2027 FWSSR EQUINE PUBLIC SPEAKING CHALLENGE

Sunday, January 17, 2027

Location: Will Rogers Hall

Entry Deadline December 30, 2026

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 60 APPLICANTS

Entry Fee: $40.00

The Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in conjunction with the Texas A&M University Animal Science Department will hold an Equine Public Speaking Challenge. The contest is open to all students between the ages of 14 – 18, as of January 1, 2027, who are enrolled and are attending public, private or homeschool elementary or secondary school in the state of Texas. The contest will be open to the first 60 applicants.

Scholarships totaling $40,000 will be available to the 1st – 5th placing contestants. The scholarship funds will be provided to the winning students to be used as scholastic assistance and will be available beginning with their first semester of enrollment at an accredited college or university of their choice.

Students awarded a scholarship will receive a certificate(s) indicating the amount of the scholarship won. The scholarship will be paid beginning with the first semester the student is enrolled in an accredited degree plan at a college or university. The certificate(s) should be presented to the registrar or financial aid office of the college or university the student chooses to attend. Instructions for redemption are printed on the back of the certificate. Upon verification of the student's enrollment, the Stock Show will issue a check directly to the student's college or university.

AGE DIVISIONS

Ages 14-18
(Age as of January 1, 2027)

Contestants must be enrolled in, and attending, public, private or homeschool elementary or secondary school in Texas. This competition is limited to youth who are U. S. Citizens with Texas residency. Non-United States citizens and Foreign Exchange students are ineligible to compete. All contestants must have a personal Social Security Number to be eligible to participate. **Scholarship recipients will be required to provide their social security number after the show in order to receive their scholarship.**

ENTRY INFORMATION

Print, complete and return the entry application with check or money order or submit online with credit card payment.

An entry fee of $40.00 will be charged per contestant. One complimentary Season Grounds Pass will be provided with each entry.

An individual may enter in both the Equine Public Speaking Challenge and Equine I.Q. Contest. A $4,000 scholarship will be awarded to the highest placing contestant entered in BOTH the I.Q. Contest and Equine Public Speaking Challenge.

CONTEST

Round One:

All contestants should come prepared to present a 5-minute prepared speech on a topic related to the equine industry. Topics may vary, but must include an issue within the industry and a probable solution to that issue. Contestants will be graded on their public speaking skills as well as the relativity of their round one speech topic. Contestants will be assigned one of four different rooms consisting of two judges in each room. This round will not be open to the public. The top three scores from each room will move on to the final round. Speeches from this round will have a maximum score of 100. The average score from the judges' panel will be used.

Final Round:

Twelve Contestants will proceed to the final round, which will consist of a 5-minute prepared speech, followed by three questions from the judges' panel. Each contestant will come prepared to present a prepared speech topic related to the equine industry. Contestants may use the same speech topic from round one, or choose to use a different prepared speech topic. Contestants will draw for the order in which they will present their speech. This round will be held in front of a judges' panel, will be open to the public, and will consist of questions from the judges' panel once the speech has concluded. Speeches from this round will have a maximum score of 125. The average score from the judges' panel will be used.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.

2. Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.

3. Each speech will be timed and must be 5-minutes (with a 30 second leeway window). Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over and under the time limit.

4. Contestants may not use notes while giving their speech. Notes may be allowed while contestant is waiting for their name to be drawn.

5. Contestant order in both rounds will be determined by a random drawing.

6. Ties will be broken by judges.

7. Judges will use the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show Equine Public Speaking Challenge Score Sheet.

8. Contestants may bring snacks and water while waiting.

RESULTS

Results can be found at fwssr.com. Each contestant will be given an individual identification number at the time of registration. Results will be posted by identification number only. Please allow 4 business days for results to be posted. If identification number is misplaced, please contact texashorsehelp@ag.tamu.edu for assistance.

AWARDS

All awards will be presented immediately following the contest in the Will Rogers Hall.

Scholarships:		**Awards**:
1st	$12,000	Buckle – 1st Place
2nd	$10,000	Ribbons – 1st through 5th place
3rd	$8,000	Vests – 1st through 5th place
4th	$6,000	
5th	$4,000	

STUDY MATERIALS

Study materials can be found at: https://www.fwssr.com/p/competitions--contests/equine-public-speaking-challenge

Specific questions related to the Equine Public Speaking Challenge may be sent to texashorsehelp@ag.tamu.edu

SCHEDULE

January 17, 2027

Time	Event	Location
Noon -	Registration check in	Will Rogers Hall Room 505
1:00 pm -	Contest begins	Coliseum East Offices
2:30 pm -	Top 12 posted	Will Rogers Hall
3:00 pm -	Final Round begins	Will Rogers Hall
5:00 p.m. -	Contest Concludes	
5:30 p.m. -	Final Scores Announced & Awards	Will Rogers Hall