest finalists.
- Obtain contact information for all finalists. (Please see the Zone Contest Finalist Form on the District 6920 website.)
- Submit finalists' information to District Chair.

CLUB SPEECH CONTEST CHAIR

The Club Speech Contest Chair, selected by the Club President or local club, will be responsible for promoting and conducting the local club level competition. Multiple clubs may partner in the local speech contest to determine participants to the Zone Level competition. The club level contest should attempt to involve all local schools and home schooled students alike. The contest is open to all high school level students. The Club Speech Contest Chair should determine the contest date and prizes prior to contacting educators. Each club will be responsible for awards or recognition presented at the club level.

The Club Speech Contest Chair's responsibilities include the following:

- Notify the Zone Coordinator and District Chair of their contact information.
- Consult with local club(s) on club contest arrangements. Determine date and time. Decide what (if any) awards will be provided to club level contestants.
- Decide what appreciation gift will be presented to judges.
- Become familiar with all Speech Contest materials, guidelines, and forms.
- Contact local educators (school superintendents/principals) to promote the contest and secure participation.
- Discuss benefits of participation: scholarships, research and public speaking development.
- Present Guidelines.
- Emphasize judging standards.
- Discuss speech theme and content requirements.
- Review research sources.
- Secure venue for local contest. Many clubs conduct the contest during a regular weekly meeting. This provides all Rotarians a very good refresher of Rotary International as the students present their research findings.
- Promote the contest through the local newspapers (should be free); air media, club websites and word-of-mouth.
- Enlist an individual to serve as Timekeeper and to assist judges with score sheet tabulation. A calculator is a must and a laptop with Excel will be helpful. (Please see the Judge's Scoring Sheet on the District 6920 website).
- Arrange for contest judges: Rotarians, educators, other leaders competent to judge speeches.
- Insure judges receive the speech contest guidelines and judging forms in advance.
- Review guidelines and judging forms with all judges immediately prior to the contest.
- Conduct the local speech contest.
- Identify finalist in terms of First, Second, and Third. If an intended student is unable to compete at the Zone level, the next highest finalist should be granted the opportunity to compete.

- Secure contact information for all club sponsored Zone Contest contestants and forward to Zone Coordinator and District Chair. (Please see the Club Contest Finalist Form on the District 6920 website.)
- Promote the Zone Contest to your club and encourage members to attend in support of your local contestant(s).

JUDGES

Judges will be independent and follow the Preston Johnson Rotary District 6920 High School Speech Contest Guidelines 2017-2018. This helps prepare the local finalists for the Zone competition and helps insure consistency and fairness in judging. The 2017-2018 theme will be "Rotary: Making A Difference" or "Rotary 4 Way Test." Limited use of 3" X 5" note cards is allowed. It must be understood, the short duration of the speech (3 to 4 minutes) certainly allows the well prepared speaker to present without reminders, and therefore judges should reward speakers avoiding use of note cards and accordingly, reduce scoring based upon their use.

The Guidelines present rules for the contest and the Judging Form provides an easy to use objective mechanism to compare speakers' presentations. Judges and contestants alike should carefully review the guidelines and Judging Form to insure a fairly conducted contest.

Judges should complete Judging forms during (or immediately following) each speaker's presentation. Upon completion of all presentations, Judges will reconvene in a secure location to compare evaluations and determine contest finalist. Judges should determine a First, Second and Third place finalist as determined by individual scores from the judge score sheet. It is suggested, if absolutely necessary, ties be broken by time. Since the guidelines call for a 3 to 4 minute speech, the student closest to 3:30 would win the tie-breaker.

Judges should notify the Club Speech Contest Chair and/or the Zone Coordinator they have selected the finalist and present their results to the Club Speech Contest Chair and/or the Zone Coordinator. They then will rejoin the entire gathering for the announcements and presentation of awards.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS/EDUCATORS

School Administrators and Educators are crucial to the potential benefits the student contestant may receive. The scholarship opportunity is not the only benefit. School and community pride can be emphasized. Consider the promotion of school athletics and community pride, when considering engaging students in a District-wide speech competition. The required research will also introduce the student contestants to the world of Rotary and perhaps a lifelong experience full of unquantifiable rewards. The High School Speech Contest is a rewarding endeavor that should be embraced and promoted by all educators. All students and parents should be made aware of the speech contest, its modest expectation (3 to 4 minutes in duration) and its great rewards (scholarship/community pride/trip to District Conference). It is suggested students be provided with a notice of the speech contest to review with parents or guardians. All counselors assisting students with scholarships, student loans and other college funding should be fully versed on the speech contest and insure students are aware of the scholarship opportunities.

The Club Speech Contest Chairperson should meet with School Administrators and Educators and insure complete understanding of the benefits of student participation, the contest guidelines, local contest process, zone level competition and the district presentation available for zone contest winners.

School Administrators and Educators should help promote this speech contest to all students, Freshman through Senior level.

STUDENTS

Students participating in the contest should review the complete speech contest guidelines including the Judges Score Sheet and Judging Guidelines. The speech should be centered on Rotary International President Ian Risely's theme "Rotary: Making A Difference" or the "Rotary 4 Way Test." Student competitors should be aware failure to prepare a speech without the basis of the annual theme and/or 4 way test will preclude any viable chance to be selected for the scholarship at the zone competition. Students should also be aware professional attire is a scoring consideration. This does not mean students must wear expensive suits or dresses but should take care to dress in a conservative manner consistent with the presentation of a speech to business leader members of Rotary. Students should develop their speeches to fit within the 3 to 4 minute time constraint. Speeches less than three minutes or greater than four minutes will be progressively penalized in scoring. The short speech should be deliverable without the use of note cards or written copy but the student may utilize a few small note cards with limited words for reference if necessary. The judges will positively reward the scoring of students presenting their speech without the utilization of note cards. Any student reading their speech at the zone level will not qualify for the scholarship opportunity. The students must compete at their local club level for the right to compete at the zone level.

The zone competition will identify three finalists ranked in order of scoring. The top finalist will qualify for the scholarship. If for any reason the top finalist is unable or unwilling to present their speech at the district conference, the runner-up will be afforded the opportunity. If the runner-up is unable or unwilling to present their speech at the district conference, the second runner-up will be afforded the opportunity. **The student must present their speech at the district conference to receive the scholarship.**

AWARDS

The students presenting their award winning speeches at the District 6920 All Club Celebration April 27- 29, 2018 at Jekyll Island will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. No competition will take place at the district conference; only speech presentation.

Club level competition is a local club organized event and as such any awards received at the local level will be determined by each participating club.

DATES AND VENUES

The District 6920 All Club Celebration is scheduled for April 27-29, 2018 at Jekyll Island; therefore the local and zone speech contests must be held early enough for zone finalists to make plans to attend. To allow for arrangements for travel and possible lodging the zone competitions should be completed by April 7, 2018. The zone competitions are tentatively scheduled for:

- Saturday, March 24, 2018
- Saturday, March 31, 2018
- Saturday, April 7, 2018

Zone Coordinators should give careful consideration to the potential for calendar conflicts. Please give particular attention to avoiding a conflict with spring break or other holidays. Many families schedule vacations that could potentially prevent a student's participation at the zone contest. With the zone contests starting in late March, the clubs should conduct their selection process by the end of February or, depending on the date of your zone competition, early March. The Zone Coordinators will determine dates and locations of their respective zone competition once the participating clubs are identified.