

DEMOLAY NATIONAL YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST

RULES AND PROCEDURES

THE PROGRAM offers the young men of DeMolay an opportunity to speak on a meaningful topic, to sharpen their speaking skills, and to gain recognition in addition to possible monetary rewards. The youth participant will learn about our great country and be given an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas. DeMolay International, of course, becomes the beneficiary of all the stimulating and satisfying feelings that come from a service project with today's youth of DeMolay.

ELIGIBILITY: Any junior division and/or senior division aged young men are eligible. A DeMolay participant may enter the contest in his home jurisdiction.

BECOMING A CONTESTANT: A DeMolay may enter the Speech Contest of his home jurisdiction by:

- 1) Completing an application form for the contest that is available through their Executive Officer and/or jurisdictional leadership;
- 2) Speaking WITH or WITHOUT NOTES on the topic "What's right about America?" at a designated event of the DeMolay Jurisdiction arranged by the Executive Officer and/or jurisdictional leadership.

COMPOSING THE SPEECH: Participants are expected to do research on the topic, and may consult teachers, parents, Masonic leaders, Advisors or others about their speech. Participants should inform themselves on the basis of judging. Time limits for the speech: 3 to 5 minutes for junior division young men and 5 to 8 minutes for senior division young men. The participants will deliver their speeches with or without notes at all levels of competition.

CONDUCTING THE CONTEST: Speech Contest Chairman or designated official of the Executive Officer of the DeMolay Jurisdiction is responsible for contacting DeMolay chapters, gathering applications, and enforcing contest rules. He will be in charge of the contest held at a designated special event of the jurisdiction.

At least three Judges, two Timekeepers, and two Tellers should be on hand for the Speech Contest. Judges may be Masons or Advisors of the DeMolay Jurisdiction or others invited guests to act as such, e.g., teachers. Podium and microphone, if available, can be used at the discretion of the contestant.

Judges shall weigh each speech on basis of 1 to 100 points using these criteria:

- 1-30 points for Delivery.
- 1-35 points for Originality.
- 1-35 points for Content.

Timekeepers will time speeches, and Tellers will deduct 5 points from a contestant's score for each minute or fraction thereof for a speech less than the required times as previously stated.

For fairness, participants should be introduced by numbers, which they draw, not by names, or DeMolay chapters. After the speeches, while Judges, Timekeepers, and Tellers are at work, each

DeMolay participant can introduce himself, saying a few words about his background and what he has gotten from the contest.

No person should be allowed to enter or leave the room during a speech. No speech should be applauded, as this may influence scoring. Applause can take place later after each participant has introduced himself.

PUBLICITY: The Jurisdictional Youth Speech Contest Chairperson, in contacting DeMolay chapters, will supply them with notice of the contest and forms for entrants. It would be ideal to hold the DeMolay Speech Contest in conjunction with your Annual Conclave or Convention, if feasible. Assistance from the Chapter Advisors and jurisdictional leaders is essential for the success of the program. Please designate someone from your jurisdictional leadership team to contact the media and submit news releases to the press and media about the contest and winners.