

The following is a suggested script for the International Speech Contest. Clubs may also use this as a template.

The script aims to ensure that contest rules, such as speaker introductions and timing, are adhered to. As long as you cover items outlined in the current Speech Contest Rulebook, you may modify the script, but do consider time carefully if you add any additional content.

During the contestant briefing, show the contestants the placement of the **Timing Lights**. Ensure the **Timing Lights** are centered on the speaking area and visible to the contestants.

If desired, you may ask each contestant, before introducing him/her, say, ***“Can you see the Timer?”*** Then ask the Timer, ***“Timer, are you ready?”***

When you receive an affirmative response, introduce the speaker. The speaker approaches the Toastmaster to shake hands, then returns to the center of the speaking area to begin.

Italics represent the script you say. The non-italicized words are instructions.

<p>Sergeant at Arms</p>	<p>Call contest to order. Welcome:</p> <p><i>Welcome to the District 101, Division ____, Area __ Tall Tales Speech Contest for 2026.</i></p> <p><i>Here is some logistical Information: (as applicable to your venue)</i></p> <p><i>Restrooms are located _____. Please try to use the restrooms during the break or moment of silence. During speeches, the audience is requested not to leave their seats.</i></p> <p><i>Please do not walk around any other areas of the building, for security reasons.</i></p> <p><i>Do not take photographs or video recordings during any contestant's speeches. Video recording is allowed only for people who have received advanced approval from the Contest Chair.</i></p> <p><i>Please take a moment to turn off or silence cell phones and any other devices that may make noise during the contest.</i></p> <p>Introduce Appropriate Officer</p>
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District
PQD/Division
or Area
Director

Thank you (SAA Name)

(Welcome Everyone & Introduce Guests)

Before we begin, I want to recognize the dignitaries who have joined us today.

(Announce in the following order)

- ◆ current International Director (Region 1)
- ◆ current District 101 officers
 - Program Quality Director
 - Club Growth Director
- ◆ Immediate Past District 101 Director
 - Current PR Manager
 - Current Administration Manager
 - Current Finance Manager
 - Current Parliamentarian
 - Current Logistics Manager
 - Current Division Directors
- ◆ Current Division Area Directors
- ◆ Other District 101 Area Directors in order
- ◆ Other Region current International Directors (non-Region 1)
- ◆ Other District current District Directors
- ◆ Other District current Division Directors
- ◆ Other District current Area Directors
 - Past International Directors (Region 1 first)
 - Past District Directors (101 first)

(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.)

- ◆ *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 **May 20th, 2023** at the District Conference.*
- ◆ *Here are the current candidates for elected positions in District 101: (use the list provided by the PQD or the District Director.)*

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.

	<p>To help us start this celebration please welcome our Contest Chair (NAME)</p>
<p>Contest Chair</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Welcome)</p> <p>Thank you (NAME of introducing official) and thank you, everyone, for joining us today.</p> <p>(say for Area Contest) <i>Today's Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will progress to represent Area NAME at the 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>(say for Division Contest) <i>Today's Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will progress to represent Division NAME at the District 101 contests, which will take place during the Annual Conference on May 16, at Synopsis, Sunnyvale, CA. If a contest winner is unable to participate in the next contest level, the highest-placed available contestant will advance.</i></p> <p>To guide us through the Contest, please welcome our Tall Tales Speech Contest Toastmaster (NAME).</p>
<p>Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster</p>	<p>Thank you (NAME of introducing official) and thank you, everyone, for joining us today.</p> <p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Speech contests provide an opportunity for speakers to improve their speaking abilities and to recognize the best, as an encouragement to all Toastmasters.</i> ◆ <i>It also offers an opportunity to learn by observing other proficient Toastmasters speakers.</i> <p><i>Today's Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will represent the Area/Division at the Division/District 101 contest which will be held (DATE) [Tall Tales does not advance beyond District].</i></p> <p><i>To eliminate any perception of bias, I will introduce each contestant in the same way:</i></p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Name, Speech Title, Speech Title, Name</i></p> <p>There will be one minute of silence after each contestant, during which the judges will mark their ballots. After the final contestant,</p> <p><i>I will ask for silence until the judges are finished ranking the contestants and the counters have collected all the ballots.</i></p> <p><i>The contestants have agreed upon the following speaking area:</i> _____ <describe the speaking area> _____</p> <p><i>The speaking order has been chosen randomly by drawing lots. I'll announce the order now. You may want to mark your program with the contestant's order of speaking.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the speaking order and pronounce each contestant's name the same way so it doesn't seem as if you are emphasizing any name. • Pause after each name to provide the audience time to mark the program. <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p> <p>6. _____</p> <p><i>To explain the Contest Rules help me welcome our Tall Tales Speech Contest Chief Judge, NAME.</i></p>
<p>Tall Tales Contest Chief Judge</p>	<p><i>Thank you Mr./Madam Toastmaster</i></p> <p>Eligibility</p> <p><i>To be eligible, each contestant must be a member in good standing of the club they are representing, and the club must also be in good standing. That means, the club has 8 or more</i></p>

members, and their membership dues are current with Toastmasters International.

- *They may not be a current District or International officer, or have declared the intent to run for, District or International office (such as, Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, Division Director, etc.).*

Toastmasters who are members of more than one club and meet all other eligibility requirements can compete in each contest.

*However, if they win more than one Tall Tales Speech Contest, they can represent only one of those clubs at the Area level. No contestant can compete in more than one Area speech contest of a given type, even if the two Areas are in different Divisions or Districts. (**Adjust this based on the level of contest**).*

It has been confirmed that all contestants are eligible.

The subject for the Tall Tales Speech is selected by the contestant.

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).*
- ◆ *Contestants may not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, during their speech at the same contest in which they are competing.*

Contestants are permitted to remain in the room throughout the duration of the contest.

Contestants will set up any props or visual aids in the one-minute of silence before their introduction.

*The time of the Tall Tales Contest is **3** to **5** minutes. Any contestant speaking less than **2 minutes 30 seconds** or more than **5 minutes 30 seconds** will be disqualified..*

Timing will begin with the contestant's first definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience. This usually will be the first word uttered by the contestant, but would include any

other communication, such as sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.

The timing signals are visible from the speaker area, and will be activated as follows (ensure the timekeepers activate the lights/cards as you indicate time):

- **Green** will be displayed at **3** minutes and remain displayed for **1 minute**.
- **Yellow** will be displayed at **4** minutes and remain displayed for **1 minute**.
- The **Red** signal will be displayed at **5** minutes and remain displayed until the speech is concluded. No notice will be given if a contestant speaks past the grace period.

*In the event of a technical failure of the timing equipment, I will grant an additional **30 seconds** to the speaker's time before being disqualified.*

Prior to announcing results, the chair will announce if time disqualifications occurred, but not name the contestant(s) involved.

Judges have been instructed not to consider time when ranking the contestants.

There are # judges and a tie breaker judge known only to me.

- ◆ *Be a paid member for a minimum of six (6) months.*
- ◆ *Have completed a minimum of six (6) speech projects in the Competent Communication manual or earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.*
- ◆ *Only members who joined Toastmasters prior to the rollout of Pathways in their region can apply speeches from the Competent Communication manual towards eligibility for judging.*
- ◆ *Be physically present at the contest for which you are serving.*

If a voting judge, tiebreaking judge, or chief judge is competing in the Speech contest, at any level, in any District, they are ineligible to serve as a judge.

	<p><i>Protests based on eligibility may be entered only by the contestants or judges to either me, the Chief Judge, or the Contest Chair _____.</i></p> <p><i>Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final. The judges, timers, and ballot counters have all been briefed and are qualified to fulfill their roles.</i></p> <p><i>Are there any questions?</i></p> <p><i>I return control to Mr./Madam Toastmaster</i></p>
<p>Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster</p>	<p><i>It is time to begin the contest!</i></p> <p>Introduce Contestants</p> <p><i>(During the contestant briefing, show the contestants where the Timing Lights are located. Ensure the Timing Lights are centered on the speaking area and visible to the contestants. You do not need to mention the Timing Lights or the location.)</i></p> <p><i>Our first contestant is:</i></p> <p>Contestant 1:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p><i>(The contestant approaches the Toastmaster, shakes hands, then returns to the center of the speaking area to begin their speech.)</i></p> <p><i>(When they finish, shake their hand.)</i></p> <p><i>Timer, please time one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.</i></p> <p><i>(Timer Shows Red/Red turns off at the end of one minute)</i></p> <p><i>Our next contestant is:</i></p> <p>Contestant 2:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p>

Name: _____

(The contestant approaches the Toastmaster, shakes hands, then returns to the center of the speaking area to begin their speech.)

(When they finish, shake their hand.)

Timer, please time one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

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

Our next contestant is:

Contestant 3:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

(The contestant approaches the Toastmaster, shakes hands, then returns to the center of the speaking area to begin their speech.)

(When they finish, shake their hand.)

Timer, please time one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

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

Our next contestant is:

Contestant 4:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

(The contestant approaches the Toastmaster, shakes hands, then returns to the center of the speaking area to begin their speech.)

(When they finish, shake their hand.)

Timer, please time one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

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

Our next contestant is:

Contestant 5:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

(The contestant approaches the Toastmaster, shakes hands, then returns to the center of the speaking area to begin their speech.)

(When they finish, shake their hand.)

Timer, please time one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

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

Our next contestant is:

Contestant 6:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

(The contestant approaches the Toastmaster, shakes hands, then returns to the center of the speaking area to begin their speech.)

(When they finish, shake their hand.)

Timer, please time one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

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

Timer, please leave the Red light on until the ballots are collected and the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters have left the room.

Judges Tally and Ballot Counters Collect Ballots

Everyone please remain silent until the judges have completed their ballots, and the counters have left the room with the ballots.

Judges: raise your ballots when you are finished. (Demonstrate by holding up your arm.)

- **REMAIN SILENT!**
- Silence will be painful, but don't rush or distract the judges!
- Confirm that all ballots have been collected before you proceed.

(When the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters leave the room the Timer will change the **Red** screen/background to **Green**).**

[once the Background turns to **Green** the Toastmaster will begin the interview process]

Thank you, everyone, for your patience during the period of silence.

(Contestant Interview)

(Ask all contestants to come up and line up in speaking order.
Interview the contestants in speaking order)

(this contestant interview needs to take enough time for the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters to tally all ballots and report the results to the Contest Chair, and the Certificate Chair. Do not rush the interview.)

- Ask each contestant the name of their club and how long they have been a Toastmaster.
- Ask about their speech or some element from the contestant's bio.
- If the results are not back, have an extra question to ask each contestant.
- If you took notes during their speech, you can use points from the speech or an additional question from their bio.
- Remember to always ask each contestant the same number of questions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask Contestant 1 a question, then ask Contestant 2 a question, you continue until each contestant has been asked the first question. ○ Then you start over with Question 2. ○ You can treat the name of their club and how long they have been in Toastmasters as question 1. ● The planned interview duration will be determined by prior discussion with the Contest Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If it is a double contest event, then the Tall Tales interview does not have to wait for the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters to return before concluding the interview and taking an intermission. ● After interviewing all the contestants, provide each with a Participation Certificate. ● After all contestants have their Participation Certificate ● Each contestant poses for a photo with their certificate. ● You may also want a group photo. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Let's have another hand for all of our contestants.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(After concluding the interview, return control to Contest Chair)</p>
<p>Contest Chair</p>	<p><i>Let's have another hand for our Toastmaster</i></p> <p>Announce any Opportunity Drawing winners</p> <p>Certificates of Appreciation</p> <p>Keep acknowledgements brief. You may call up only the Toastmasters, Chief Judges, and Contest Chair for certificates. Or you may ask them to stand.</p> <p>Mention the other chairs by name and let them know that their certificates along with those for the many people who supported the contest will be available afterwards.</p> <p><i>(say for Area Contest)</i></p> <p><i>Today's Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will progress to represent Area NAME at the 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><i>(say for Division Contest)</i> <i>Today’s Tall Tales Speech Contest winner will progress to represent Division NAME at the District 101 contests, which will take place during the Annual Conference on May 16, at Synopsis, Sunnyvale, CA. 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;">Introduce the appropriate officer (District Program Quality Director (PQD)/Division or Area Director)</p>
<p>District PQD/Division or Area Director</p>	<p><i>Thank you (NAME of Contest Chair)</i></p> <p><i>Before announcing the results, I want to announce there:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ARE NO Time Disqualifications</i> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>IS/ARE (#) Time Disqualification(s). Those contestants affected will be notified privately by the Chief Judge.</i> <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 style="text-align: center;">[In contests with three (3) or more participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a third-place winner ● a second-place winner ● and a first-place winner will be announced. ● Winners will be announced in reverse order.] <p style="text-align: center;">[In contests with fewer than three (3) participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a second-place winner (if applicable) ● a first-place winner will be announced. ● Winners will be announced in reverse order.

	<p>[Occasionally, a contest will be held with only one (1) contestant.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A contest must still be held ● If the contestant does not meet the timing, originality, and eligibility requirements, the contestant will be disqualified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announce Third Place Winner (applaud/wave) ● Announce Second Place Winner (applaud/wave) ● Announce First Place Winner (applaud/wave) <p>(Awards are presented by displaying the Award Certificates (3rd, 2nd, 1st) one at a time in Shared Screen mode for each Award Level, one at a time.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Brief Speech if desired)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Let's welcome back our Contest Chair</p>
<p>Contest Chair</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you, Mr./Madam District/PQD/Division/Area Director</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 are asked to remain behind to complete the paperwork and report the results to (Division/District) for the next-level contest.</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 all for attending and supporting our contestants.</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.
4. The judges may be club members. This is how members can become qualified to serve as a judge at an Area Contest: by first serving as a judge at a Club Contest.