

Have You Heard?

We're Doing the Online Speech Contest this Fall!

What is it?

The Online Speech Contest is a Toastmasters speech contest, just like the International Speech Contest, except that it is conducted ***completely online*** using a platform like Zoom or Teams.

What kind of speech must I give?

You can give ***any kind of speech you choose, on any topic that you choose***, as long as it is substantially your own original work. The speech must be between five (5) and seven (7) minutes long.

How do I compete?

Like every Toastmasters speech contest, the Online Speech Contest begins in your club. Your club can choose its representation in the Area Contest however it likes. You can hold an Online Speech Contest where club members compete with one another, ***OR*** you can nominate your representation to the Area Contest.

Am I qualified to compete in the Online Speech Contest?

To be eligible for the Online Speech Contest:

- 1. You must be a paid-up member of a club in District 30***
- 2. The club must be in good standing***

Since the Area Contests take place after September, it is important that your dues are paid before the October 1 dues renewal deadline. There are NO educational requirements to compete in the Online Speech Contest.

How many people do we need to conduct an Online Speech Contest?

Like any Toastmasters speech contest, you'll need several people to run the contest. These include a Contest Chair, a Chief Judge, five (5) voting judges, one (1) tie-breaking judge, two (2) timers, two (2) ballot counters, and an online platform host who will serve as Sergeant at Arms. Of course, you'll need some contestants too – as many as would like to compete.

Can we have an audience?

Yes, absolutely, you can have an audience! **BUT** the audience and everyone participating in the contest **must do so remotely** through the online platform used for the contest. This means that you can NOT run the contest just like a hybrid-style meeting with some people together in a meeting room and others attending virtually. **EVERYONE MUST PARTICIPATE ONLINE.**

What are the rules?

The Online Speech Contest follows all rules in the **General Rules section of the Toastmasters Speech Contest Rulebook**. In addition, all contestants and contest officials must **participate live, in real-time** (meaning all at the same time), using equipment that they obtain themselves from physically distant locations. Finally, **all briefings, preparation meetings and rehearsals must be conducted online.**

Is it true that we can send two contestants from our club to the Area Contest?

Yes, but it's complicated. This year, District 30 decided that those clubs that are in **areas with four or fewer active clubs may send two representatives** to the Area Contest. Check with your Area Director to be sure.

Example: in the North Division, that would be all the clubs in Areas 41, 43, and 44. But Area 42 has 5 clubs, so it can only send one representative.

What about winners from the Area Contests?

This year, the District also decided to **allow two (2) contestants to advance from each Area Contest to their respective Division Contests**. This is because all the divisions in the district this year have four or fewer areas.

How can I learn more about conducting or participating in the Contest?

First and foremost, download and study the Toastmasters Speech Contest Rulebook. This is Item #1171 at the Toastmasters International website. There is also a webpage dedicated to support for speech contests:

<https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/speech-contests>

Second, on September 9, the district is hosting an online training session on speech contests. This will be a great chance to learn directly from toastmasters who have conducted many contests over a period of several years. You can register for this training session here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0QTn6ilsQku0B0UZCgA2Jg> .

Online Speech Contest Timeline

Sept



**Clubs contests
or representative nomination**

TRAINING: Sept 9th

Oct



Area contests

Example:

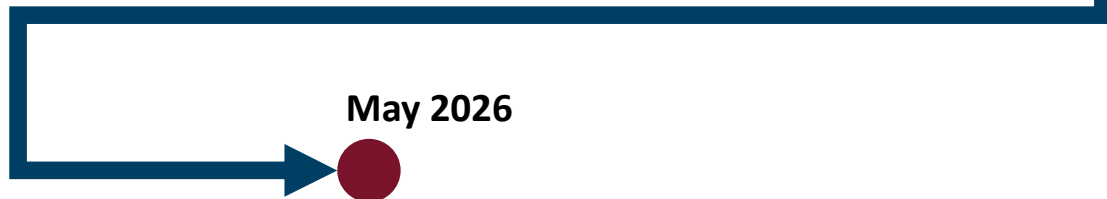
October 3 – Area W71
October 8 – Area B24
October 11 – Area N24
October 21 – Area D33
October 27 – Area E63

Nov



Division contests

Div B – November 3
Div D – November 22
Div E – November 7
Div N – December 3
Div W – November 14



May 2026

Winners of the Division Contests will compete in the District 30 finals, which will be held in conjunction with the District Conference in May 2026.



Need More Info?

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