

ROTARY DISTRICT 5220 SPEECH CONTEST 2026-27

Guidelines for Judges

The speech must be between 4 minutes and 30 seconds and 5 minutes and 30 seconds. A speech under or over will be penalized 2 points off the total of all the judges' scores.

1. 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
2. The following information was given to the contestants for them to prepare their speech. You should use this to judge content:

- Speak on the topic: **How Rotary Creates Lasting Impact**
- 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.
- 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.**
- 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.**
- Speech should be of a persuasive or informative nature and not a dramatic interpretation. Use of audio/visual equipment and/or materials is prohibited.
- 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.**

3. Speeches will be judged on: Content-40 points, Organization-30 points, Delivery-30 points and a overall 2-point Penalty for a speech under 4 ½ minutes or over 5 ½ minutes per judge.
4. Judges, scorekeeper and timekeeper will sit apart from each other and not communicate about their evaluations of speakers until final awards have been made.
5. 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. You may not have a tie score on your sheet. When you are finished scoring hold up your pen/pencil.
6. 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.
7. 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.