

## Speech Contest Resource Guide

### Compiled by Gary Cohen, DTM – District 37 Contest Chair 2018-19

Contest season is right around the corner! Beginning in your club, winners will have the opportunity to compete at the Area, Division and District levels. For the International Speech Contest, winners will have the opportunity to compete for the World Championship of Public Speaking in Denver next summer!

This year, there will be two types of speech contests:

- International Speech Contest: open to all paid members who have completed two levels in Pathways OR six speeches in the Competent Communication manual.
- Table Topics Contest: open to all paid members.

#### Club Contest Timeline

##### **December 2018:**

Inform club members that contest season is coming! This will give members time to prepare and think about participating.

##### **January 2019:**

Appoint a Contest Chair who will be responsible for the club contests. This can be the Vice President Education, a member of the VPE committee, or any other member chosen by the VPE. Now is also the time for the Contest Chair to review the speech contest tutorials and other resources in this handout.

##### **Late January/Early February 2019:**

Contest Chair schedules club contests (must be before March 15). Announce the date, location, and time to the club. Publicize and encourage members to participate!

##### **One month before contest:**

Encourage members to serve as contest officials (Contest Toastmaster, Chief Judge, Judges, Timers, Ballot Counters). It is best to have an experienced member in the Chief Judge role. Confirm that members will compete – there can be no contest without contestants!

##### **Day of Contest:**

Contestants and contest officials should arrive 30 minutes prior to meeting for briefings.

#### Resources

Speech Contest Tutorials – Three short videos that explain speech contest roles, procedure and judging.  
<https://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/speech-contests/speech-contest-tutorials>

District 37 Speech Contest Web Page - Comprehensive collection of resources including several of the links mentioned in this document.  
<http://d37toastmasters.org/speech-contests/>

Speech Contest FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions about speech contests.  
<https://www.toastmasters.org/Footer/FAQ/Speech%20Contests>

Speech Contest Rulebook – Rules and standard procedures for conducting Toastmasters speech contests.  
<https://www.toastmasters.org/Resources/Resource-Library?t=Speech+Contest+Rulebook&page=1>