

DISTRICT 5220 SPEECH CONTEST 2026-27

PERSONNEL DEFINED

School Designee/Facilitator

A School Designee/Facilitator is either a school faculty member or an 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, private, charter or parochial school 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 a stopwatch app on their phone. The Timekeeper will document the time on the Timekeeper's time sheet.

Scorekeeper

The Scorekeeper is responsible for collecting the Judge's score sheets along with the Timekeeper record. The Scorekeeper will then tabulate and calculate the overall scores and determine the finish order of the speakers. Scorekeeper may also be a judge.

Master of Ceremonies

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

This 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.