

ROTARY DISTRICT 5220 SPEECH CONTEST 2026-27

Speaker Information and Agreement

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. Speak on the topic: **How Rotary Creates Lasting Impact,**
2. Speech should be based on, and bring to life, the current Rotary International President's theme, **Create Lasting Impact** and demonstrate how Rotary creates lasting impact throughout the world, and also provide 3-4 examples on how the student can create lasting impact in their own community through service.
3. Speech should describe how Rotarians change lives through their activities in local and international communities and the main emphasis should be on how the student, as an individual, can have, and may apply the topic in their past and/or future education and community service endeavors. **You are encouraged to begin your research about Rotary at www.rotary.org.**
4. 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. Speech should 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. Note cards may be 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 as note cards are not permitted at the Area and District Contests.**
7. Student speakers must remain anonymous, not revealing their name, town, school, etc. until after the contest. General information about their school and themselves as illustrations of the theme is permitted.

8. The Club Level Contest will be held _____

9. If student wins at the **Club Level**, they must be available and agree to speak at an **Area Speech Contest**, which will be held [Date/Location/Time]

10. If student wins at the **Area Contest**, they must be available and agree to speak at the **District Speech Contest**, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on March 20, 2027, at the Merced Multicultural Art Center, 645 W. Main Street, Merced.

11. If student wins the District Contest, they must agree to speak at a District Rotary Meeting, time and location TBD. *Every attempt will be made by Rotary to accommodate student's schedule, but if student is unavailable to present their speech to even one District meeting offered, it is understood that their place and financial award will be forfeited and the next placed participant from the District Speech Contest will be judged as the winner.*

Parent and Student Participation Consent

I agree to participate in (student) and to allow my child (parent) 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.

I 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 videos and photograph events. They may then publish or broadcast these materials. Please provide your signature if you consent and grant permission for Rotary clubs, areas and/or the District to use your likeness or work product..

Student Name (print) _____ Signature and Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (print) _____ Signature and 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 has safe transport to/from the contest(s).

Signature of Club Contact: _____ Date: _____