

## Judging

Judging will be on a 100 point system, broken down into four criteria categories as follows:

1. PERSONAL QUALITIES (0-15 points)
  - Appearance
  - Poise
  - Personality
  - Attitude
2. ORGANIZATION (0-40 points)
  - Subject Adherence
  - Theme
  - Four-Way Test Inclusion
  - Flow
  - Logic
  - Color
3. PRESENTATION (0-30 points)
  - Voice Control
  - Articulation
  - Enunciation
  - Diction
  - Animation
  - Sincerity
4. EFFECTIVNESS (0-15 points)
  - Overall Appeal
  - Impression
  - Persuasiveness



## Levels of Competition

### Club

Each of the 57 Rotary Clubs in District 5300 may elect to host and complete contests by **January 31, 2026**. Clubs award certificates and cash prizes to participants. The winner of the Club Contest proceeds to the Area Level.

### Area

Each Club is assigned to one of the 12 Areas. Area Level contest are in **March**. The winner of each Area Level Contest proceeds to the Regional Level.

### Regional

The winner of each Area Level contest proceeds to one of the 4 Regional Contests in **April**.

### District

The 4 Regional winners compete at the District Assembly **on May 23, 2026**. The prizes depend on the number of Clubs that participate. In the past, the winner has received up to \$5,000 and runners-ups received up to \$1,000.

# 2025-2026

## Rotary International District 5300

### 4-Way Test

### Speech Contest



## *Purpose*

Rotary International District 5300 is composed of 57 clubs in Southern California and Nevada. The District annually conducts a Four-Way Test Speech Contest to benefit high school age youth. The specific goals of the contest are:

1. To acquaint a large number of youth with Rotary and the Four-Way Test.
2. To Demonstrate and enhance Rotary's Commitment to youth.
3. To heighten awareness of Rotary among youth, parents, schools and community.
4. To recognize, encourage and reward hard work and accomplishment among youth.

## *Eligibility*

Public, private and continuation high school students in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to enter the contest. No student may be a contestant in more than one local club speech contest in any one year. More than one club may recruit contestants from a high school shared with another club. The Winner of the District Level competition is ineligible to compete in subsequent years.

## **Topic and Theme**

The 2025-2026 theme is **"Unite For Good"**. Any topic related to this theme will be acceptable, provided that it is not profane, obscene, unpatriotic or racist. If a contestant or coach is in doubt about the appropriateness of a topic, the coach or student may check with the Contest Chairperson of the local club or the District Chairperson. The Chairperson's decision will be final. **The topic of the speech must be specifically subjected to the Four-Way Test.** This must be done in the body of the speech and is not to be reserved for introductory or concluding statements only.

## **The Four-Way Test**

Of the things we think, say or do:

**First...** Is it the **TRUTH**?

**Second...** Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

**Third...** Will it build **GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

**Fourth...** Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

## *Rules*

### **Length of Speech**

Speeches must be no less than 6 minutes and no more than 8 minutes in length. Penalty points will be subtracted for time infractions at the rate of 2 points for every 15 seconds over or under the minimum or maximum.

### **Props**

No props are to be used. Audience participation will be considered a prop. Penalty points will be subtracted for use of props at the rate of 2 points per infraction.

### **Speaker Aids**

Lecterns and microphones will be available for speakers to use if they choose.

### **Notes**

Contestants may use notes at the Club and Area Levels. At the Regional Level a single 3x5 card may be used. Notes may not be used at the District Level. Infractions will result in disqualification.

### **Order of Presentation**

Determined by drawing numbers. Contestants who arrive after competition has begun will be disqualified.