

Special Junior Contest

8th Annual MARIN COUNTY FAIR PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Coordinator: Stacy Davidson, Director of Career Development,
Dominican University of California

Judges: Speeches will be judged by a panel of three judges.

Timeline & Rules

To Enter: either **Register Online** by Wednesday, June 17 at marinfair.org

or **deliver your Entry Form** by Friday, June 5, 5pm, Fair Office

2020 Registration Fee: \$1 per person online, \$2 per person via paper form

Eligibility → Marin County youths 8 through 18 years of age.

Entry Limit → Limited to the first 25 contestants to enter.

Entry Fee → \$8 per contestant (Includes Fair admission)

Contest → Friday, July 3, Showcase Theater

Check-In: 11:45 am **Contest Start:** 12 Noon

Awards → Presented at the conclusion of the competition.

Rules:

1. Local and State Rules govern this competition.
2. **Entry Procedure:** Enter online at marinfair.org. Entry forms may be also obtained from the Fair Entry Office.
3. **Passes:** Each participant will be mailed one admission credential.
4. **Performance Title:** Please include the title of your speech on Entry form.
5. **Content:** Fairgoers encompass a large and diverse audience, often including young children. Speeches that are considered offensive or use profanity are not acceptable. The Coordinator has the right to stop a speech if this rule is not followed.
6. **Time Limit:**
Classes 1 & 2 – Speakers 8 through 12 years of age: Four to six minutes.
Classes 3 & 4 – Speakers 13 through 18 years of age: Five to seven minutes.
7. **Props:** Props are acceptable, but contestants may not throw any objects into the audience.
8. **Registration & Check-In:** Every performer must check in with the Coordinator at the Showcase Theater at 11:45 am.
9. **Score Card:** Please refer to Score card listed below. Judges' decisions are final.
10. **Publicity:** Photos taken by Fair Staff of participants may be shown on the Marin County Fair website, the Marin Center Magazine, or used for other publicity of the event. By entering, all participants agree to this usage.
11. **Have Fun!**

CONTENT (50%)

- **Speech Development** is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose, and this structure must include an opening, body, and conclusion. A good speech immediately engages the

audience's attention and then moves forward toward a significant conclusion. This development of the speech structure is supported by relevant examples, illustrations, facts, and figures, delivered with such smoothness that they blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.

- **Effectiveness** is measured in part by the audience's reception of the speech, but a large part is your subjective judgment of how the speech came across. You should ask yourself such questions as "Was I able to determine the speaker's purpose?" "Did the speech relate directly to that purpose?" "Was the audience's interest held by the speaker?" "Was this speech subject appropriate for this particular audience?"
- **Speech Value** justifies the act of speaking. The speaker has a responsibility to say something meaningful and original to the audience. The listeners should feel the speaker has made a contribution to their thinking. The ideas should be important ones, although this does not preclude a humorous presentation of them.

DELIVERY & LANGUAGE (50%)

- **Physical Presentation** of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous, or instructional. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions, and body positioning.
- **Voice** is that which carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard, and the words easily understood.
- **Manner** is the indirect revelation of the speaker's real self as the speech is delivered. The speaker should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions.
- **Appropriateness** of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.
- **Correctness** of language ensures that attention will be directed toward what the speaker says, not how it is said. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.

Junior Division 410 Public Speaking

Entry fee: \$8

Class

- 1 Public Speaking, any subject, 8 years
- 2 Public Speaking, any subject, 9 through 12 years
- 3 Public Speaking, any subject, 13 through 15 years
- 4 Public Speaking, any subject, 16 through 18 years
- 5 **New!** Poetry Reading, any subject, 8 through 18 years (please state title & author of poem at beginning of performance)

American System of Judging – Awards Offered per Class

(At the discretion of the Judges)

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
\$40 & Ribbon	\$25 & Ribbon	\$15 & Ribbon	\$10 & Ribbon	\$8 & Ribbon

Honorable Mentions – Ribbons

First Place Cash Awards
courtesy of
Dominican University of California's
Institute for Leadership Studies

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of CALIFORNIA
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Leadership Studies