

ALABAMA DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLUBS



ORATORY CONTEST AWARDS MANUAL

Annual Convention

ONLY THE FORMS IN THIS MANUAL WILL BE ACCEPTED
AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

**The complete applications must be sent or E-mailed to:
John Schoen, ADEC Awards Chairman**

John Schoen
E-MAIL: Exchangeclubofirondale@gmail.com
MAIL: PO Box 100954
Irondale, AL 35210
Phone 205-956-5875
Cell: 205-317-0168
FAX: 205-956-5980

Alabama District Exchange Club Oratory Contest Program Rules

Alabama Oratory (Speech) contest has been an integral part of the annual Alabama District Conventions since 1921. This contest has been dedicated to providing high school, juniors and seniors with an opportunity to demonstrate their skills at public speaking. Beginning in 2016 the district changed the theme of the contest to include Americanism or the national topic for Youth of the Year. This topic changes annually. In 2021 Youth of the Year theme IS: ***“I recognize my responsibility in shaping America’s future. I have stepped out of my comfort zone during uncertain times and made a difference. I am part of history and here is where it started.”***

The contest allows the opportunity to:

- Address themselves to the challenges of this Country’s democratic institutions
- Express their patriotic thoughts and ideas
- Hone their oratorical skills and self-confidence
- Compete for \$300 to \$600 from club and district events

Contest Overview

Each participating Club or high school can hold a preliminary contest under the auspices of the respective public speaking departments. The first place winner or nominee from any group will be requested to speak to the local sponsoring Exchange Club, with the best orators then selected to represent the club at the annual district convention. One female and one male will be selected as winners at the annual Convention

Eligibility

Any high school Junior or Senior who is regularly enrolled in a high school or alternative high school-level educational program will be eligible to enter this contest. Any junior first place winner of the district contest will not be eligible to compete again. The speech contestant is not eligible to compete concurrently in any other district youth competition.

The Speech

Each contestant speech is to be the result of his or her own composition efforts, although facts, data, and direct quotations may be secured from other sources. **No reference to the students name, city or club in the speech shall be permitted.** Each contestant must submit a copy of his/her speech to the local Exchange Club’s Chair of the Speech Committee. The Speech Committee Chair must also make sure that the contestants and their school advisors understand the deadline for submitting the speeches and the date, time, and location of the Exchange Club Speech Contest.

Speech Rules

- Each entry to the district Speech Contest must be accompanied by a completed application, as well as a copy of the speech. The speech must be the same one presented at the club level. Each club’s Speech Chair or representative will be required to submit this documentation to the Awards Chairman.
- Prior to the start of the speech, all speech contestants will be taken to an anteroom to await their turn. The order of the unidentified speech contestants will be determined by drawing lots. The Speech Contest Chair will bring each numbered contestant, one at a time, to the front of the room where the speech is to be given. The audience will be made up of local and area Exchange Club members and guests. The Speech Chair will point out the prompter and timekeeper, who will be sitting at the front of the room, fully visible to the contestant.

Alabama District Exchange Club Oratory Contest

- The speech contestant must follow the written text as submitted prior to the contest. Each contestant will be permitted to hold and refer to notes printed **on no more than two 3x5" index cards** during their speech. However, speech contestants may not use audio/visual equipment, printed displays, or other prompts in conjunction with their speech. Speech contestants may use a microphone and amplification system if necessary.
- The prompter will have a copy of each speech and will give the first few words of the speech only when the speech contestant signals for assistance. Points may be deducted for prompting.
- Each speech shall last at least five (5) minutes, but not be more than eight (8) minutes in length. The timekeeper will stand briefly at five minutes. At eight minutes, the timekeeper will remain standing until the conclusion of the speech. Two points will be deducted if the speech is less than five minutes or exceeds eight minutes. At the conclusion of the speech, one of the judges will ask one impromptu question related to the topic and content of the speech. The speaker will be given two minutes to answer the question.

Judges for the Speech Contest

- The Alabama District Exchange Club will arrange for three to five individuals to serve as judges of the Speech Contest. Although not necessarily trained in speech, the individuals should be selected for their objectivity and professionalism. Judges should not be members of the local Exchange Club. The Speech Committee members should explain the purpose and rules of the contest, as well as the expectations for the judging process.
- The judges should receive a copy of each speech contestant's speech prior to the contest. Each speech must be anonymous with all indications of the speech contestant's identity removed from the printed copies. The judges should also receive a copy of the Speech Contest Scoring Sheet with instructions on the scoring methods. Be sure to obtain a brief resume of each judge to be used in publicity releases.
- At the conclusion of each speech, the speech contestant may take a seat in the audience for any remaining speeches.
- At the conclusion of the speeches, the judges will assemble in the anteroom to complete their individual scoring sheets and tabulate a compiled score. Portable calculators should be available for the judges' use. Once the scoring is tabulated, the results will be given to the Oratory Chair who will announce the results.

Speech Contest Awards

- The winners of the Alabama District Speech Contest will be presented with \$300 plus \$300 for participating. All speech contest entrants will be recognized with certificates of appreciation for their participation in the contest and \$300.

Alabama District Exchange Clubs Youth Oratory Entry Form

Congratulations on your participation in the Oratory Contest! Everyone at the Alabama District Convention is looking forward to meeting you and your contestant and hearing his or her speech.

To enter your Oratory Contestant in the District Competition, please complete this form and follow the submission instructions at the bottom of the page. **Deadline for entries is May 16th**

Please Print!

Sponsoring Club Information

Sponsoring Club: _____

Program Chair: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Contestant Information

Contestant's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Submit to: Awards Chairman John Schoen

**Alabama District Exchange Club
Oratory Contest – Scoring Sheet**

Please complete a form for each contestant by circling the appropriate score.

Contestant's Number _____

| PART I: Written Text (Maximum Points = 30) | Score | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| A. Choice of and Adherence to Topic | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| B. Organization (Clear division of ideas and appropriate pattern of arrangement) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| C. Development (support for thought division based on thorough knowledge of topic) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| D. Appropriate Language | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| E. Soundness of Reasoning | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| F. Conclusion | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Part II: Patriotic Theme (Maximum Points = 5) | | | | | | |
| A. Effectiveness of a patriotic message | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Part III: Delivery | | | | | | |
| A. Physical Delivery (Maximum Points = 20) | | | | | | |
| (1) Eye contact | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| (2) Spontaneous gesture and movement | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| (3) Poise | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| (4) Ease before audience | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| B. Vocal delivery (Maximum Points = 20) | | | | | | |
| (1) Distinctness of utterance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| (2) Fluency | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| (3) Vocal emphasis | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| (4) Tempo | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |

Part IV: Speech Text (Maximum Points = 5)

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Adherence to Written Text | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|

Part V: Question Period (Maximum Points = 5)

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Content and organization of responses | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|

Part VI: Timing

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Deductions for time and/or prompting | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Judge's Signature _____