

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

ENTRY DEADLINE: January 15, 2024

ENTRY FEE - \$20

CHECK-IN: 8:00 a.m. – March 11, 2024 – Event Center Ballroom

CONTEST: 9:00 a.m. – March 11, 2024 – Event Center Ballroom (Awards at conclusion)

The prepared public speaking contest is designed to enhance the communication skills of future leaders as well as promoting interest in the various facets of agriculture including natural resources and policy making.

SPECIAL RULES FOR PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

ENTRY

1. One copy of the manuscript with bibliography and a statement of originality is due in the RGVLS office on or before March 1, 2024. You may email your manuscript to terri@rgvls.com. The first email sent will be the manuscript entered. Once it has been submitted, it cannot be changed. Each contestant may only enter one speech uniquely produced by the speaker.
2. A bibliography in APA style must accompany each manuscript.

ORIGINALITY

1. The manuscript and speech presentation must be the contestant's own effort.
2. A statement of originality must accompany each entry.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Each exhibitor must be a bona fide member of a Texas 4-H Club or FFA Chapter and enrolled in elementary, secondary, or home school.

AGE GROUPS

1. Juniors – Grades 3rd through 8th.
2. Seniors – Grades 9th through 12th.

FORMAT

1. Presentations will be judged by a panel of 2-3 judges.
2. The junior age group may be combined into one division for judging depending on the number of entries. The top two (2) contestants will compete for Grand and Reserve Grand Champion in the finals. If entries allow for separate divisions, all division winners will compete in the finals.
3. Senior contestants will be divided into their respective divisions, winners face off in finals.

TIME LIMIT

1. Juniors – Each speech shall be a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of six (6) minutes.
2. Seniors – Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) minutes.
3. Deductions will be applied to overall score if time is under/over allotted time. Time point deductions will apply as one point for each ten (10) seconds over/under the allowed time.

QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD

1. A three (3) minute question/answer period will follow each speech. At the end of three minutes, time will be called, and all questioning will end. If time is called during the student's answer, the contestant may complete his/her answer. Only official judges may ask questions.

ATTIRE

1. Business attire or official 4-H or FFA dress is recommended.

VISUAL AIDS

1. The use of visual aids of any kind is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification.
2. Note cards are not considered visual aids.

SCORE SHEET

1. The manuscripts will be reviewed and validated by show officials prior to the contest. A separate panel of judges will evaluate and score the presentations.
2. Judges' comments will be returned to CEA/AST or 4-H club manager following the contest.

DIVISIONS

1. **AGRIBUSINESS** – Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as:
 - Cooperatives
 - Sales
 - Service
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Marketing/Advertising
 - Finance
 - Commodities
 - Hedging
2. **AGRICULTURAL POLICY** – Any current or future subject addressing policy or legislation:
 - Domestic Farm Issues
 - International Trade
 - International Competition
 - Rural Economic Development
 - Legal Issues
 - Animal Welfare
 - Subsidies
 - Price Supports
3. **ANIMAL SCIENCE** – Any current or future subject that addresses any aspect of:
 - Dairy Industry
 - Equine
 - Poultry
 - Sheep
 - Goat
 - Swine
 - Beef
 - Specialty Animal Industries
 - Embryos
4. **PLANT SCIENCE** – Any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of horticulture and/or agronomy industries. This may include areas as:
 - Floriculture
 - Fruit and/or Vegetable Production
 - Nursery Operations
 - Turf and Landscape Management
 - Crop Production
 - Specialty Crop Production

5. NATURAL RESOURCES – Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as:

- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Water quality
- Wildlife
- Forestry
- Aquaculture
- Conservation
- Recreation
- Recycling
- Energy Environmental Issues

6. AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS – Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as:

- Biotechnology
- Bio Genetics
- Bio Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Farm Safety
- Use of Technology
- Research
- Laser
- Satellites
- Computers
- Journalism
- Communications

AWARDS

- Junior & Senior Division Champions – Rosette
- Junior & Senior Division Reserve Champions – Rosette
- Junior Grand Champion – Buckle
- Senior Grand Champion - \$500 Scholarship & Buckle
- Senior Reserve Grand Champion – Buckle