

Speaking Proudly 2019

Competition Rules and Procedures

A Speaking Proudly competitor's eligibility requires conformity to each of the following competition rules:

Application Process

- 1) To be considered for participation, applicants must reside in Minnesota or attend school in Minnesota.
- 2) A completed application must be submitted to Speaking Proudly, c/o Registrar Mary Ann Sexton, 4863 Richard Lane, Eagan, MN 55122.
- 3) To be considered for participation, the application must be received or postmarked by **August 1, 2019**, and must include the following:
 - A completed 2019 Application Form available at the contest website, speakingproudly.org.
 - A one-page document which gives the speech's title and a summary and outline of it. This speech description must be "blind," that is, it must bear no information that would identify the student applicant, her family, or her school.
 - A check or money order for \$50, payable to Metro Republican Women.
 - This deposit will be held and, if the applicant is not accepted to compete, will be refunded on or before August 31, 2019. Each applicant who is selected to compete and does so will have her check or money order returned to her by mail within five days after the October 26, 2019, competition. The check or money order will not be refunded if the applicant is selected to compete but fails to take part in the October 26, 2019, competition.
 - Signature of the student applicant, agreeing to abide by the competition's rules and procedures set forth in this document.
 - Signature of parent or legal guardian, giving permission for his/her daughter/ward to participate in the Speaking Proudly competition and allowing the competition's organizers to publicize her participation.
- 4) The Speaking Proudly Steering Committee will meet during the month of August to consider applications.
- 5) Basing its decision only on the blind speech description, the committee will select a maximum of fifty competitors and five alternates to take part in the contest Saturday, October 26, 2019, at the Minnesota State Capitol.

- 6) Student applicants will be informed of the Steering Committee's decision on or before August 31, 2019.

Acceptance Process

- 1) Each student selected to compete must accept the invitation to the October 26 contest by returning the Confirmation of Participation form that will accompany her invitation. That form must be received or postmarked no later than **September 14, 2019**.
- 2) Anyone who does not respond by the deadline will be considered to have rejected the invitation.
- 3) Rejecting and nonresponding students' places to compete will be offered to alternates, in ranked order, as soon as possible. Alternates have two weeks before the competition (time permitting) to accept or reject the invitation.
- 4) Alternates not offered a place to compete in advance of October 26 should attend the competition and will be called, in ranked order, to compete in place of a competitor who does not attend or chooses not to compete.
- 5) Each student whose applications is not accepted will be informed by mail. Her check or money order deposit will be returned at that time.

The Speech:

- 1) Must be a *persuasive* speech of not more than 8 minutes in length on the 2019 topic: **"A Republic if you can keep it." Rising to Benjamin Franklin's Challenge;**
- 2) Must be delivered in English;
- 3) May be memorized or delivered with notecards or script;
- 4) Must be the student's own original work, crediting sources of quoted information and text used in the body of the speech;
- 5) Must be delivered without use of any prop or visual aid of any kind,
- 6) Must contain no information that identifies the speaker by name or school.
- 7) Use of cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices during the rounds of competition is strictly forbidden.
- 8) No audio recording, videography, or still photography is permitted during the rounds of competition.
- 9) The competition room's manager is in charge of the event in the particular room, including deciding whether or not there is adequate space for visitors during speeches.

Note: Students are urged familiarize themselves with the information on the Student Page and Judge's Ballot found on the contest website.

Timing

- 1) Each speech will be timed by a designated tournament volunteer with instructions to hold up time cards when 7 minutes, 7½ minutes and 7¾ minutes have elapsed.
- 2) When the 8-minute mark is reached, the timekeeper will stand and say "TIME," at which point the speaker may finish the sentence she is currently speaking. Judges will be advised to down-grade substantially any speaker who continues beyond the sentence she is speaking when "TIME" is called.

Competition Rounds

- 1) Each of the fifty applicants chosen for the competition, together with any alternate designated to replace an applicant who fails to appear, will compete in the first (preliminary) round of speeches according to the schedule drawn up by the competition's organizers.
- 2) Each speaker assigned to **Section A** must be in her assigned seat in the Capitol vault by **10:20 a.m.** or forfeit her right to compete. The highest-ranked available alternate will be designated to speak instead.
- 3) Each speaker assigned to **Section B** must be in her assigned seat in the Capitol vault by **11:20 a.m.** or forfeit her right to compete. The highest-ranked available alternate will be designated to speak instead.
- 4) Based on judges' combined rankings (1 through 5) and scores (100 to 80), the top twenty speakers will advance to the second (semi-final) round of competition. Contestants will speak in the sections and positions assigned to them by competition organizers.
- 5) Again based on judges' combined rankings (1 through 5) and scores (100 to 80), the top three speakers will be called at random, one at a time, from the assembled second-round competitors and other audience members. These finalists must speak in the order called.
- 6) Finalists' speeches will be recorded.
- 7) Judges for the final round will complete their ballots, submitting them to the competition's organizers. Following tabulation, the third-, second-, and first-place finishers will be announced.

Note: Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Judge’s Ballot and Tabulation procedures.

Awards Ceremony

- 1) All competitors and alternates and their relatives and friends are invited to attend the final round of competition at 3 p.m. and the awards ceremony, which will follow as soon as results are tabulated.
- 2) Finalists will pose for photographs and be interviewed before the competition day concludes.
- 3) Because rules governing the use of the Minnesota State Capitol do not permit funds to be exchanged on the premises, the Speaking Proudly treasurer will mail cash prizes-- \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third place—to the winners within three days after the contest.