**Rotary District 5330**

**4-Way Test**

**Speech Contest**

**Manual**

**2023-2024**

****

**Revised August 29, 2023**

**Table of Contents**

Contest Information and Timelines Page 3

Contest Rules Page 4

Procedures for Judges PAGE 6

Your Club Contest PAGE 7

Contestant Entry Form PAGE 8

If you have any questions, please contact District 5330

4-Way Test Speech Contest Chairperson Linda White by email at [lindawhite346@yahoo.com](mailto:lindawhite346@yahoo.com) or by phone at 951-532-7310,

**Contest Information**

From the earliest days, Rotary has focused on promoting high ethical standards.   One of the world’s most widely quoted statements is Rotary’s 4-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor. Every year Rotary districts around the world sponsor high school Four-Way Test speech contests for high school students.

The purpose of the student’s speech is to persuade others while applying the principles of the Rotary 4-Way Test to an ethical issue, dilemma or problem. The goal is for students to make the world a better place, to practice the virtues of critical thinking and ethical decision making, to develop public speaking and leadership skills, and to positively influence and inspire others through their speeches. Contestant speeches must be 5-8 minutes in length, and the Rotary 4-Way Test must be integrated throughout the speech.

Public, private, and home-schooled students in grades 9-12 are eligible to enter the contest. No student may be a contestant in more than one Rotary Club speech contest in any one year. A club may only send one contestant to the District contest. **Previous first-place winners of the District speech contest are ineligible to compete in subsequent years, but other previous competitors may compete again.**

**Club Level Contests**

Individual Rotary Clubs will hold their Club Level speech contests from **November 2023 to Feb. 10, 2024**. **Club contests MUST be completed by February 10, 2024**. Recommended prize amounts for Club level contests are as follows: First place-$200; Second place-$100; Third place-$50. Each Rotary Club has the option of sending the winner of their contest to the District 4-Way Test Speech Contest which will be held on Saturday, March 2. 2024. Each Rotary Club may send only one contestant to the Finals. If their first-place winner is not able to compete, they may select to send another contestant.

**District Finals Contest**

**Important Dates:**

**February 17, 2024 –** Contestant Entry Forms (included in this packet) AND the club Entry fee check of $50 are due to Linda White, District Contest Chairperson. Checks must be made payable to Rotary District 5330 and mailed to Linda White, 1925 Adobe Avenue, Corona, CA 92882. The Contestant Entry form may be mailed or emailed to Linda White ([lindawhite346@yahoo.com](mailto:lindawhite346@yahoo.com).) \*\*\*Please pay close attention to this Due Date as it has been moved up from past years.

**Sat. March 2, 2024** – 4-Way Test Speech Contest Finals @ 9:00 am at the Beaumont Presbyterian Church located at 702 Euclid Avenue, Beaumont CA, 92223.

**Sat. March 16, 2024 – The District contest winner will give their speech at the Paul Harris Society and Polio Plus dinner which will be held at the Victoria Club in Riverside, CA.**

**Contest Rules**

**Topic:**

Each contestant should choose the topic of his/her speech. The purpose of the speech is to address an ethical issue using the principles of the 4-Way Test. Topics should be interesting and relevant to the speaker’s interests or experiences. There are no restrictions regarding the choice of topic as long as the topic is not profane, obscene, unpatriotic or racist. If a contestant or coach is in doubt about the appropriateness of a topic, he or she should check with the Club Contest Chair. The decision of the Contest Chair will be final. **All speeches must he the original work of the speaker.**

In the speech, the topic must be specifically subjected to The Rotary 4-Way Test. The 4-Way Test must be **stated and integrated** throughout the body of the speech and is not to be reserved for concluding statements only.

Contestants who advance to the District contest may, at their option, present the same speech given at the preceding level or create a modified or new presentation, subject to the same rules as in the paragraph above. To ensure anonymity to the judges during the contest, the speaker is NOT to identify themself within the speech or identify the club they are representing.

**The Rotary 4-Way Test:**

**Of the things we think, say or do**

1. **IS IT THE TRUTH?**
2. **IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?**
3. **WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
4. **WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?**

**Length:**

Speeches must be at least 5 minutes and no more than 8 minutes in length. Penalty points will be deducted from a contestant’s score at the rate of two (2) points for each fifteen (15) seconds or fraction thereof that a contestant either runs over the eight-minute maximum or under the five-minute minimum.

**Props:**

No props are to be used. Audience participation is considered a prop. Penalty points will be subtracted for the use of props or encouragement of audience participation, at the rate of two points per infraction.

**Speaker Aids:**

At Club Contests, a microphone may be provided at the discretion of the Club. At the District Finals, a microphone will be provided and may be used at the speaker’s discretion.

**Notes:**

Contestants may speak from notes at the Club Contest.

At the District Contest **notes will not be allowed.**

**Order of Contestants**

The Contest Chairperson will randomly draw the speaking order of the contestants.

**Judges and timekeeper:**

Judges and a timekeeper will be used at each level of this contest. Club contest chairpersons will select the panel at the club level. The district chairperson will select the panel for the District Finals. Judges are limited to judging in only one level of our contest each year. All judges should have some knowledge of public speaking and THE 4-WAY TEST. A copy of the rules must be furnished to the judges and timekeeper prior to the contest.

**Judging:**

At each contest level, the judges seat themselves apart from each other and must not communicate about their evaluations of speakers at any time.

The criteria for judging will be as follows:

Content: (0-20 points) Introduction, originality, organization, conclusion.

Delivery: (0-20 points) Voice control, articulation, enunciation, diction, body language, gestures

Four-Way Test: (0-30 points) Integration of Rotary’s Four-Way Test throughout the body of the speech.

Overall appeal: (0-30 points) Impact and persuasiveness.

Total: 100 points possible

**Disqualifications:**

Contestants will be disqualified if they arrive after a contest has begun or if their speech is determined to be profane, obscene, unpatriotic, or racist.

**Prizes:**

**Club Level**

The award of Club Level cash prizes, 4-Way Test certificates/plaques, etc. is at the discretion of the club. If cash awards are given, it is recommended that awards of $200, $100 and $50 be given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, respectively.

**District Level:**

The top ten finishers at the District Contest will receive cash prizes as follows:

10th place to 6th place - $200 per contestant

5th place - $300; 4th place - $400; 3rd place - $500; 2nd place - $600; 1st place - $700

**4-Way Test Speech Contest**

**Procedures for Judges**

1. Judges must have a clear understanding of the Governing Principles and Rules of the contest, the scoring and ranking process.
2. Judges should participate in a training session prior to judging the contest. A training PowerPoint is available, please request a copy for your use by emailing Linda White at lindawhite346@yahoo.com.
3. Judges will be provided with a judging sheet and rubric.
4. Judges must enter points for each speaker based upon the rubric provided.
5. Judges should note that the Rotary 4-Way Test **must be stated and integrated** throughout the body of the speech and is worth up to 30 points out of a possible 100 points.
6. Judges will total points for each speaker after each contestant has spoken.
7. Each judge will rank speakers after they have determined the net points. Judges may have ties in points but not in rank order.
8. Judges’ score sheets will be collected after each has ranked the contestants.
9. If a contestant receives a penalty, the Contest Chairperson will inform the judges as to the points that must be deducted from the contestant’s score. Points will be retotaled and rankings will be adjusted if warranted.
10. Judging sheets are provided in a separate packet titled District 5330 Rotary Speech Contest judging sheet and rubric.

**The Rotary 4-Way Test of the things we think, say or do…**

1. **Is It the Truth?**
2. **Is It Fair To All Concerned?**
3. **Will It Build Goodwill And Better Friendships?**
4. **Will It Be Beneficial To All Concerned?**

**Your Club Contest: What Your Club’s 4WT Speech Contest Chair Needs To Do**

1. Notify the District Chairperson (Linda White, lindawhite346@yahoo.com) by email that your Rotary Club intends to participate by November 30, 2023.

2. Have your committee review the contents of this Manual. Make copies of information that you want to distribute. Pay close attention to the Important Dates listed on page 3. Set your date/time/location for your Club contest. **All club-level contests must be completed by February 10, 2024.**

3. Contact the High School, charter or other schools in your area and explain the contest. Find a cooperating teacher(s) and contact them. Volunteer to go to the school and teach a lesson that explains all about Rotary, the 4-Way Test and the Speech Contest, why we have it, what the speeches should be about, how they are judged, and what the prize money will be. If possible, arrange for club members to coach interested students on public speaking protocols as they prepare for your contest. Follow all school and Rotary youth protection guidelines regarding child safety.

4. It is recommended that there be no more than six (6) contestants in a club contest. However, the number of contestants is up to the discretion of each Club. The contest and judging can be held at a club meeting as the program or as a separate event.

5. For the club meeting when speeches are given, invite the parents, principal, and cooperating teacher(s) in addition to the speakers. The club should pay for any additional meals’ costs, if applicable. The award of cash prizes, 4-Way Test plaques, pens, etc. is at the discretion of the club. If cash awards are to be given, it is recommended that awards of $200, $100 and $50 be given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, respectively.

6. It is recommended that clubs use the District 5330 Rotary Speech Contest judging sheet and rubric. This will be the judging sheet and rubric used at the District Contest. Be sure the participants have been given copies of these documents so they can use the forms when developing their speeches.

7. Have some "filler time" scheduled during your contest to allow for judges’ scores to be compiled and contestants to be ranked.

8. Announce the results of your contest, take pictures and award contest certificates. Share the results of your contest on your social media accounts and with your local media.

9. Each Rotary Club may send only one contestant to the District Finals. If your first-place winner is not able to compete, you may select to send another contestant. Immediately following your contest, have your first-place winner complete the District Contest Entry Form (page 8 of this packet) if your club is entering a contestant in the District Finals. If the contestant is under the age of 18, a parent/guardian must sign the entry form in addition to the student.

10. Contestant Entry Forms AND the club Entry fee check of $50 are due to Linda White, District Contest Chairperson on or before **February 17, 2024**. Checks must be made payable to Rotary District 5330 and mailed to Linda White, 1925 Adobe Avenue, Corona, CA 92882. The Contestant Entry form may be mailed or emailed to Linda White ([lindawhite346@yahoo.com](mailto:lindawhite346@yahoo.com).)

**Please make sure that all contestants are aware of the contest rules.**

**Rotary District 5330 DISTRICT 4-Way Test Speech Contest ENTRY FORM**

**My sponsoring Rotary Club is: Rotary Club of** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rotary Club’s Speech Chair contact information:**

**Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Email**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Phone**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant Information:**

**Name**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed First name Printed Last name

**Address**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contest Eligibility Requirement:** Contestants must currently be in attendance at a public or private high school, charter high school or in a high school home schooled program located within Rotary District 5330. No student may be a contestant in more than one Club Contest in any one year.

**Topic**: Any topic which a contestant feels is timely, interesting and important may be used for the contest speech as long as it is not profane, obscene, unpatriotic or racist. The topic must be specifically subjected to the Rotary 4-Way Test. The 4-Way Test must be **stated and integrated** throughout the body of the speech and not reserved for concluding statements only.

**Timing**: The speech must be 5-8 minutes in length. Penalty points will be deducted from a contestant’s score if their speech is too short or too long.

**Contestant Statement**: I meet Contest Eligibility Requirements; my speech is 5-8 minutes in length and includes all four parts of the Rotary 4-Way Test: Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? If I take First Place in the District Finals, I will be available to give my speech at the District Foundation Gala on March 16, 2024 in Riverside, CA.

**My speech is my original work.**

**Contestant Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I give permission for images and/or recordings of my son/daughter’s speech for the 4-Way Test Speech Contest to be circulated throughout Rotary Publications, newsletters, Club Bulletins, photographic displays, etc. and in the public domain via Skype, Zoom, YouTube or similar technology or print media. This Permission relates to all rounds of the competition. (Parent/Guardian signature is required if the contestant is under the age of 18.)

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**