



**Rotary District 5220
Speech Contest Packet
2024-2025**



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ROTARY 2024-2025 SPEECH CONTEST

Guidelines, Rules and How to Set Up a Speech Contest

1. Speakers must be students in attendance in grades 9 through 12 at a public or private school, or charter school within Rotary District 5220 and within your club boundaries. No student may be a contest in more than one club contest in any year. A student may participate over multiple years, but if they win the district contest that cannot continue to participate.
2. Select the date for your club contest and get it on your official club calendar today! Connect with your Assistant District Governor for your area speech contest. He/She will work with you to set the date, time and location for the area contest.
 - a. Hold the Club Contest: Between January 1 – 31, 2025
 - b. Hold the Area Contest: Between February 1 – 29, 2025
 - c. The District Contest is scheduled for
Saturday, March 15, 2025 at the Merced County Office of Education,
632 West 13th Street, Merced in Room J2 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
More guidance will be provided to each area winner.
3. **September/October call your high school principal to discuss the speech contest and find out who would be your contact to share the information and recruit students.** The target is 3-5 speakers for your club contest. You may need to have a preliminary contest to identify the best participants if you have more than 5 students.
 - a. For assistance with communicating with the school, see document entitled: *Communicating with the School.*
 - b. Send your school contact the following documents to share with students: *Speech Contest Flyer, Speaker Information Agreement Form (be sure to personalize for your club before sharing), Judges Scoring Sheet, Speech Contest Seeding and Prizes Sheet.*
4. **Check in with your high school contact multiple times before the contest date but especially the week before the Contest.** Remind them each speaker must fill out and have their parent and student sign the Speaker Agreement Form, and have the student bring the completed form with them to the contest or the school contact can scan and email it to you. Collect the sheets prior to the contest so that you can use them to introduce students after the contest!

5. Several weeks prior to the club contest:

- a. Identify 3 judges, a scorekeeper (someone to tally the judges scores) and a timekeeper.
 - b. Send a copy of the judge's guidelines and score sheet to the judges prior to the contest.
 - c. Prepare club level certificates, plaques, trophies, etc. at club discretion. Certificate samples are provided.
 - d. Highlight club level contest in the club bulletin and at meetings to encourage high attendance.
 - e. Confirm the number of attendees to adjust your meeting arrangements accordingly.
6. Score keeping of the contest at each level must be kept confidential. Any protest relative to the conduct of a speaker or the operation of a contest, at any level of the contest, must be made to the Chair of that contest before the winner is announced. The decision of the chair shall be final.
7. Judges should have a full understanding of the rules, scoring and ranking process. The timekeeper will track penalty points for time to be deducted one time at the end of the contest.
8. **NEW:** *Each speech must be within 4 minutes and 30 seconds or 5 minutes and 30 seconds to avoid a time penalty. A speech under or over the time frame will be assessed a 2-point penalty by each judge.*
9. **NEW:** *Note cards are allowed but will result in a 2-point deduction for delivery if relied on too heavily. Students may have the cards at hand in case of a mental blank out. The speech cannot be read. To maximize a student's chance to score well, the students are advised not to use note cards.*
10. **NEW:** *Each Club and Area is encouraged to consider increasing the prize amount. Please see Contest Seeding and Prizes for 2024-2025.*

11. The Day of the Contest

- a. Arrange seating for contestants and guests
 - b. Have prepared a method of randomly determining order of speakers, e.g. drawing cards or numbered slips from a hat.
12. **After the Club Contest: Provide your Area Contest Chair/Assistant District Governor with the information on your winner as soon as possible.**

If you have questions or need assistance, feel free to contact me:

Susan Coston, District Speech Contest Chair from Merced Rotary
scoston@gmail.com 209-201-2652



Rotary District 5220 Speech Contest Speaker Information and Agreement Form 2024-2025

Student Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ City: _____ Circle: Frosh / Soph / Jr / Sr

Sponsoring Rotary Club Name: _____

Sponsoring Club contact phone and email: _____

RULES OF THE CONTEST

1. I will speak on the topic: **How the Magic of Rotary Changes the World**
2. I realize my speech is to be on how the topic applies to me in my education and community service, and to Rotarians as they bring the topic to life in their efforts to fulfill Stephanie Urchick International Rotary President's theme of "**The Magic of Rotary.**" Rotary membership connects members to a global community through projects and programs. Rotary creates the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member.
3. I realize that I must describe in my speech how Rotarians change lives through their activities in local and international communities. I also understand that the main emphasis is on how I, as an individual, can, have, and may apply the topic in my past and/or future education and community service endeavors. **You are encouraged to begin your research about Rotary at www.rotary.org.**
4. My speech is to be between 4 minutes and 30 seconds up to 5 minutes and 30 seconds. Under or over that time length will result in a **2-point deduction** from each judge.
5. My speech will be of a persuasive or informative nature and not a dramatic interpretation. Use of audio/visual equipment and/or materials is prohibited.
6. Note cards are allowed but will result in a **2-point deduction per judge** if relied on too heavily. You may have the cards at hand in case of a mental lapse. The speech cannot be read. To maximize a student's chance to score well, it is advisable to not use note cards.
7. I will remain anonymous, not revealing my name, town, school, etc. until after the contest. You may use general information about your school and yourself as illustrations of the theme.
8. The Club Level Contest will be held [Club Speech chair hold the club contest before January 31, 2025: give location address and time of arrival here].

9. If I win at the **Club Level**, I agree to speak at an **Area Speech Contest**, which will be held [Club Speech Contest Chair the contest must be held before February 28, 2025. **[Enter the location address and time of arrival here]**].
10. If I win at the **Area Contest**, I agree to speak at a **District Speech Contest, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at the Merced County Office of Education located at 632 W 13th St, Merced, CA 95341.**
11. If I win the **District Contest** I agree to speak at the **District Business Meeting [date and location TBD]**. *If I am unavailable to present my speech at the District Conference I understand that my place award and financial award will be forfeited and another participant from the District Speech Contest will be judged the winner.*

Parent and Student Participation Consent

I agree to participate in and to allow my child to participate in the Rotary Speech Contest as described above, and to abide by all the rules of the contest. If any dispute arises, the decision of the District Speech Contest Chair shall be final.

We have read and understand the contest rules and agree to abide by them.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Video/Photo Consent

At various times Rotary video tapes and photograph events. It then subsequently publishes or broadcasts these materials. If you and your parent consent and grant permission for your likeness or work product to be used/featured by Rotary, please sign in the appropriate space below.

 Student's name (printed)/Signature/Date

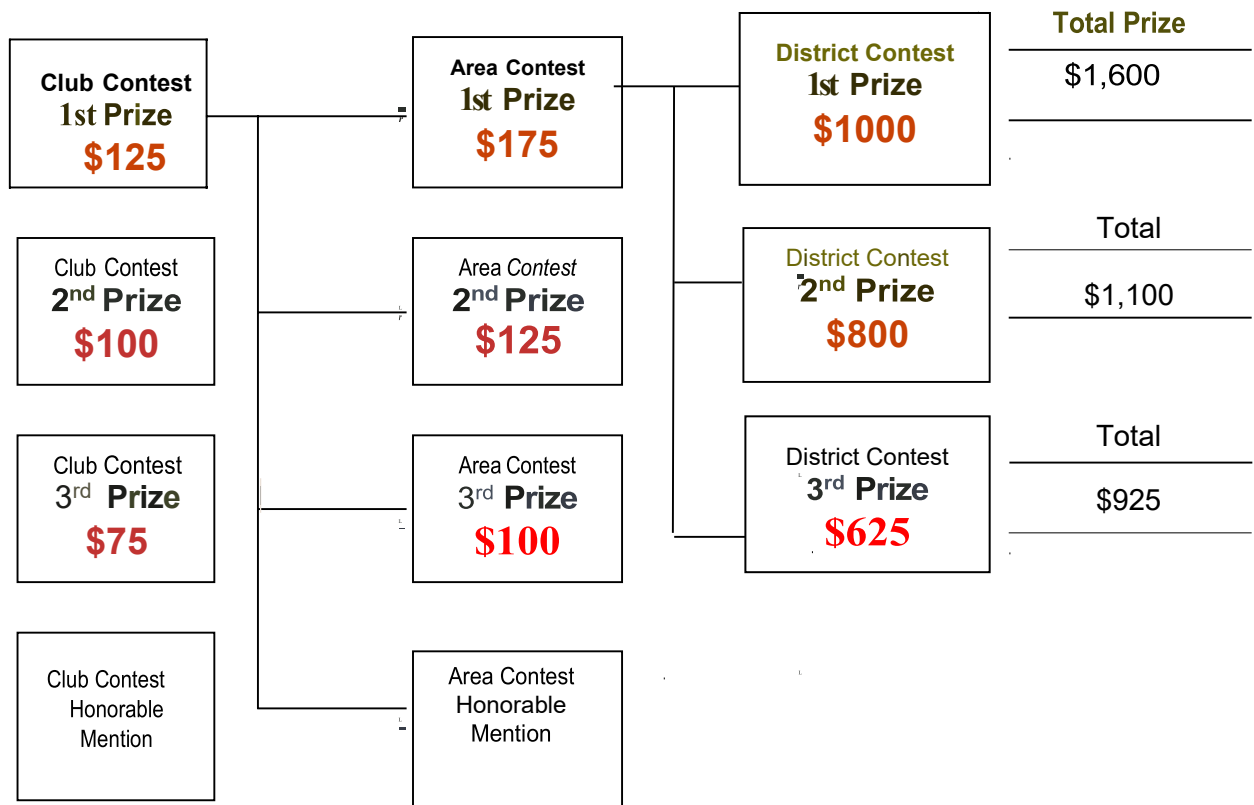
 Parent or Legal Guardian Name (printed)/Signature/Date

The Rotary Club of _____ is sponsoring the above student for the Rotary District 5220 Speech Contest and will be in charge of making sure the student complies with the rules of the contest and is able to get to the contest safely.

Signature of Club Contact: _____ Date: _____

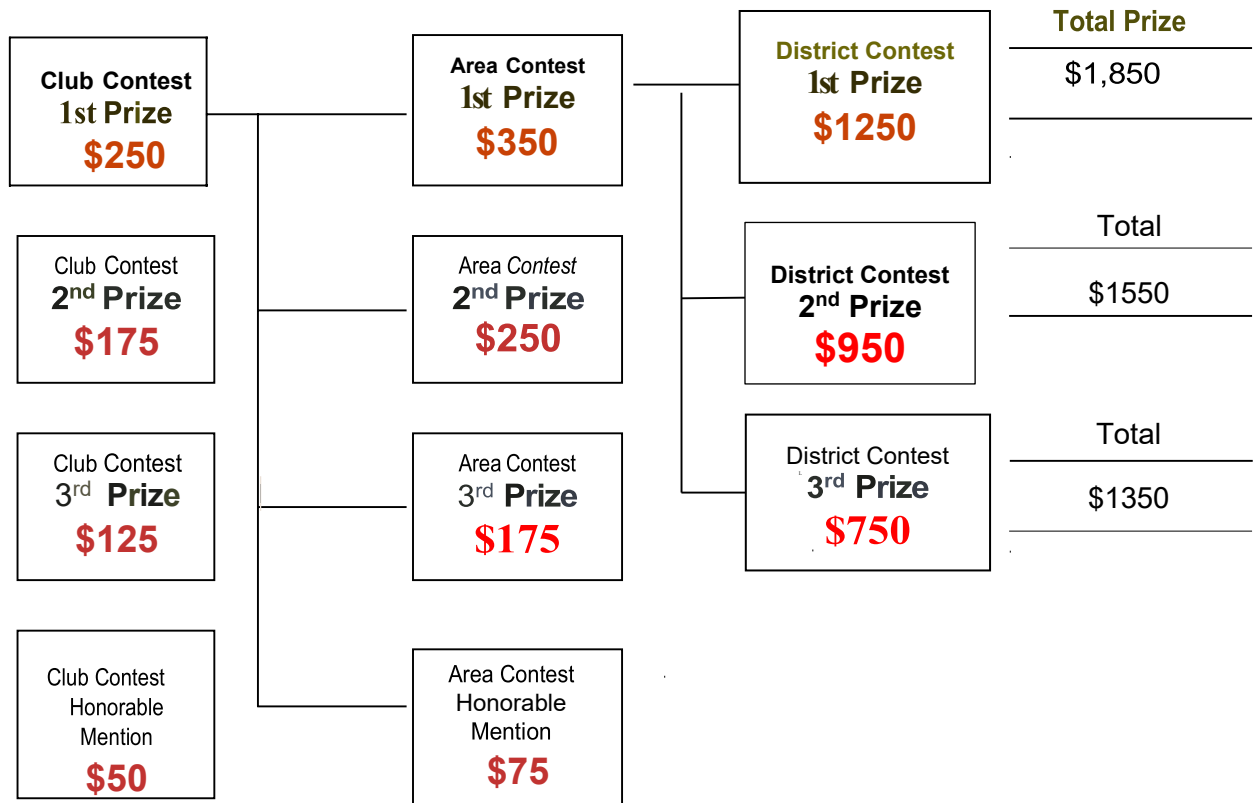


Rotary District 5220 Speech Contest Seeding and Prizes 2024-2025 - Current





Rotary District 5220 Speech Contest Seeding and Prizes 2024-2025-Proposed





District 5220's Speech Contest Personnel Defined

School Designee/Facilitator

A School designee/facilitator is either a school faculty member or administrator who is the liaison with the local Rotary Speech Contest Chair. The School Designee/Facilitator takes an active role in recruiting students and preparing them for the contest by reviewing the rules and dates of the contest with the students. If needed, the School Designee/Facilitator would oversee an in-school run-off contest in order to reduce the number of Club speakers to 4-6.

Students/Speakers

Students/Speakers must be in grade 9-12 at a public school, private, charter or parochial school or in the club's geographic area.

Judges

The Judges should possess relevant qualifications that would allow them to assess student speakers. Examples of judges include Rotary members that are also educators, lawyers, members of toastmasters and other professionals or businesspeople who are used to and feel comfortable with public speaking.

Timekeeper

The Timekeeper is typically a club member who feels comfortable operating a stopwatch or uses an stopwatch app on their phone. The Timekeeper will document the time on the Timekeeper's time sheet.

Lead Judge/Scorekeeper

The Lead Judge or Scorekeeper is responsible for collecting the Judge's score sheets along with the Timekeeper record. The Lead Judge/Scorekeeper will then tabulate and calculate the overall scores and determine the finish order of the speakers.

Master of Ceremonies of the Contest

This is a Rotarian who is comfortable facilitating the speech contest. This person will explain the process of the contest for the day (to include, but not limited to how speakers are chosen, the audience must silent their phones and not to applaud until the end) and the next step for the winner of the contest.

Speech Contest Chair

The Rotarian is designated as the individual who will oversee the club speech contest. The District Speech Contest Chair will communicate by email and phone when needed regarding the forms, process and dates with the Club Speech Contest Chair. The Club Speech Contest Chair is responsible for communicating with the school in their area and printing the certificates for the winners.



Communicating with the School

A positive initial contact with either the school principal or designee (guidance counselor, teacher, club sponsor) is critical to the success of the speech contest in the school. Use the following script, especially if this is the first year of school contact or participation.

Some points to consider during the conversation with the school official:

- Does the school offer a public speaking class?
- Would this contest fit as a special program within the school's gifted program?
- Could participation and winning in this contest be a positive point in a student's resume?
- Does this contest have a place in English, psychology, sociology, drama or speech classes?
- Does the school have clubs like Future Farmers of America (FFA) that include public speaking?

Suggested Script for school discussion

The objective is to schedule time to meet and start building a person-to-person relationship, not explain the entire program on the phone.

“Good morning/afternoon Mr./Mrs. (Principal or Designee), My name isand I am a member of the Rotary Club of During the last several years Rotary Clubs in our district have been partnering with many of our schools to offer a program which challenges students to develop their critical thinking skills and ethical decision-making skills.

This program has been well received the students participating and the staff supporting the students.

Is there a good time this week or next that we could meet to find out where this program might best fit in your school? I will have more detailed information with me and will also be able to answer your questions.”

“Can you tell me a little more about it?”

“Absolutely. The program is open to students in grades 9 through 12. Students are challenged to identify activities they have been doing or hope to do in the future that is aligned with our district theme, which is How Does the Magic of Rotary Change the World. Students will seek to persuade listeners about their point of view as it relates to the theme or inform listeners what they have done or intended to do in the future as it relates to the theme. Students will need to research what Rotary does in the world and connect it to their views and/or plans.

Students will deliver a 4 ½ to 5 ½ minute speech and have an opportunity to win cash prizes at various levels of the competition.

Is there a convenient time that we could meet to see where this might best fit in your school?”

Suggested responses to possible objections:

“The class curriculums have already been finalized.”

I understand and that is why some school initially offer this program to students as a completely voluntary opportunity outside of the regular school day. The school’s involvement can be limited to helping us get the word out with some flyers.

“I am not sure where this would fit in our school. I will have to get back to you.”

Sure. If I may – could give you some examples of how other schools use this program. We are finding that schools that already offer public speaking courses or competitions are the biggest supporters of our program and use it to reach and additional target audience among their students. Some examples of this are resume building and college exploration, theater and acting, and as part of psychology, sociology and English classes to nurture communication and presentation skills.

Rotary

PEOPLE OF ACTION



Win Grand Prize \$1,000

**Compete in the Rotary District 5220 Speech Contest
Freshman through Seniors are Eligible for Cash Prizes!**

First Round: Club Contest [add date]

Second Round: Area Contest: [add date]

Third Round: District Contest: March 15, 2025

Winner of District Contest presents at District Meeting (TBD)

Cash Prizes increase at each level!

**See _____ in Room/Office for rules and entry form.
Speakers must sign up no later than _____ to be eligible.**

DON'T DELAY AND GOOD LUCK!

This year's theme for our speech contest:

How the Magic of Rotary Changes the World



District 5220's Speech Contest

Master of Ceremony & Sample Club Contest Agenda

Master of Ceremonies Basic information and expectations

1. Once students have arrived, have them draw a number from a hat/box to determine speaking order. Record order Speech Contest Master List Form 10.
2. The Master of Ceremonies of the contest should introduce the contest to the club by stating the speech contest theme and briefly listing the rules. Explain the speakers will be introduced by NUMBER ONLY, with no mention of names or school affiliation until after all speakers have given their speeches. Also explain that there is to be no applause between speakers so that judges are not influenced by the audience and that there will be silence between speakers to allow the judges an opportunity to rate the speakers. The judges will not be identified prior to the contest.
3. Introduce the first speaker as "Speaker Number One," etc.
4. After the speaker is done and there has been enough time for the judges and timekeeper to document their results the next speaker is called forward.
5. Have the audience applause for all of the speakers at the conclusion of the speeches only. Invite each speaker up by number and have them give their name, grade, school, extra-curricular activities, plan for the future and anything else you want them to include.
6. Once the Teller has completed the calculations and determined the winner, make the announcement, handout the certificates, cash prizes and take pictures.
7. Be sure to thank the judges, teller, timekeeper, master of ceremonies and anyone else responsible for the contest. Thank the teachers/administrative staff if present.

Sample Agenda and Script for Day of Contest

1. Welcome to the annual Rotary Speech Contest. The Theme is: How **the Magic of Rotary Changes the World**
2. Prize money for the club contest is \$125 1st , \$100 2nd and \$75 third
3. The first place winner of the Club Speech Contest will advance to the area contest which will be held **[enter date, location and time]**

4. We have **[number of students]** students participating today. Each speech is expected to be between 4 ½ and 5 1/2 minutes in length. It is possible we will not finish by 1:00. If you need to leave, please do so in between student speeches.
5. Please mute or turn off your phone and be as quiet as during the speeches.
6. We will not introduce the students at this time and will not use their names.
7. We have drawn for speaker order. I will call up Speaker 1 and after they complete their speech they will take their seat. Please hold your applause until the end of all the speeches. I will then give the judges a minute or so to finalize their scores. Then I will call up Speaker 2 and so on.
8. After all speeches have been given the judges and timekeeper will give their forms to the Scorekeeper who will leave the room to finalize the scoring.
9. During that time students will be introduced and asked to share their plans after high school and what type of work they plan to pursue.



Guidelines for Judges 2024-2025

1. The speech must be between 4 minutes and 30 seconds and 5 minutes and 30 seconds. A speech under or over will be penalized 5 points off the total of all the judges' scores.
2. Note cards are allowed but will result in 2-point deduction per judge if relied on too heavily. The speech cannot be read. Use of audio-visual equipment and/or materials is prohibited. In
3. The following information was given to the contestants for them to prepare their speech. You should use this to judge content:
 - a. I will speak on the topic: **How Does the Magic of Rotary Change the World.**
 - b. I realize my speech is to be on how the topic applies to me in my education and community service, and to Rotarians as they bring the topic to life to fulfill Stephanie Urchick International President's theme of "**The Magic of Rotary**". Rotary membership connects members to a global community through projects and programs. Rotary creates the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member.
 - c. I realize that I must describe in my speech how Rotarians change lives through their activities in local and international communities. I also understand that the main emphasis is on how I, an individual, will apply the topic in my past and/or future education and community service endeavors. You are encouraged to begin your research at www.rotary.org.
 - d. My speech will be of a persuasive or informative nature and not a dramatic interpretation.
 - e. Note cards are allowed, but they will result in 2-point deduction per judge if relied on too heavily. You may the note cards at hand in case of a mental lapse. The speech cannot be read. To maximize a student's chance to score well, it is advisable to not use note cards.
4. Speeches will be judged on: Content-40 points, Organization-30 points, Delivery-30 points and a overall 5-point Penalty for a speech under 4 ½ minutes or over 5 ½ minutes.
5. Judges, scorekeeper and timekeeper will sit apart from each other and not communicate about their evaluations of speakers until final awards have been made.
6. Following each speaker, please complete the scoring and write down the total points that you have given to the speaker. You will have a few minutes between speakers to tally your scores. Try not to have tie scores on your sheet, because this means the tell will have resolve ties. The contest chair will ask if judges are ready before calling the next speaker.
7. When the contest is over, rank the speakers and give your score sheet to the Scorekeeper. The Scorekeeper will check your math and tally the ranks amongst the judges to determine the winner. A time penalty will be deducted based on timekeeper's data.
8. If there is a tie, the **highest score for Delivery** will determine the winner. Scores submitted by the judges and the decision of the Scorekeeper is final. Score sheets are confidential and will not be made available to contestants.



DISTRICT 5220 SPEECH CONTEST JUDGE'S OFFICIAL SCORING SHEET

CRITERIA	MAXIMUM SCORE POSSIBLE	# 1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
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CONTENT

Originality, creativity, imagination	10									
Human interest and relevant examples	10									
Use of appropriate varied language, concise and grammatically correct	10									
Effective Application of "The Magic of Rotary"	10									

ORGANIZATION

Introduction: captures audience attention and establishes major theme of speech	10									
Development: ideas presented, supported and explained in clear logical order with smooth transitions	10									
Conclusion: emphasizes major theme in the speech, leaving the audience with clear, concise message or point of application	10									

DELIVERY

Diction, pronunciation, enunciation	10									
Voice clarity, projection, and variation	10									
Bodily control and expressiveness, posture, gestures, and eye contact	10									
NOTE CARD PENALTY <i>for heavy use of notes</i> <i>Judge Subtracts 2 points</i>										
Time PENALTY <i>Judge Subtracts 2 points</i>										
Judge's Total Score										
Judge's Rank (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)										

Judge's Name (Print) _____ Signature _____



District 5220's Speech Contest
Lead Judge/Scorekeeper Instructions and Tally Sheet
This year's theme for our speech contest:

How the Magic of Rotary Changes the World

- Place the Judges' ranking for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th on this sheet
- Determine Placement for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th by counting up the most in each rank.

Keep all copies of the judges score sheets. Under no circumstances are the judges score sheets or the tally sheet to be shown to contestants, coaches, parents.

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Speaker 7	Speaker 8	Speaker 9
Judge #1 Rank									
Judge #2 Rank									
Judge #3 Rank									
Judge #4 Rank									
Judge #5 Rank									
Placement Awarded for 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th									

Lead Judge/Scorekeeper's Signature _____

Date _____

Thank you for helping today.



**District 5220's Speech Contest
Lead Judge/Scorekeeper Instructions
Tally Sheet and Ranking**

How the Magic of Rotary Changes the World

- To balance out a judge potentially scoring all the speakers overall extremely low or high, the first, second and third place winner of each judge will be given a ranking score
 - First place 30 points
 - Second place 20 points
 - Third place 10 points
- Place the ranking score for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place below for each judge
- Total the ranking scores for each speaker
- Determine Placement for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Keep all copies of the judges score sheets. Under no circumstances are the judge's score sheets or the tally sheet to be shown to contestants, coaches, or parents.

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Speaker 7	Speaker 8	Speaker 9
Judge #1 Rank Score									
Judge #2 Rank score									
Judge #3 Rank score									
Judge #4 Rank score									
Judge #5 Rank score									
Judges Total Score									
Placement Awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th									

Lead Judge/Scorekeeper's Signature _____

Thank you for helping today.



District 5220's Speech Contest

Timekeeper's Instructions and Time Tracking Form

1. Please use a timer application on your phone to time the speeches. On the sheet below, record the minutes and seconds each speaker lasts. Begin timing after the speaker has addressed the audience. If the speaker begins without addressing the audience begin timing immediately.

2. After recording the time below, determine if a penalty needs to be applied. Speeches must be between 4 ½ minutes and 5 ½ minutes without penalty.
 - a. If there is no penalty, enter zero (0).
 - b. If the speech is shorter than 4 ½ minutes or longer than 5 ½ minutes enter a penalty of 5 points.

3. Give this sheet to the Scorekeeper after the last speaker has spoken.

Speaker	Time	Penalty Points
1	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
2	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
3	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
4	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
5	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
6	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
7	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
8	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	
9	Minutes _____ Seconds _____	



Speech Contest Speaker Master List for Club or Area Contest

	Student Name	Student Initial	High School	Speaker order
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Club of [Add Club Name]

CONGRATULATES

[Add student's name]

For receiving **FIRST (1st) PLACE** in the 2024-2025 Speech Contest

**HOW THE MAGIC OF ROTARY
CHANGES THE WORLD**

Given this ____ day of _____, 2025

Club President



Club Speech Contest Chair



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
The Rotary Club of [Add Club Name]

CONGRATULATES

[Add student's name]

For receiving **SECOND (2nd) PLACE** in the 2024-2025 Speech Contest

**HOW THE MAGIC OF ROTARY
CHANGES THE WORLD**

Given this ____ day of _____, 2025

Club President



Club Speech Contest Chair



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Club of [Add Club Name]

CONGRATULATES

[Add student's name]

For receiving **Third (3rd) Place** in the 24-25 Speech Contest

**HOW THE MAGIC OF ROTARY
CHANGES THE WORLD**

Given this ____ day of _____, 2025

Club President



Club Speech Contest Chair



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Club of [Add Club Name]

CONGRATULATES

[Add student's name]

For receiving **HONORABLE MENTION** in the 24-25 Speech Contest

**HOW THE MAGIC OF ROTARY
CHANGES THE WORLD**

Given this ____ day of _____, 2025

Club President



Club Speech Contest Chair