

## RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE METROPOLITAN ORATORICAL CONTEST

### Eligibility

Participants (or their parents/guardians) must be members of the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church *or* enrolled at the George E. Peters Elementary School. Participants must be enrolled in school for the 2018-2019 year and must be in a grade between 6 to 12. Home-schooled students who are Metropolitan members may also participate provided they meet the grade requirement.

### Contest Deadlines

Participation forms and typed copies of speeches must be submitted to the Contest Chairpersons no later than **Saturday, April 13, 2019**. Forms are available in the church lobby and on the church's website: <http://www.metroda.org/oratoricalcontest>.

### Prizes

Students will be divided into three groups: 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades and 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Prizes will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers in each group.

### Topic

All participants will present on the topic *This I Believe*

### General Rules

1. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. However, the contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvements in the speech at any time.
2. Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church will have the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in the 2019 Metropolitan Oratorical Contest without payment to the author.
3. Each contestant must present one typewritten copy of the speech, double-spaced and identified with contestant's name to the Committee prior to the beginning of the contest.
4. The contestant and contestant's parent or guardian must sign the entry form.
5. All contestants must receive a copy of the official rules and be instructed to thoroughly familiarize themselves with these rules.
6. The Contest Chairpersons, prior to the beginning of the contest, shall conduct a drawing with all contestants present for the speaking order. All contestants will then be introduced as "Speaker A," "Speaker B," etc.
7. All contestants must state their official topic before beginning their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official subject. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc., should precede the announcement of the subject. Timing will stop when contestant finishes.
8. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the speech and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church shall assume no responsibility. Failure to identify non-original material shall result in disqualification.
9. No reference may be made that might identify the contestant, or his or her family. This does not include religion or nationality. Maximum penalty may be 5 points as decided by each individual judge.
10. The time allowed will be four(4) minutes. Contestants going over or under the time limit will not be cautioned, but will be penalized 1 point for each 1 minute or fraction thereof over or under the allotted time. These penalties will be determined by the official timekeeper.
11. An interval of at least one minute shall be allowed between contestants.
12. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. Penalty is disqualification. Notes and lecterns may be used if the contestant desires.
13. A lectern microphone will be available for contestant's use.

14. No spectator may enter or leave the audience while a contestant is speaking. The audience must be alerted to these rules before the competition begins, and at various intervals, by the contest Chairpersons. A sergeant-at-arms should be appointed to enforce these rules.
15. Contestants shall not be identified by names until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.
16. Any protest must be made immediately after the condition is noted that brings about the protest. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges have retired for deliberation, will not be entertained under any circumstances. The Contest Chairpersons will decide all protests in conformity with these rules. The decision of the contest Chairpersons is the final word, and no higher appeals will be recognized.

### **Judging and Timing**

1. Each contest shall have three judges and two timekeepers. The judges cannot be acquainted with any of the contestants. The judges should be well qualified.
2. The judges and timekeepers cannot be identified at the time of the contest or by advance publicity, but only after the last oration has been presented.
3. Each judge must render a final decision on all contestants without consultation with other judges or any other person. Each judge and timekeeper must sign his/her official score sheet.
4. The result of a judge's decision must be kept confidential. No one shall attempt to discuss a contestant's score with the judge.
5. After the judges have totaled their scores for each contestant, deducted penalty points and ranked each contestant, the judges shall sign their score sheets and give them to the Contest Chairpersons. Each judge's score and rank for each contestant shall then be entered and tabulated for each contestant on the Official Oratorical Contest Report Form. From this form, the contest winner will be determined.

### **Scoring**

Scoring will conform to the following scoring schedule.

- Poise: (Appearance, Personality) 20 points
- Content of Speech: (Subject Adherence, Theme, Logic, Content, Color) 35 points
- Delivery & Presentation: (Voice, Volume, Pronunciation, Gestures, Eye Contact, Sincerity & Emphasis) 35 points
- Overall Effectiveness: (Appeal, Impression, Attitude, Effect) 10 points

### **Penalties**

1. Use of props, costume: disqualification
2. Self-identification: 1-5 points
3. Time penalties: 1 point for each 1minute over or under the official limits
4. Failure to announce topic: 3 points
5. Failure to complete speech: disqualification
6. Failure to identify non-original material: disqualification

### **Questions**

Questions about these rules and the contest should be directed to the Contest Chairpersons:

**Marva McIntosh:** [marva451@gmail.com](mailto:marva451@gmail.com)

**Angella Browne:** [aaabrowne@cs.com](mailto:aaabrowne@cs.com)