

# Rotary Youth Speaks

## **Nature of the Event.**

Nature of the event Rotary Youth Speaks is a public speaking competition for young people. It has been successfully organized by Rotary for many years. The object is to give young people experience in speaking on a public platform, to encourage them to formulate their ideas on specific topics and to present them concisely in a limited time, together with the opportunity to learn from the performance of others' high standards of expression, presentation and appearance.

A team is composed of three young people. The Chairperson has two minutes to welcome the audience, introduce the speaker and inform the audience of the relevance or expertise of the speaker to the subject of the speech. The Speaker has six minutes for the address and a maximum of two minutes to consider and answer a question posed by the questioner. The Proposer of the Vote of Thanks has two minutes to propose the vote of thanks. After this and any applause, the Chairperson will close proceedings.

## **Progression to regional or national event.**

Winning teams then go on to the District Competition. Winners of all the District events throughout RIBI then go forward to Regional Finals and eventually the winners from here will go on to the RIBI National Finals.

## **Age group(s)**

There are two competitions, the Intermediate Competition for students aged 11 to 13 years on 31st August 2009 and the Senior Competition for students aged 14 to 17 years.



# ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS 2009-2010

## RULES OF THE COMPETITION WITHIN ROTARY DISTRICT 1090

### 1. Objectives

The competition aims to offer young people:

- ◆ An experience of speaking on a public platform as members of a team;
- ◆ An incentive to formulate ideas on significant subjects;
- ◆ The discipline of dealing with a topic in a limited time;
- ◆ The opportunity of learning and practising high standards of expression, presentation and appearance;
- ◆ The impartial criticism and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators.

### 2. Competitors

The competition is open to teams of young people entered by Rotary Clubs from schools, colleges, youth training schemes or youth groups within the geographic area covered by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI). Entrants must have been born on or after **1st September 1991**.

No entrant may be a member of more than one team. No team may participate more than once in any qualifying round. Team membership will normally be unchanged for each stage of the competition. In case of illness or other reason why a member of the team cannot participate, then the organisers must be contacted for approval to substitute a member or, at most 2 members.

**The competition will apply to those students aged 11 - 17 years on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009 and in full time education (which may include college students) or who are members of a youth training scheme or youth group. This age qualification relates directly to School Year age groups, which in England is School Years 7-13. The Intermediate competition is for young people aged from 11 to 13 on 31<sup>st</sup> August prior to the competition date (School Years 7, 8 & 9, so the oldest will have their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday during the academic year in which the competition is held) and the Senior competition is for those aged from 14 to 17 on 31<sup>st</sup> August prior to the competition date (School Years 10, 11, 12 & 13, so the oldest will have their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday during the academic year in which the competition is held).**

### 3. Teams

Each team shall comprise three members: the Chairperson, the Speaker and the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks.

**The Chairperson**, has **TWO** minutes to welcome the audience, to introduce the Speaker and to inform the audience of the relevance or expertise of the Speaker to the subject of his/her speech.

The **Speaker** has **SIX** minutes for the address and (where relevant) a maximum of **TWO** minutes to consider and answer a question that will be posed by the Questioner. The Speaker is free to choose any subject approved by the organisers, with the exception of subjects directly concerning party politics, race or religion. Considerable discretion is urged in the choice of subjects which might be sensitive to members of the audience. The subject selected may, however, change from round to round.

When the **Speaker** has finished, in the District Final and subsequent stages, the **Chairperson** will invite the **Questioner**, who shall NOT be an adjudicator, to put **one question only** to the **Speaker**. The **Speaker** shall answer the question. Clarification of the question via the **Chairperson** is permitted, but the **Speaker** will answer without consultation with other team members. After this the **Chairperson** will briefly introduce the **Proposer** of the vote of thanks.

**The Proposer of the Vote of Thanks** has **TWO** minutes in which to propose the Vote of Thanks, remarking on both the content of the address and the response to the question asked by the **Questioner** (where there is a question). The audience should then be invited to show its appreciation of the **Speaker**.

After the vote of thanks and applause, the **Chairperson** will close the proceedings.

The overall time for each team's presentation will therefore be approximately **10** minutes, or **15** minutes where there is a question.

#### **4. Stages in the Competition.**

There are four separate stages in the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition:-

- a) **Club Competitions**, which are run by local Rotary Clubs individually or jointly. Two or more clubs may run a combined event if either has insufficient entries for an event.
- b) **District Competitions**, in which winning teams from the Club competitions take part.

In District 1090 there will be four local **Zone Finals** held in early February 2010, leading up to the **District Final** to be held in late February or early March 2010 in the High Wycombe area. The winning Intermediate team and Senior team from the District Final will progress to the Regional Final.

No team will be allowed to compete in a District competition unless it has first taken part in a Club Competition or, under exceptional circumstances, has been judged to be of adequate standard by the District Youth Opportunities Chairperson, the District Youth Speaks Co-ordinator or by someone appointed by either of them to act on their behalf.

- c) **Regional Finals**, in which one Intermediate and one Senior team from each District will compete in the competition, held in each of the eight Regions within RIBI. The winning teams from District 1090 compete in Region 4 (South East England). These competitions will be held in mid to late March 2010.
- d) **RIBI Finals**. One Intermediate team and one Senior team from each Region will compete in the RIBI finals, which will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in Stratford-upon-Avon.

#### **5. Uniformity of Procedure**

The Zone Finals, District 1090 final, Regional Finals and RIBI Finals will be run strictly in accordance with the procedures described in these Rules. In the interests of the participating teams, the Club rounds of the competition should be run along similar lines, otherwise teams that progress to the later stages of the Competition will find that they are disadvantaged by having to adapt at short notice to the RIBI rules and guidelines. If a Rotary Club does not wish to follow these procedures at their stage of the competition, it is **very important** that its students and their teachers/coaches are made aware of the different rules that will be followed at Zone, District, Regional and RIBI finals.

#### **6. Procedure**

Before each competition takes place, a draw will be held to determine the order in which teams will make their presentations. This draw may either take place in advance (to allow preparation of programmes) or at the start of the event. If it is made in advance, the order will be notified to the teams on the day of the competition.

A system of lights will be provided: **green** to begin, **yellow** as a warning that the time is coming to an end and **red** to signal the end of the speaker's time. It is recommended that the organisers provide a back-up system of coloured cards in the event of an equipment failure.

At the beginning of each event, the Master of Ceremonies (MC), usually a Rotarian, will welcome the participants and guests, introduce the adjudicators and the Questioner and outline the procedure. The MC will then invite each team, in the order of the draw, to come onto the stage to make its presentation.

The team should be ushered onto the stage by the Chairperson, who should sit down with the Speaker on their right and the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks on their left. When the team are ready the Chairperson will stand and the green light will show. Once the green light has been given, the timing will run from that point and the Chairperson is in control until the Vote of Thanks is complete and the proceedings have been closed.

Team members, adjudicators, Questioner and audience will be aware of the passage of time by a system of lights used as follows: -

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>             | GREEN to start<br>YELLOW after 1.5 minutes<br>RED after 2 minutes.                                |
| <b>Speaker:</b>                 | GREEN following introduction by the Chairperson<br>YELLOW after 5 minutes<br>RED after 6 minutes. |
| <b>Vote of Thanks Proposer:</b> | GREEN after introduction by the Chairperson<br>YELLOW after 1.5 minutes<br>RED after 2 minutes.   |

## **7. Question to the Speaker (District Final and subsequent stages only)**

The **Questioner**, who will have been briefed in advance, will ask a **single open question**. This should be short, sensible and clearly relate to the main theme of the address, exploring the Speaker's knowledge of the chosen subject. The age of the Speaker should be taken into account when framing the question.

The Questioner should choose each question carefully, as it could be significant to the success of the team.

## **8. Adjudication**

There will be three qualified adjudicators who will be selected and appointed by the organisers of the particular competition. It is recommended that the Chairperson of the Adjudicators is a person with extensive experience of adjudicating speaking competitions for young people. Adjudicators may ideally be drawn from teachers or lecturers of English, teachers of speech and drama, public speaking societies or 'circles'. The team should display a balance of gender.

It is important that, at every stage, the adjudication is seen to be impartial and fair. Conflicts of interest should be avoided and it is recommended that Rotarians should not be appointed as adjudicators in Club and District competitions. A Rotarian may NOT be appointed as an adjudicator for the Regional and RIBI Finals.

When assessing each team, the adjudicators will take into account -

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <i>The Chairperson's management of the meeting</i>   | <i>(25 points)</i> |
| <i>The Speaker's ability to present and develop an argument and to answer the question (where posed)</i> | <i>(50 points)</i> |
| <i>The quality and courtesy of the Vote of Thanks</i>  | <i>(25 points)</i> |

*Included within the marking will be the importance of teamwork.*

Over-running and under-running of the allotted times will be penalised: *one point for every complete 15 seconds of over-run and one point for each complete 30 seconds of under-run, for each speaker.* The time-keeper will notify the adjudicators of any penalty points accrued by each team.

A marking sheet is provided as part of these rules for the use of the adjudicators and for the guidance of team members and their teachers/coaches.

After all the teams have presented and the performances judged, the adjudicators will comment on the performance of each team and the result will be announced. The adjudicators will not discuss marks or how they have been allotted. The decision of the adjudicators will be final. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into following the event.

## **9. Guidance for participants and adjudicators.**

In assessing the presentations, attention will be paid to the following:-

### **All Team members**

- Effective use of voice, clear enunciation, easy manner, natural gestures.
- Whether the personality of the individual comes over to the audience.
- Humour, in the right context, will be appreciated.

Notes can be used, but they should not be too obvious; simply reading written content will be penalised. Audio-visual aids and props of any description are **NOT** allowed. Use of such items **will lead to disqualification.**

### **Chairperson**

- A business-like, yet courteous, handling of the meeting
- Attention to the duties specified above.
- The creation of a friendly and receptive atmosphere.

### **Speaker**

- The construction of the address should include an introduction, the main subject matter and a conclusion.
- The content of the speeches and the logic and weight of the arguments developed will be given great importance. A weak argument, however good the presentation, will not produce top marks.
- The impact created on the audience.
- The answers to the question (where asked) should be courteous, to the point, full but not unduly wordy.

### **Proposer of the Vote of Thanks**

- The duty of the Proposer is to express to the Speaker the appreciation of the audience.
- Reference should be made to the content of the address and the answer to the question (where asked).
- Finally, the Proposer should invite the audience to express their appreciation of the Speaker.

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