



An Invitation to Rotary Clubs to Participate in the 2017 Four-Way Test Speech Contest

Rotary District 7690 is again sponsoring the Four-Way Test speech contest this Rotary year. It was conceived as a means for Rotarians to support students to make healthy choices in the ethical issues that they face in everyday life as teens. Students are subjected to pressure from peers to engage in unhealthy, unwise and unethical behaviors and choices, including drugs and alcohol. The speech contest enables Rotarians to reward teens who not only set healthy and ethical life goals for themselves but who also seek to influence their peers in positive way.

High school speech contestants are asked to present a six-minute persuasive talk, directed toward their peers, to promote high ethical standards in daily life. The speech will be judged for content and presentation. The speech should centrally highlight application of Rotary's Four Way Test facilitating positive and ethical behavior in youth and teens. The content should be focused, clear, and accurate, and should be delivered in a logical, organized, and persuasive manner. Articulation, body language, creativity, and effectiveness in engaging peers in the message of ethical choices and behavior relating to the Rotary's Four-Way Test will be important criteria in judging the presentations.

Rotary's Four-Way Test:

Of the things we think, say or do,

- **First, is it the Truth?**
- **Second, is it fair to all concerned?**
- **Third, will it build good will and better friendships?**
- **Fourth, will it be beneficial to all concerned?**

The concept is for several students in a school to present their speeches to as large a portion of the student body as possible. **The speakers are to address their fellow students, not the adults who will be judging the contest.** Winning the school contest and advancing to the District contest is a by-product of the main goal of the contest.

Some schools will grab on to this opportunity with a full blown contest, and others may provide only one contestant for your club to enter into the District contest. Some clubs have found contestants on their own without going through a school. While the educational objectives are better met through a school wide contest, any participation that encourages teens to make positive ethical choices works towards Rotary's goal.

The 2017 District event will be held at GTCC, **9 a.m.** on Saturday, February 25 at the GTCC Sears Applied Technologies Center auditorium. Each club may send up to three participants, **representing three different schools**, to the District 7690 competition. Prizes will be as follows:

FIRST: \$250, SECOND: \$175, THIRD: \$125, FOURTH: \$100, FIFTH: \$100. In addition, the first place is invited to give his/her speech at our District Conference.

Please contact the schools with which you have a relationship or individual students you feel would be good participants as soon as possible to give them plenty of time to identify candidates and prepare speeches.

I send e-mails regarding this contest to club presidents, secretaries, executive secretaries, Youth Services chairs and Interact Club contacts. If someone else in your club needs to get information about the contest, please let me know and I will add them to my list.

Please feel free to contact me if I can assist in any way. I can be reached at (336)887-7435 or kmorris@triad.rr.com.