



# East Texas State Fair 2019 Extemporaneous Speaking Contest

## Dates and Deadlines

2019 Contest Date:	Saturday, September 21
On-Time Registration Deadline:	Friday, September 13
Late Registration:	Monday, September 16 – Requires \$10 Late Fee

Fee Payments should be made online at registration OR submitted with Club payment.

Payment will be:

- ❖ \$15.00 non-refundable registration fee **per participant** if registered On-Time  
**OR**
- ❖ \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee **per participant** if registered **after** On-Time deadline.

## Contest Rules

1. **To Enter:** Complete Online Registration from the ShoWorks link on the Public Speaking page of the ETSF website ([www.etstatefair.com](http://www.etstatefair.com)) and pay On-Time Entry Fee of \$15 or Late Fee Registration of \$25.
2. **Eligibility:** The contest is open to all students in the East Texas area from all schools – public, private and home school – and specialty groups, including FFA, FCCLA, or 4-H club members. All contestants must be academically eligible for competition per regulations from the Texas Education Agency's "No Pass No Play" rule. A section of the **Statement of Originality** will verify eligibility.
3. **Age Groups:** The contest will be divided into two age groups:
  - Junior- Ages 8-13
  - Senior- Ages 14-18
  - Age as of July 31, 2019*
4. **Contest Format:**
  - ❖ The contest will be held over a one-day period with preliminary contests starting at 9:30 a.m. (Check-in will open at 8:00 a.m.)
  - ❖ Each contestant will have reference material screened at Check-in, or 10 minutes prior to drawing their topic.
  - ❖ The first selection of topics will begin at 9:30 a.m. Contestants will draw 5 topics pertaining to the Agriculture Industry and select one. After the first contestant selects a topic, all 5 topics will be returned to the original group of topic areas. The next

contestant will then draw 5 topics and then select a topic. This process continues for each contestant.

- ❖ Each contestant shall have 30 minutes of preparation time prior to their performance.
- ❖ Preliminary rooms will be broken according to number of entries. If there are 15 entries or less, there will be only 1 round of competition. A Finals round may be added if entry numbers exceed 15 contestants. In the event of a Finals round, Preliminary rooms will be divided equally with 1-2 contestants advancing to Finals.

#### 5. **Tentative Schedule:**

Schedule may be adjusted as registrations are received and will be updated on the Public Speaking page on the ETSF website.

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.: Contest Check-in
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.: Contestant Orientation
- 9:30 a.m.: Topic Draw and Preliminary Rounds Begin
- 12:15 p.m. (approximately): Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. (approximately): Finals Rounds (if necessary)

#### 6. **Reference Material:** Reference material will be screened either at Check-In by contest personnel, or 10 minutes prior to the first draw. Reference material includes the following:

- **Printed Material:** May include books or magazines (cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the students or notes prepared by another person for use for this event.) Materials from industry or academic websites may be used. Authorship of the printed internet material may be subject to verification by the superintendent. URL, copyright, or official website header. **Limit 5 print items, not to exceed 500 pages of reference material.**
- **Electronic Material:** Electronic files shall be limited to those contained on a maximum 4GB USB flash drive, subject to inspection. All files must be **saved in PDF format** with URL content shown. There shall be no modification to sources. Each document shall be a single, complete source in and of itself. Indexing is allowed. Other formats such as Word, WordPad etc. will result in automatic disqualification. Computers and/or tablets may **ONLY** be used to search and read files stored on flash drive but cannot write or organize thoughts on computers. Computers/tablets used for reading PDF files must be in airplane mode throughout contest preparation. The contestant assumes all risk of equipment failure.

NOTE: Computers and technology for reading flash drive will not be made available for contestant use; contestants must supply their own technology. Cell phones may NOT be used in contest preparation for any reason.

All reference material is subject to inspection by contest officials. The contest superintendent maintains final judgement in determining the legality of reference material.

#### 7. **Dress Attire:** Business professional attire is strongly recommended, and may include FFA Official Dress or Official 4-H attire.

8. **Time of Speeches:** Speeches shall be a minimum of 4 minutes and maximum of 6 minutes for all contestants.
- Deductions: Points will be deducted from both Junior and Senior speakers as follows:
    - i. Under minimum time - 1 point deducted per second under
    - ii. Over maximum time- 1 point deducted per second over
  - Questions and Answers: A five-minute question/answer period will follow each speech.
9. **Props:** The use of props of any kind is prohibited. Notecards are permitted, but only as a reference tool for the speaker.
10. **Topic Categories:** 12 topics will be prepared for the contestants to draw from, and will include 3 from each of the following categories:
- Agriscience and Technology
  - Agribusiness, Marketing, and Policy
  - Food and Fiber systems
  - Agriculture Advocacy and Education
11. **Awards**
- ❖ Finalists from each Prelim Section receive a Finalist ribbon.
  - ❖ Section winners receive a banner
  - ❖ 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each level receive a plaque.
  - ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Place in each level receives a leather belt buckle.