2026 Fort Bend County Fair
Public Speaking Contest

Chairman – Dustin Black

Saturday, September 12, 2026
Contest Location – Fort Bend County 4H Extension Office

Contestant Check-in:	8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Fort Bend County Extension Office
Preliminary Round of Judging:	9:30 a.m.	Fort Bend County Extension Office
Contestant Lunch:	11:30 a.m.	Fort Bend County Extension Office
Preliminary Round Continued:	12:30 p.m.	Fort Bend County Extension Office
Finalists Announced	Will be Announced	

Special Rules for Public Speaking Contest

1. **Rules:** This contest is subject to the Fort Bend County Fair General Rules and Regulations, the Junior Contest Rules and Regulations, and to the Special Rules of this section. Where Special Rules conflict with other rules, Special Rules prevail.

2. **Entry Fee**: A fee of $20.00 will be assessed for each entry. Entries **MUST** be submitted online via **https://fbcfa.fairwire.com** by the supervising Club Leader or Teacher. Payment is due at the time of entry. **Entries must be submitted prior to midnight, September 4, 2026**.

3. **Entry:** See Entry requirements in the Fort Bend County Fair Junior Contest Rules & Regulations.

4. **Eligibility:** See Eligibility requirements in the Fort Bend County Junior Contest General Rules & Regulations.
   a. Contestants must **meet all Fort Bend County Fair Junior Contest Rules and Requirements.**
   b. Age: Contestants must be between the ages of 8 and 18 years of age as of August 31, 2026.
   c. Enrollment: Contestant must be enrolled in and attending public or private elementary or secondary schools or accredited home school program in Fort Bend County TX.
   d. Junior Division Contestants (grades 3rd – 8th)
   e. Senior Division Contestants (grades 9th – 12th)

5. **Conduct of Contestants** – See Fort Bend County Junior Contest Rules & Regulations.

6. **Contest Format:** The event will be conducted using the following format:
   a. A panel of judges will evaluate and score each presentation. Click here to review the scoring rubric.
   b. Contestants will compete in either the Junior or Senior Division. Contestants will be assigned an official contestant number, and the speaking order and room assignment will be randomly determined.
      i. Junior Division Contestants (grades 3rd – 8th)
      ii. Senior Division Contestants (grades 9th – 12th)
   c. The top 2 contestants from each assigned room will advance to the Final Round. Contestants MUST compete in their assigned room. Changes may only be approved by the Department Chairman.
   d. The finalists in the Junior and Senior divisions will compete for overall division winner and placings within their respective divisions.
   e. Contestants will randomly draw to determine the speaking order for the Final Round of judging. Final Round contestants will be evaluated and ranked by judges.

7. **Documentation:** Each contestant must bring a completed Release of Liability and Indemnity Form with them to the contest and to be turned in at registration. Any participant who does not present a fully executed form will not be allowed to participate. The Release of Liability forms may be printed for the website (link inserted).

8. **Contestants are required to upload an Abstract and a Statement of Originality Form as one pdf file electronically to the Fair https://www.fortbendcountyfair.com/events/2026/public-speaking between the dates of August 14, 2026, and September 04, 2026. The documentation must be submitted by the Teacher or Club Advisor.** Documentation should be saved as a single PDF file. The file should be named "Exhibitor Last Name Exhibitor First Name_"J" for Junior Division or "S" for Senior Division "PS" for Public Speaking." **Example:** Johnny Stockshow, who is entered in the Junior Division of Public Speaking, would name his file "Stockshow_Johnny_J_PS". **Students failing to submit the required documentation by the deadline of September 04, 2026, are ineligible to compete.**

    i. Abstract: The Abstract will be provided to the judges for informational purposes only. A minimum of five (5) references must be listed as Literature Cited using the APA format. The Abstract template (PDF fillable format) will be used by all contestants. Be sure to save a completed copy of the Abstract for your reference.

    ii. Statement of Originality Form: This form (PDF fillable format) must be signed by the contestant, parent/legal guardian, and Teacher or Club Leader.

    iii. Click here to access the required documents template to be used by contestants.

    If a contestant does not follow the documentation guidelines outlined above, point deductions will be taken at the discretion of the Department Chairman, Show Management and Judges.

9. **Dress Attire:** Contestants should wear presentable attire. Business attire or Official 4-H or FFA attire is recommended.

10. **Time:** Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) minutes in length and a maximum of eight (8) minutes. Time point deductions will apply as follows:
    a. Under six minutes - one point per ten seconds
    b. Over eight minutes - one point per ten seconds
    c. Junior contestants will be given a discrete, two-minute warning by the timekeeper prior to the eight-minute deadline.

11. **Question/Answer Period:** A three-minute question and answer period will follow each speech. At the end of three minutes, time will be called, and all questioning will end.

12. **Props:** The use of pets, signs, electronics, objects, or props of any kind are prohibited. A violation of this rule will result in contestant disqualification.

13. **Speech Topic:** Each contestant's speech must be aligned with the topic provided. Contestants that fail to speak on the provided topic will be disqualified from the contest.

    Topic:
    - ***The Fort Bend County Fair: Past, Present and Future***

14. **Eligibility of Previous Winners:** Previous First (1st) Place winners in the Junior and Senior Divisions may not use the same winning speech in future contest(s) and must select a new speech subject matter to remain eligible to enter the contest in subsequent year(s).

15. **Tie Breaker:** A tie will be broken on scores received from the Question / Answer Period, in consultation with judges panel and at discretion of contest Superintendent(s).

16. **Results:** The contest results, as announced, will be final. Contestants must be present to receive their awards. Any remaining awards will not be mailed to a contestant following the contest.

17. **Awards:** The following prizes will be awarded in both the Junior and Senior Divisions:

Place	***Award***
First Place	Felt Banner, Plaque
Second Place	Felt Banner, Plaque
Third Place	Felt Banner, Plaque
Fourth Place	Plaque
Fifth Place	Plaque
Sixth thru Tenth Place	Plaque
Eleventh thru Twentieth Place	Plaque