



The Jim Armstrong Four Way Test Speech Contest

To: All Rotary District 7690 Clubs

The Jim Armstrong Four Way Test Speech Contest will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2026. In case of inclement weather, the contest will take place the following Saturday, March 7, 2026. Each club will also receive an email announcement. Each club is encouraged to invite high school students from their area of service to participate and to select one to represent the club at the event which will be held at Randolph Community College in Asheboro. **If necessary, clubs in the same school district should coordinate with each other to decide which club is responsible for contacting which schools in that area.** This is an opportunity for high school students in grades 9 through 12 to develop their public speaking and leadership skills while increasing awareness of Rotary in our communities.

High school speech contestants are asked to present a six-minute persuasive talk, directed toward their peers, to promote high ethical standards in daily life. The speech should clearly mention the application of Rotary's Four Way Test to facilitate positive and ethical behavior in youth and teens. If applicable, they may incorporate Rotary's theme for the current year into their speech.



Contestants' speeches will be judged for content and presentation. The content should be focused, clear, and accurate, and should be delivered in a logical, organized, and persuasive manner. Articulation, body language, creativity, and effectiveness in engaging peers in the message of ethical choices and behavior relating to the Rotary's Four-Way Test will be important criteria in judging the presentations.

District prizes will be:

- \$1000 for first place
- \$500 for second place
- \$250 for third place
- \$150 for fourth place
- \$100 for fifth place

Additionally, the winner will be invited to present his or her presentation at our District Conference, to be held in Atlantic Beach, NC on April 23 – April 26, 2026.

Contest Rules:

- The contest is open to all students in high school grades 9 through 12 who are currently enrolled in a high school curriculum.
- All contestants must be physically present to compete in the contest on February 28, 2026.
- Each club is limited to one contestant. If the club has multiple students interested in participating, the club will be responsible for judging the presentations at the local level and should select one of those individuals to represent the club on February 28, 2026.
- More than one student from the same school may compete if they are sponsored by different clubs.
- The speeches will be judged for
 - Content (knowledge of subject, logical development, clarity of ideas, and persuasiveness to peers).
 - Originality (captures audience interest and attention, effectively connects the information about ethics to the lives of teens today).
 - Delivery (enunciation/pronunciation, expression/poise, sincerity/tone, positive approach)
 - Staying within the 6-minute time limit.
- No props or PowerPoint presentations will be permitted but notes on 3x5 cards are allowed.
- Speeches should be the original work of the contestant and should not be read.
- Contestants should remain anonymous, not revealing their name, town, school, etc. until after the contest to prevent any bias on the part of the judges.
- Each contestant must consent to Rotary District 7690 videotaping their presentation at the District contest on February 28, 2026.
- Each club must send the application for their contestant to Kathy Homiller by **Wednesday, February 11, 2026**.

Finally, the number of contestants is limited to 30 and since there are more than 30 clubs in District 7690, I would appreciate being notified by 1/5/26 if your club intends to participate.

Questions or comments? Contact:

Kathy Homiller, Chair

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