

Ontario Command Public Speaking Contest

The Public Speaking Contest, part of the Legion's Youth and Education program, is meant to give young people an opportunity to speak in public. The individual chooses their own subject matter for the address.

NOTE: Students who have been out of the educational system for more than two years are ineligible to compete in the Provincial Public Speaking Competition at any level.

When is the contest held?

The contest date is set by each branch, and is normally in early January or February of the year. The contest progresses through zone, district and area levels, concluding at the Provincial level in May of each year.

Dates for the contests at Branch, Zone, and District level should be established by the respective chairmen in September of each year, with careful selection being given to ensure that the contests at the various levels are not held on holiday weekends, school breaks, etc. The deadline date for the area contests will be at least two weeks prior to the Provincial Contest which is held on the 1st Saturday in May.

Categories

The contestants are divided into four classes:

Grades 1 - 3

Grades 4 - 6

Grades 7 - 9

Grades 10 – 12

Rules and Regulations

1. The speakers may select their own topics. All Speeches are to be the original work of the speaker. **The Topics chosen by the individual speakers do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Royal Canadian Legion.** The speaker will credit authors and sources of material, if referring to another person's work. Speeches that repeat verbatim another person's original work will not be accepted.

2. Visual aids, props, notes, cue cards, lecterns, etc., may be used to support the speech, notwithstanding the fact that judges may add or subtract marks according to the manner in which they are used.
3. Speakers will not be allowed to use "Power Point" as a method of presentation or as a tool during presentation.
4. The assistance of persons other than the Chairman or his appointee is not permitted at any level of the contest.
5. English and French speakers will compete within the same contest at all levels. Bilingual judges must be used when necessary. Speakers must compete in English or French and must continue to speak in their chosen language throughout all levels of the competition.
6. A speaker can only compete at one branch. If the speaker did not win at the branch he competed the first time, he is not allowed to compete again at another branch, even though it is under the same zone or district.
7. The speakers must progress through all levels of the competition: Branch, Zone, District, Area, and Provincial, using the same speech. The Speaker must compete at branch level first, before moving on to zone or district. There is no skipping of levels.
8. A penalty of 5% of the total marks received from each judge shall be imposed to a speech that is either short or in excess of the time limit for that level, before the total scores are compiled. This penalty will be imposed by the Timekeeper and applied by the Scrutineer. No penalty will be levied for Grades 1 - 3.
9. A penalty of 5% of the total marks received from each judge shall be imposed to any contestant who freezes. A contestant who freezes may continue but all speaking time used will count. This penalty will be imposed by the Timekeeper and applied by the Scrutineer.
10. No person, including press photographers, shall photograph or videotape or use any audio devices during the contest.
11. A microphone may only be used by a "Special Need" student. This student will require a certificate from a medical practitioner. The Chairman must be informed of the need before the competition begins.

12. The provincial public speaking contest will be held on the first Saturday in May, of any given year.
13. Speakers may not identify themselves, except by first name, during the contest.
14. Speakers who are late for registration without "**just cause**" will be disqualified from the contest.
15. All wall clocks will be covered or removed during the contest.
16. All cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices are to be turned off during the competition. Such devices cannot be used for any reason during the contest.
17. If you need to leave the room, please do so between speeches or at the break. Do not enter or leave the room during a speech.
18. Coaching of any kind from the audience will not be permitted.
19. Any violation of the above rules and regulations will result in a penalty being imposed by the Chairman and may include disqualification from this or any future competitions.
20. Judges will break their own ties. Judges will render a final decision on all speakers without consultation with other judges or any other person. **The judges' decision is final.**

Progression to Provincial Competition

Speakers participate at their local branch. Successful speakers from branch level then compete at zone level. Successful zone level speakers move on to district.

For the purpose of determining Provincial entries, the Province will be divided into four areas and rotated on an area basis, as follows:

Districts "A" and "B"

Districts "C" "D" and "E"

Districts "F" and "G"

Districts "H" and "K"

Provincial:

The Provincial Finals of the Public Speaking Contest will be held on the first Saturday in May of each year and the area contests are to be completed at least two (2) weeks prior to the Provincial Finals.

Prizes for Provincial Level Competition

Division	Time	First Place (Gold Medal)	Runner-up (Silver Medal)
Grades 1 - 3	3 to 5 minutes	\$200.00	\$75.00
Grades 4 - 6	3 to 5 minutes	\$300.00	\$100.00
Grades 7 - 9	3 to 5 minutes	\$500.00	\$150.00
Grades 10 - 12	5 to 7 minutes	\$1000.00	\$200.00

The winning student and one parent in each division from the four Legion Areas will be offered an all-expense paid trip to the site of the provincial finals.