



OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

SPEECH CONTEST

GENERAL CONTEST RULES FOR ALL CONTESTS AND CONTESTANTS

Location, arrival time and performance/presentation times will be sent prior to the contest.

- **The Pageant of the Arts is an annual competition for high school students:**
 - There are five separate contests - Art, Dance, Speech, Instrumental Music and Vocal Music.
 - Separate rules and applications apply for each contest.
 - Only one contestant per Rotary Club may be sent to the Art and Speech Contests.
 - Clubs may enter soloists or groups for Dance and Music.
- **Contestants must:**
 - Be currently enrolled in high school, home-schooled, or an alternative program;
 - Of high school age;
 - Have won 1st place at a Rotary Club Contest or may be sponsored by a Rotary Club.
- **Contestants may enter more than one contest if:**
 - The contestant qualifies;
 - Has the sponsorship of a Rotary Club.
 - Note: Separate rules and application apply for each contest.
- **Prizes for each contest:**
 - 1st Place - \$1,000.00; 2nd Place - \$500.00; 3rd Place - \$250.00.
- **The Contestant Registration & Parent/Guardian Consent Form must be:**
 - Signed by the contestant and their parent/guardian;
 - Submitted to your sponsoring Rotary Club.
- **Judges are experts in their field:**
 - A Judging Rubric is used in evaluating contestants;
 - The rubric is available from your Rotary Club, the Contest Chair, or the Rotary District 5280 website.



Rotary Club of Granada Hills
Local Submission: April 6
Local Competition: TBA
April 11 or April 12

SPEECH CONTEST RULES

- Speech Topic: **"Unite For Good"** (The 2025-26 theme of Rotary International).
- As a contestant, you should structure a speech that explains, promotes or clarifies how this theme is a positive solution to life's challenges. You may choose a challenge within the nation, state, community, school, family or a personal challenge and apply "Unite For Good" as the message of the speech.
- Speech content must be original to the contestant. Quotes may be used but must be limited to 10% or less of the speech.
- All performances/presentations/exhibits must be live, in person at the venue.
- Speech must not be read or delivered from notes. One 3"x5" note card will be allowed.
- Speech must be between 4 to 6 minutes. Timing cards will be shown at 4 minutes, 5 minutes, and 6 minutes. There is a grace period of 15 seconds. At 6 minutes 15 seconds they will be asked to stop.
- Speaking order is determined by randomization.
- The winner will be announced the day of the contest.

For questions or clarification, contact:

Debbie Wehbe, Pageant of the Arts Chair
debbie.rotary5280@gmail.com

**Winner of local competition must be present for
the Final District Competition:**

May 2, 2026

Bateman Hall, 11331 Ernestine Ave, Lynwood



CONTESTANT REGISTRATION & CONSENT FORM

SPEECH CONTEST

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

This form must be filled out for each and every participant

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

High School/Alternative Study: _____

Address: _____ Grade: 9th 10th 11th 12th

SPEECH PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Title of Speech: _____ Length of Speech (not to exceed 6 minutes) _____

Brief Description of Speech: _____

CONTESTANT CONSENT

I have read and agree to abide by the Rotary District 5280 Official Speech Contest Rules. If I have questions, I will reach out to the Pageant of the Arts Chair, Debbie Wehbe, at debbie.rotary5280@gmail.com.

Contestant Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

If the above named contestant qualifies at the Rotary Club level for the District contest, I/we give permission for them to compete in the Rotary District 5280 Pageant of the Arts Contest to be held May 2, 2026. I/we give permission for their presentation/performance to be photographed and/or videotaped, to be used by Rotary District 5280.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Students: Please complete this form and return to your sponsoring Rotary Club.

Application Deadline: April 6, 2026 at 11:59pm

Rotary Club: _____ Rotary Club of Granada Hills Rotary Club Contact: _____ Thuy Trifunovic

Phone: _____ Email: _____ thuy@trifunovic.com



JUDGE'S EVALUATION FORM

SPEECH CONTEST

Contestants and Rotary Clubs:

This form will be used in judging art contestants at the 2026 District-level Speech Contest and may be used by Rotary Clubs when judging their own speech contests.

Contestant Name: _____ Title/Topic: _____

Criteria	20-18 Exceptional	17-14 Very Good	13-10 Commendable	9-6 Competent	Score
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic Purpose 	Fully focused topic with clearly communicated understanding of the speech's purpose: "Unite For Good" , the theme of Rotary International.	Appropriate focused topic with understanding of speech's purpose.	Focused topic with some understanding of speech's purpose.	Some sense of topic with a vague sense of the speech's purpose.	
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation Organization 	Commanding grasp of related facts & information within full development of points; clearly & logically organized with distinct introduction, body, & conclusion, with appropriate transitions linking the sections.	Clear use of related facts & information with development of major points, organized with a sense of beginning, middle, and end. Some transitions used.	Facts & information relate to topic, but explanations lack connections & organization falters.	Facts & information loosely connect with topic; however, explanations are limited or incomplete; poorly organized.	
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Language (includes appropriateness & correctness) 	Use of sophisticated & varied language suited to topic & audience; language is well-chosen, concise & grammatically correct.	Use of appropriate, varied & somewhat sophisticated language, well-chosen & grammatically acceptable.	Use of appropriate language yet lacks a level of sophistication, originality & expressiveness; few if any grammatical errors.	Use of language unsuitable to topic, audience, & purpose; word choice does little to convey an appropriate tone; noticeable errors.	
Delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal Non-verbal 	Combination of appropriate & effective eye contact, vocal clarity, & projection, tone, pace, & gestures serves to enhance speaker's words. Speech fully memorized.	Good use of a combination of appropriate eye contact, vocal clarity & projection, tone, pace & gestures add to speech's effect. Minimum use of notes.	Some use of eye contact; vocal clarity & projection adequate; pacing & gestures somewhat contrived. Some use of notes.	Inconsistent use of eye contact, vocal clarity, & projection, poor pacing & awkward gestures interrupt the flow of the speech. Reliance upon notes.	
Overall Effect:	Speaker maintains enthusiasm & audience attention throughout; purpose is clearly achieved.	Speaker shows some enthusiasm; audience interest is maintained most of the time; purpose of speech is achieved.	Speaker shows limited enthusiasm; audience interest falters at times; purpose of speech only partially achieved.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm around topic & no clear purpose emerges.	
Time: _____	Minimum Time: 3 min 30 sec Maximum Time: 6 min				
Total Points: (out of 100)					
Judge's Signature					