

CONTEST DAY COMMENTS FOR YOUR SPEAKERS

Here are some important points to review with your speakers when you meet with them just prior to the contest...

1. We will draw for the order of contestant presentations.
2. Announce the club level prize money awards – 1st \$125.00, 2nd \$100.00 and 3rd \$75.00. If your club has chosen to provide additional prizes then announce those as well. The 1st place winner only will advance to the Area Contest, and potentially the District Contest for a chance at more prize money. Top three winners at district will accumulate from the three levels of contest \$1,300.00, \$1050.00, and \$800.00 respectively for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
3. After making some general comments to the attendees, the chairman will call “Speaker number one.” *Names shall not be announced at that time. Chairman shall ask for applause to be held until all contestants have completed their speeches.*
4. Speaker #1 will go to speak – relax – look at the audience – smile! Begin your speech when ready – timing will begin when you speak. REMEMBER – Please do not give your name during your speech. You may share general information about your school and yourself as illustrations of the theme: Be the Inspiration. You are not required to stand at the lectern when speaking – use the approach most comfortable to you.
5. At the conclusion of your speech, return to your seat. There will be at least a minute of silence while the judges tally your individual score.
6. Speaker #2 will be called and that candidate will go up and begin their talk.
7. After all speakers have completed their presentations, and after the judges have completed their entries on the tally sheets, a monitor will collect the tally sheets for summation. While that is going on each participant will be introduced by name and school. Expect to be asked about your plans after high school for additional education and career preparation. Talk about plans for selecting schools, and what type of work you would like to pursue after completing your education. Introduce your family and friends that are present.
8. Before leaving the event, take an updated copy of a news release to give to your local newspaper. Provide your email address if a photographer is on hand and can send you pictures to accompany the news release.
9. Questions?

In preparation for the event, we suggest club contest chairmen coordinate with the club president to start the contest early in the meeting. That will allow time for speeches, for tallying, for introductions, and for presentation of awards. Other announcements, recognitions, and club business might be postponed until later in the meeting to assure adequate time for the contest.