

We all live in a Watershed!

2025-2026 Public Speaking Contest



Participant Eligibility:

9th-12th grade students are eligible to compete in their respective grade-level public speaking contests. Separate contests will be held for the District, Area and State levels for both grades

Judging Criteria:

The NCASWCD has adopted a standard public speaking score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Speeches will be judged on the following points

Content:

- Conservation Message 20%
- Organization 15%
- Originality 5%
- Skillful Use of Facts, Examples, Descriptions, and Analogies 10%

Speaking Skills:

- Voice and Diction 15%
- Style 20%
- Body Language 15%

Infractions:

- Use of visual aids - 5 points
- Over or under time limit - 5 points
- Giving personal information - 5 points

Specifications:

- Limit the speech to 4-6 minutes
- Under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes will be penalized
- A time keeper will inform the judges of the contestants official time

- Each speech will be judged on content and speaking skills
- Visual aids are not allowed
- Speeches should be memorized but the use of note cards is acceptable as a back up
- Dress appropriately (costumes, logos, or any clothing that would identify your school, hometown or county are not allowed)
- Arrive early to get comfortable with the venue, podium, and microphone
- Make eye contact with the audience during your speech
- Speeches may videotaped or recorded for use by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts for educational programs. Parents will be asked to sign a form giving permission for any videotaping or photography during the event

Prize Money:

\$ 1st Place: \$50

\$ 2nd Place: \$35

\$ 3rd Place: \$25

1st place will compete at the Area Competition

Contact Information:

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