



East Texas State Fair 2019 Public 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

- ❖ **Statement of Originality must be turned in the day of contest.**

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) 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 participant, Junior or Senior level, will compose a speech covering one of the following topics: **Agribusiness, Agricultural Policy, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Plant Science, and Agriculture Innovation.**
 - ❖ Speeches will be judged in either a Junior or Senior Age Division.
 - a. Juniors will be divided equally among available rooms.

- b. Each Senior Division participant will be placed into one of six preliminary Sections based on the topic of their speech.
 - If a Section contains less than 8 participants but more than 3, the section will continue with 1 advancing from the room to Finals.
 - Sections with less than 3 participants will be consolidated into a Miscellaneous Topic Section.
 - When there are more than 15 in a section, it will be divided into two sub-sections with winners in the room advancing to Section Finals to determine the 2 Finalists.
- ❖ If more than one Junior speaking room, the Top 2 Juniors from each room will compete in the Junior Finals. Grand Champion will be awarded to the winner.
- ❖ In the event there is only one Junior speaking room, the top 3 contestants will advance to the Finals.
- ❖ The top 2 Seniors in each section of 8 or more will advance to the Senior Finals. If a section is split into sub-sections, the number of participants in each sub-section will determine the number to advance to Section Finals. The top 2 in the Section Finals will advance to the Senior Finals. Grand Champion will be awarded to the winner.
- ❖ Contestants will be assigned a contestant number and be placed in a random speaking order in their respective sections. Speaking orders will be posted the day of the contest, and are subject to change slightly based on scratches, disqualifications, etc.
- ❖ In the Finals, a "Stand and Deliver" portion will be included in the overall scoring to determine top speakers in each level.

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.: Preliminary Rounds begin
(Rounds begin with Junior Participants and will proceed in the following order. Time schedule is dependent on number of participants and number of rooms needed)
 - Junior Preliminary Rounds
 - Senior Preliminary Rounds
 - Junior Finals Round
- 12:15 p.m. (approximately): Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. (approximately): Senior Finals Round

If Section Finals are needed, they will follow Preliminary Rounds, either before or after lunch depending on time at the conclusion of those prelim rounds.

Awards for Junior and Senior Divisions will follow conclusion of Finals Round

6. **Documentation:** NEW 2019 – NO MANUSCRIPT REQUIRED – ONLY NEED STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY.

Completed documentation must be e-mailed to the Public Speaking Superintendent for the East Texas State Fair to be received electronically by 11:59 pm on the Documentation Deadline.

Documentation includes:

- **Statement of Originality:** This must be signed by the contestant, parent/guardian, and Teacher/Sponsor and indicates that the speech is an original document or the student's own efforts and that the student is eligible and in compliance with the Texas Education Association's "No Pass/No Play" rules.

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

8. **Time of Speeches:**

- Junior Age Division: Each speech shall be a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes.
- Senior Age Division: Each speech shall be a minimum of 6 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes.
- 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. **Categories:** Each contestant will enter their speech in one of six categories. Categories must be designated at time of entry. A contestant may enter in only one category. The contestant must select the category which best fits the speech.

Category Descriptions:

Agribusiness: Any current and future subject that deals with topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, communications, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, hedging, advertising, etc.

Agricultural Policy: Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as domestic farm issues, international trade, international competition, rural economic development, legal issues, animal rights, subsidies, price supports, etc.

Agricultural Innovation: Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, new agri-technology

applications, global positioning and other satellite technology, computer applications, etc., and the communication of and/or advocacy for these and other agriculture issues.

Animal Science: Any current or future subject that deals with any aspects of the dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, goat, swine, beef or specialty animal industries.

Natural Resources: Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air, water quality, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy environmental issues, etc.

Plant Science: Any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the horticulture and/or agronomy industries including floriculture, fruit and/or vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production, or specialty crop production.

11. **Finals** will include two components of competition – Prepared Speech and “Stand & Deliver” Speech.

Prepared Speech Portion of Finals:

- The participant will present the prepared speech given in the Prelim Round.
- Judging Rubric remains the same.

“Stand & Deliver” (Extemporaneous) Portion of Finals:

- Participant will do a random draw at the conclusion of the speech presentation to determine topic from a list of possible options. The participant will draw 5 topics and choose 1 from the options drawn. The participant will move to another area and have 5 minutes to gather thoughts before giving a 2 to 3 minute response to a new set of judges. Topics will be broad in nature.
- Score for the Stand & Deliver portion will count for 200 points towards the Final Score.

12. **Awards**

- ❖ Finalists from each Prelim Section receive a Finalist ribbon.
- ❖ Section winners receive a banner
- ❖ 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each level receive a plaque.
- ❖ 1st Place in each level receives a leather belt buckle.