



District 21: International and Tall Tales Contest Chair Speech Script 2025-2026

This script is **NOT** a replacement for the [TI Speech Contest Rule Book](#). The Speech Contest Rule Book should be your **primary** reference guide.

Contest Chair Agenda Planning

To calculate the amount of time that the **International** contest will take – allow **about 9 minutes for each contestant** (30 sec to introduce contestant + 7 min 30 sec for each contest speech + 1 min judges). For **Tall Tales** allow **about 7 minutes for each contestant** (30 sec to introduce contestant + 5 min 30 sec for each contest speech + 1 min judges)

Prior to contest starting the Contest Chair must brief contestants:

1. Ensure all contestants have filled in and signed the Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality and Contestant Profile forms.
2. Ensure Contestant Profile forms have been given to the Contestant Interviewer.
3. Contest Chair briefs contestants
4. Ensure all contestants can see the timing lights from the speaking area.
5. See 'Contest Chair – Contest Checklist' in the Toastmasters International Speech Contest Rule Book.

Prior to contest starting the Chief Judge must brief Contest Officials (Judges, Timers and Ballot Counters):

1. See 'Chief Judge – Contest Checklist' in the Toastmasters International Speech Contest Rule Book.
2. Ensure you have collected all of the Judges' Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics completed forms.

Starting the Contest

SAA: We are 5-minutes until the start of our contest, if I could please ask everyone to take their seats. Thank you.

SAA: Welcome everyone! Thank you for being here this morning for our **Club/Division# Area ##** Contest!

OPTIONAL AT CONTEST CHAIRS PERSONAL DISCRETION: Territorial Land Acknowledgement

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of our **Coast Salish peoples**. This includes the **Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations**. We are grateful to be able to live, work and learn on these lands. And now I'll pass it over to our Contest Chair!

CONTEST CHAIR: Good **Morning/Afternoon/Evening** Toastmasters and most welcomed guests. I am your Contest Chair for today.

We will now begin the International//Tall Tales Speech contest. The contest will consist of a series of timed 5 - 7 minute speeches for the International Speech Contest /3-5 minutes for Tall Tales Speech contest that will be judged by a panel of judges.

All contestants and judges participating in this contest are eligible for their roles as per the Toastmasters International Speech Contest Rule Book. Contestants have certified that they prepared their own speech on a topic of their choosing with content that is substantially original.

To be eligible to compete in any official Toastmasters speech contest, a member must:

1. Be a paid member of a club in the Area, Division, and District in which they are competing. And the club must also be in good standing.
2. Maintain eligibility at all levels of any contest.

Each contestant has certified that they prepared their own speech, on a topic of their own choosing and used content that is substantially original. Some of the content may be personal in nature and contain language, ideas or beliefs that some audiences may consider sensitive.

Contestants and judges are the only ones who may lodge a protest over eligibility or speech content. There is a protocol in place to deal with protests if they arise. Protests will be resolved before the announcement of winners. Once the winners are announced the results are final.

The winner will represent {Club Name, Area Name, Division Name} on MONTH/DAY/YEAR at the {Area, Division, District} contest to be held at {CONTEST LOCATION}.

These proceedings are designed to ensure that we run a fair contest and that each contestant is given a level playing field on which to compete.

The following announcements are made in the interest of having a distraction-free environment for our contestants:

- Please place all cell phones or other devices that make audible noises either off or on silent.
- No photography of the contestants is allowed during the contest. There will be photo opportunities after the contest. Videotaping is allowed only if the contestant has given their approval in advance.
- Once the contest has begun, members of the audience are asked to refrain from leaving and/or re-entering the room. If you must leave, please do so during the times of silence between contestant speeches. The Sergeant at Arms will not allow anyone to enter/leave the room during a contestant's speech.

(All International /Tall Tales Speech contestants may remain in the room during the contest.)

Chief Judge, have the Contest Judges, Timers and Ballot Counters been briefed and are we ready to proceed with the contest?

CHIEF JUDGE: Yes, they have.

CONTEST CHAIR: As Contest Chair I have briefed all the contestants regarding minimum and maximum time limits and the stage area.

In order to allow the judges time to mark their ballots, we will have one minute of silence after each contestant's speech, and we will have as much silence as necessary after the last contestant's speech until all the ballots have been collected.

Timing will begin with the contestant's first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience.

The green light will be displayed at 5/3 minutes and remain displayed for one minute.

The amber light will be displayed at 6/4 minutes and remain displayed for one minute.

The red light will be displayed at 7/5 minutes and remain displayed until the speech is concluded.

No bell or buzzer will be used unless the contestant is visually impaired.

In the event of technical failure of the timing device, the speaker is allowed 30 seconds extra before being disqualified.

There will be a one minute of silence between the contestants, to allow the judges to mark their ballots.

Timers, will you signal me when one minute has elapsed between contestant speeches?

TIMERS: Yes, we will.

CONTEST CHAIR: Each contestant will be introduced only by their name, and the title of their speech. I will then repeat the title of the speech and the contestant's name.

The first contestant will now proceed to the staging area. Subsequent contestants will proceed to the staging area during the one minute of silence"

The speaking order for the contest was determined earlier by having our contestants draw for position. The speaking order for the contest will be:

1. Contestant Name:

2. Contestant Name:

3. Contestant Name:

4. Contestant Name:

5. Contestant Name:

6. Contestant Name:

7. Contestant Name:

8. Contestant Name:

Are there any questions? If not, we will now proceed with the speeches.

I will now call upon our Contestant No.1. Please help me welcome to the stage...

1. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name

We will now observe one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

I will now call upon our Contestant No. 2. Please help me welcome to the stage...

2. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name

We will now observe one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

I will now call upon our Contestant No 3. Please help me welcome to the stage...

3. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name

We will now observe one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

I will now call upon our Contestant No.4. Please help me welcome to the stage...

4. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name

We will now observe one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

I will now call upon our Contestant No.5. Please help me welcome to the stage..

5. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name:

We will now observe one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

I will now call upon our Contestant No.6. Please help me welcome to the stage..

6. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name:

We will now observe one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

I will now call upon our Contestant No.7. Please help me welcome to the stage..

7. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name:

We will now observe one minute of silence for the judges to mark their ballots.

I will now call upon our Contestant No.8. Please help me welcome to the stage..

8. Contestant Name/Title/Tile/Contestant Name:

We will now remain silent until the judges have finished marking their ballots and for them to be collected.

Note: At this time the Ballot Counters and the Chief Judge will collect the envelopes containing the completed ballots.

After all the envelopes have been collected and the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters have left the room the Contest Chair can introduce the Contestant Interviewer.

Contest Chair: Thank you everyone for your cooperation. While we are waiting for our ballot counters and Chief Judge to finalize the results, I would now like to pass things over to our Contest Interviewer who will take a moment and interview our **International/Tall Tales** Contestants. Please give them a round of applause.

Contestant Interviews

Contestant Interviewer interviews each contestant (**equal time for each contestant, generally 2-3 minute per contestant**) – using materials from the 'Contestants Profile' - and presents each contestant with their 'Certificate of Participation'. If more than one contest is being run at the same time, limit the interviews to 1 minute per person. If there is a contestant competing in both contests, they do not get interviewed in the first interview.

Note: While a protest is very rare - this is the most likely time for it to be lodged. It must be dealt with immediately. Protest can only be based on eligibility, originality and reference to another contestant or another contestant's speech must be lodged with the Chief Judge and our Contest Chair prior to the contest being adjourned. The Chief Judge, Contest Chair, voting judges, and contestants must not consider protests from audience members. (See the section titled 'Protests and Disqualifications' in the Toastmasters International Speech Contest Rule Book.

During the contestant interviews, the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters will be processing the judges' ballots and tabulating the results. When this is completed, the Chief Judge will return and provide the Contest Chair with the Results Form and the completed 3rd, 2nd and 1st place certificates. The Results Form will indicate if there were any disqualifications based on time.

Announce Contest Results and Present Certificates

(Invite the highest-level dignitary in the room to help present the awards and check with the Chief Judge for any disqualifications (no names) to announce.)

Contest Chair: Welcome back everyone, the results are in. There were no {or one, two, etc.} disqualifications.

As mentioned earlier, the winners for today's International/Tall Tales Speech will represent {Club Name, Area Name, Division Name} on MONTH/DAY/YEAR at the {Area, Division, District} contest to be held at {CONTEST LOCATION}.

In contests with three (3) or more participants, a third-place winner, a second-place winner, and a first-place winner will be announced. Winners will be announced in reverse order.

In contests with fewer than three (3) participants, a second-place winner (if applicable) and a first-place winner will be announced. Winners will be announced in reverse order.

And the winners are:

3rd place: _____

2nd place: _____

1st place: _____

(After the winners have been announced, the Chief Judge will destroy off-site all ballots, the time record, and the tally sheet.)

Before we conclude this contest, are there any announcements?

Thanks to our Chief Judge, Timers, Ballot Counters and Anonymous Judges for their contributions to making this a fair and well-organized contest.

This now concludes our Club/Area/Division/District - International/Tall Tales Speech Contest!

Contest Wrap-Up Paperwork

Ensure that the Chief Judge has completed the Notification of Contest Winners form and without delay, send it to the next contest level...

- Club Contest > send to Area Director
- Area Contest > send to Division Director
- Division Contest > send to District 21 2025-2026 Chief Judge (**Devon Downie, DTM – dtmdevon@gmail.com**)