

The following is a suggested script for the **Online Spring 2023 Tall Tales Speech contest**. This script provides the guidelines to ensure the contest rules such as Chief Judge guidelines, contest rules, speaker introductions, and timing are adhered to. As long as you cover items outlined in the current [Speech Contest Rulebook](#), feel free to modify the script to “make it your own.”

<p>Sergeant at Arms</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Call contest to order)</b></p> <p><i>Welcome fellow Toastmasters and honored guests to (NAME of Contest, e.g.: Area XX; Division X; District 101 International Speech Contest for 2023).</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Here are some logistical information:</i></p> <p><i>If you need to use your bathroom, it’s where you last used it.</i></p> <p><i>Except for the speaker and Toastmaster, everyone will remain on mute. Everyone’s video will be off except for the Toastmaster, the signaling timer, and the speaker on the stage.</i></p> <p><i>Do not take screenshots or video recordings during any contestant speeches. Video recording is allowed only for people who have received advanced approval from the Contest Chair.</i></p> <p><i>Also, we ask everyone to stay out of the Chat room so contest essential communication can be shared as needed.</i></p> <p><i>Please take a moment now to ensure you are muted, your video is off. Turn off or silence cell phones and any other devices that may make noise during the contest.</i></p> <p><i>To get us started help me welcome</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Introduce appropriate officer (District PQD/Division or Area Director)</b></p>
-------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>District PQD/Division or Area Director</p>	<p><i>Thank you (<b>SAA Name</b>)</i></p> <p><b>(Welcome Everyone &amp; Introduce Guests)</b></p> <p><i>Before we begin, I want to recognize the dignitaries who have joined us today.</i></p> <p><b>(Announce in the following order)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ current International Director (Region 2)</li> <li>◇ current District 101 officers             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Program Quality Director</li> <li>○ Club Growth Director</li> </ul> </li> <li>◇ Immediate Past District 101 Director             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current PR Manager</li> <li>○ Current Administration Manager</li> <li>○ Current Finance Manager</li> <li>○ Current Parliamentarian</li> <li>○ Current Logistics Manager</li> <li>○ Current Division Directors</li> </ul> </li> <li>◇ Current Division Area Directors</li> <li>◇ Other District 101 Area Directors in order</li> <li>◇ Other Region current International Directors (non-Region 2)</li> <li>◇ Other District current District Directors</li> <li>◇ Other District current Division Directors</li> <li>◇ Other District current Area Directors             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Past International Directors (Region 2 first)</li> <li>○ Past District Directors (101 first)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(If any contestant is a past Dignitary do not announce them at this time. That information is brought out as part of the Contestant interview.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <i>We are preparing for the next term of office starting 1 July. There are a variety of offices in the District that are up for election. The elections will be held on <b>May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b> at the District Conference.</i></li> <li>◆ <i>Here are the current candidates for elected positions in District 101: (<b>use the list provided by the PQD or the District Director.</b>)</i></li> </ul>
-----------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p><i>Speech contests are an important part of the Toastmasters educational program. They are a celebration of our Toastmasters speaking experience, as well as an opportunity for other Toastmasters to learn by observing proficient speakers.</i></p> <p><i>To help us start this celebration please welcome our Contest Chair <b>(NAME)</b></i></p>
<p>Contest Chair</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Welcome)</b></p> <p><i>Thank you <b>(NAME of introducing official)</b> and thank you, everyone, for joining us today.</i></p> <p><b><i>(say for Area Contest)</i></b>  <i>Today's Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will progress to represent <b>Area NAME</b> at <b>the Division NAME</b> contest, which will take place on <b>(DATE; LOCATION)</b>. If a contest winner is unable to participate in the next contest level, the highest placed available contestant will advance.</i></p> <p><b><i>(say for Division Contest)</i></b>  <i>Today's Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will progress to represent <b>Division NAME</b> at the <b>District 101</b> contest, which will take place during the Annual Conference on <b>May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>. If a contest winner is unable to participate in the next contest level, the highest-placed available contestant will advance.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Introduce Tall Tale Speech Contest Toastmaster</b></p>
<p>Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster</p>	<p><i>Thank you <b>(Contest Chair)</b>.</i></p> <p><i>Welcome everyone. I will begin with an overview of the Tall Tales contest procedures, for the benefit of our guests and newer members.</i></p> <p><i>As mentioned today's Tall Tales Speech Contest will represent the Area/Division at the Division/District 101</i></p>

contest which will be held (**DATE**) [**Tall Tales does not advance beyond District**].

**Eligibility**

*To be eligible a contestant must:*

- *Be a Toastmaster in good standing of a club in good standing: their dues must be sent and received at World Headquarters.*
- *Not be a current District or International officer, nor have declared the intent to run for, District or International office (i.e. District Program Quality Director, Division Director, etc.).*
- *Toastmasters who are members of more than one club and meet all other eligibility requirements may compete at each club level. They may not, however, compete in more than one Area Contest of the same type even if the Areas are in different Divisions or Districts.*

*The subject for the Tall Tales speech must be of a highly exaggerated, improbable nature and have a theme or plot.*

*Humor and props may be used to support or illustrate the speech.*

*There will be one minute of silence after each contestant for the judges to mark their ballots. After the final contestant, I will ask for silence until the judges are finished ranking the contestants and the counters have collected all the ballots.*

**Contest Rules:**

*The contestants have been briefed about an agreed speaking area is the frame of their camera.*

*Contestants are required to stay in the frame, any movement out of the frame which includes parts of your face or upper body will make it difficult for judges to observe them and may not work in their favor.*

*Speakers may stand or sit depending on the space available to them.*

*There is no recording of speeches or picture snapshots during the contest.*

- *Everyone is to remain muted, with your video off, except the Speaker. Even though you are muted we ask that you turn off all beepers, cell phones, or any object that may make noise during the contest.*

*Once the speaker begins no prompt will be given for moving out of the frame. Speakers can monitor themselves on their computer screens.*

### **Speaking Order:**

*I will address each speaker by name and ask "**Are You Ready?**"*

- [The Contestant will select "Hide non-video participants"]
- [Once that is done, the Contestant is required to provide an Audible "**Yes, I am ready**" to confirm their audio is on and they are ready to speak.]

*Next, I will ask each speaker "**Can You See the Timer**"*

- [The Contestant may optionally pin the Timer. The Contestant will provide an audible "**Yes**" to the Toastmaster]

*Then I will ask the Timer, "**Timer Are you Ready**"*

*The Timer will respond "**The Timer is Ready.**"*

*To eliminate any perception of bias, I will introduce each contestant in the same way:*

**Speaker Name, Speech Title, Speech Title, Speaker Name**

*The speaking order has been chosen randomly by drawing lots, and I'll announce the order now. You may want to*

	<p><i>mark your program with the contestant numbers. (<b>Event Chair</b>) please post the speaking order in the Chat Room.</i></p> <p><b>[Event Chair will post it in the Chat Room after the selection as the Toastmaster announces the order]</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tall Tales Contestant Speaking Order</b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p> <p><i>To explain the Contest Rules help me welcome our Tall Tales Contest Chief Judge, <b>NAME</b>.</i></p> <p><b>NAME</b> please unmute yourself and turn your video on.</p>
<p>Tall Tales Contest Chief Judge</p>	<p><i>Thank you Mr./Madam Toastmaster</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(if the Toastmaster has not defined the eligibility criteria)</b></p> <p><i>To be eligible to compete in today's contest each Toastmaster must be a member in good standing in a club in good standing.</i></p> <p><i>- That means the member has paid dues and the club has paid dues to Toastmasters International.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>The member cannot presently be, or have declared the intent to run for District or International office.</i></li> <li>● <i>The member cannot be competing in another Division Tall Tales contest.</i></li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All contestants meet the eligibility criteria. (based on the Chief Judge receipt of Eligibility Forms)</i></p>

- *All speeches are to be substantially original - any quoted material must be identified during the speech presentation.*  
(25% or less of the speech may be non-original material.)
- *All non-original material must be attributed to the source where the contestant heard it/saw it).*
- *Remember we ask everyone except the Speaker and Timer to turn your video off and remain muted.*
- *The time of the Tall Tales Contest is **3** to **5** minutes. Any contestant speaking less than **2:30** or more than **5:30** will be disqualified.*
- *The Time Keeper will change their background as follows, (ensure the timekeepers activate the lights/cardboards as you indicate time)*

● **Green at 3 minutes**

● **Yellow at 4 minutes**

● **Red at 5 minutes** and will **Stay On** until the contestant has finished speaking.

- *No notice will be given if a contestant goes over time.*

*If audio or video technology fails during the contest*

- *If only one contestant is impacted, the Chief Judge will pause the contest until the technology issue is resolved.*
  - *The contestant will resume their speech at the point at which the technology failed and will be allowed **30 seconds** extra time for the completion of his or her speech.*
  - *If the Contest Chair determines that the contest can no longer continue (due to a lack of contestants or contest officials), the contest will be reconvened at a later date or time.*
- *There are no restarts or do-overs.*
  - *Timing starts with the first word uttered or when the speaker uses any form of communication with the audience.*
  - *There will be a one-minute silence between contestants for the judges to mark their ballots*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After the final speaker we will remain silent as the judges complete their ballots and rank the contestants.</li> <li>- Judges have been instructed not to consider the following elements in their ranking of the contestants:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are not to consider time</li> <li>• They are not to consider whether a contestant is seated or standing</li> <li>• They are not to consider the contestant moving out of the frame</li> </ul> </li> <li>- All judges have been briefed and are qualified to judge this contest.</li> <li>- There are <b>7</b> judges (<b>no less than 5 for Area, and can be more than 7</b>) and a secret tie-breaker judge known only to the Chief Judge</li> <li>- Protests for eligibility and originality may be entered by the contestants or judges to either the Chief Judge and/or Contest Chair</li> </ul> <p>Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thank you Mr./Madam Toastmaster</b></p>
<p>Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thank you Mr./Madam Chief Judge</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Now it's time to begin.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>(NAME of First Contestant): "Are You Ready?"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Contestant provides an Audible "Yes, I am ready"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• "Can You See the Timer"             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Contestant replies: "Yes"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• "Timer Are you Ready"             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Timer responds: "The Timer is Ready."</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Contestant 1:</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p>



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Request one minute of silence  
(Timer Shows Red/Red turns off at the end of one minute)

- **(NAME of Next Contestant): "Are You Ready?"**
  - o Contestant provides an Audible "Yes, I am ready"
  
- "Can You See the Timer"
  - o Contestant replies: "Yes"
  
- "Timer Are you Ready"
  - o Timer responds: "The Timer is Ready."

**Contestant 2:**

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Request one minute of silence  
(Timer Shows Red/Red turns off at the end of one minute)

**Contestant 3:**

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Request one minute of silence  
(Timer Shows Red/Red turns off at the end of one minute)

- **(NAME of Next Contestant): "Are You Ready?"**
  - Contestant provides an Audible "Yes, I am ready"
  
- "Can You See the Timer"
  - Contestant replies: "Yes"
  
- "Timer Are you Ready"
  - Timer responds: "The Timer is Ready."

**Contestant 4:**

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Request one minute of silence  
(Timer Shows Red/Red turns off at the end of one minute)

- **(NAME of Next Contestant): "Are You Ready?"**
  - Contestant provides an Audible "Yes, I am ready"
  
- "Can You See the Timer"
  - Contestant replies: "Yes"
  
- "Timer Are you Ready"
  - Timer responds: "The Timer is Ready."

**Contestant 5:**

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Request one minute of silence  
(Timer Shows Red/Red turns off at the end of one minute)

**(NAME of Next Contestant):** *"Are You Ready?"*  
Contestant provides an Audible *"Yes, I am ready"*

*"Can You See the Timer"*  
Contestant replies: *"Yes"*

*"Timer Are you Ready"*  
*Timer responds: "The Timer is Ready."*

**Contestant 6:**

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Request one minute of silence  
(Timer Shows Red, at the end of one minute, ask the Timer to announce One Minute and leave the Red Background up until all ballots are received and Chief judge and ballot counters are all moved into the breakout room.)

Remind everyone to remain silent until the judges have submitted the ballots.

\*\* (The Chief Judge will notify the Timer, Toastmaster, and Contest Chair when all judges have submitted the ballots. Tech chair will move all Ballot Counters and Chief Judge to the Breakout Room – the Timer will change the Red screen/background to Green).\*\*

	<p>[once the Background turns to Green the Toastmaster will begin the interview process]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contestant Interview)</b></p> <p>(Interview each contestant in speaking order)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain that the Certificates of Participation will be sent to the participants.</li> <li>• Ask each contestant the name of their club and how long they have been a Toastmaster.</li> <li>• If time permits, ask another "interview" question related to biographical information or speech topic.</li> <li>• Planned duration of the interview will be determined by prior discussion with the Contest Chair.</li> </ul> <p><i>Let's have another hand for all of our contestants.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(After concluding the interview return control to Contest Chair)</b></p> <p><i>Let's welcome back Our Contest Chair (<b>NAME</b>)</i></p>
<p>Contest Chair</p>	<p><i>Let's have another hand for our Toastmaster (<b>NAME</b>)</i></p> <p><i>An event like this does not happen without the contestants willing to share their time and talents with us.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, this event is made possible through the support and effort of a team of people.</i></p> <p>(display the slide with the Functionary Titles and Names. This includes the Event Chair, Contest Toastmaster, Chief Judge, Sergeant at Arms, Timers, Ballot Counters)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To announce the results let's welcome back...</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Introduce appropriate officer</b></p>

	<p align="center"><b>(District Program Quality Director (PQD)/Division or Area Director)</b></p>
<p>District PQD/Division or Area Director</p>	<p><i>Thank you <b>(NAME of Contest Chair)</b></i></p> <p><i>Before announcing the results I want to announce there:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>ARE NO Time Disqualifications</i></li> </ul> <p align="center"><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>IS/ARE (#) Time Disqualification(s). Those contestants affected will be notified privately by the Chief Judge.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Let me remind you that today's Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will represent...</i></p> <p><b><i>(say for Area Contest)</i></b>  <i>... Area NAME at Division NAME contest, which will take place on (DATE; LOCATION). If a contest winner is unable to participate in the next contest level, the highest-placed available contestant will advance.</i></p> <p><b><i>(say for Division Contest)</i></b>  <i>... Division NAME at the District 101 contest, which will take place during the Annual Conference on <b>May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>. If a contest winner is unable to participate in the next contest level, the highest-placed available contestant will advance.</i></p> <p><i>Announcement of contest winners is final unless the list of winners is announced incorrectly, in which case the chief judge, ballot counters, or timers may immediately interrupt to correct the error.</i></p> <p align="center">[In contests with three (3) or more participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a third-place winner</li> <li>● a second-place winner</li> <li>● and a first-place winner will be announced.</li> <li>● Winners will be announced in reverse order.]</li> </ul>

	<p>[In contests with fewer than three (3) participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a second-place winner (if applicable)</li> <li>• a first-place winner will be announced.</li> <li>• Winners will be announced in reverse order.</li> </ul> <p>[Occasionally, a contest will be held with only one (1) contestant.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A contest must still be held</li> <li>• If the contestant does not meet the timing, originality, and eligibility requirements the contestant will be disqualified</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announce Third Place Winner (applaud/wave)</li> <li>• Announce Second Place Winner (applaud/wave)</li> <li>• Announce First Place Winner (applaud/wave)</li> </ul> <p>(Awards are presented by displaying the Award Certificates (3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>) one at a time in Shared Screen mode for each Award Level, one at a time.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Brief Speech if desired)</b></p> <p><b>Let's welcome back our Contest Chair (NAME)</b></p>
<p>Contest Chair</p>	<p><i>Thank you Mr./Madam <b>District PQD/Division or Area Director</b></i></p> <p><i>Let's have another round of applause for all our contestants today.</i></p> <p><i>The winners and runners-up will be contacted by email to verify the information that will be sent to the next level contest.</i></p>

	<p><i>Participation Certificates for all contestants and the functionaries who made this event happen will be provided by email.</i></p> <p><i>We especially want to thank our District Leaders Present and Past who shared their time with us today to make this Contest a success.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you to all of you for attending and supporting the contestants.</i></p> <p><i>We will leave the room open for another 10 minutes for people who would like to spend some time congratulating the speakers, or talking with friends.</i></p> <p><i>This Contest is officially adjourned.</i></p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Notes for Club Contests

At the Club Level:

1. The role of the Club Vice President of Education (VPE) is to schedule and help put together the Club Contest.
  - a. The role of the Contest Chair in the script can be filled by the VPE.
  - b. If the VPE is competing, then the Contest Chair can be assigned to another club member.
  
2. The District/Area/Division Officer can be filled by the Club President.
  - a. If the President is competing in the Club Contest then the District/Area/Division Officer role can be filled by the Contest Chair.
  - b. In this case, adjust the script as appropriate.
  
3. At the Club Level, it is important that the contestants know the eligibility requirements and how the contest is conducted. Those are important elements for the contestants to know at the club level before moving to the next level.