



# Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers

"Service Above Self"

Chartered 1920

[www.yonkersrotary.org](http://www.yonkersrotary.org)

[www.facebook.com/groups/yonkerseastyonkersrotary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/yonkerseastyonkersrotary)

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Join us as for community  
service, professional  
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Send Membership inquiries to...  
[george@century21royal.com](mailto:george@century21royal.com)  
or to...

P.O. Box 771  
Yonkers, NY 10710

Dear Yonkers Youth in Grades 9 through 12:

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers, I am excited to invite you to participate in the Club's First Annual Youth Speech Contest!

Contestants will present a five-minute speech based on what they would like to see improved in Yonkers and why. A preliminary round of judging will be held on March 28, 29, and 30, 2022 at 5 p.m. at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, although we will hold the preliminary round via Zoom if circumstances so require. Three finalists will be selected by a panel of judges to advance to the final round, which will be held at the Rotary Club's meeting at 6:15 p.m. on April 27, 2022.

In addition to the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their public speaking skills, each of the three finalists will receive a plaque and a cash prize: the prize for first place is \$500; second place is \$300; and, third place is \$200.

There is no cost for students to enter and participate!

Interested students should complete the registration form and return it via email at [alangrayjr@gmail.com](mailto:alangrayjr@gmail.com). Students may also complete the registration form online at [YonkersRotary.org](http://YonkersRotary.org). Please note that the deadline for registration is March 11, 2022.

For more information, please contact me at (352) 339-0830 or [alangrayjr@gmail.com](mailto:alangrayjr@gmail.com). On behalf of the Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers, I look forward to hearing from you at the upcoming contest!

Sincerely,

  
Alan R. Gray, Jr., Esq.  
Chair, Youth Speech Contest

Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers

The  
**Rotary Club of Yonkers**



invites you to compete in its  
**First Annual Youth Speech Contest**

**March 28-30, 2022**  
**5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
**Yonkers Riverfront Library**  
(will switch to Zoom if required)

Deliver a 5-minute speech on the topic  
“What I Would Like to See Improved in Yonkers and Why”  
and compete for cash prizes!

**First Place - \$500**  
**Second Place - \$300**  
**Third Place - \$200**

**Free to Enter!**

For more information and to register,  
visit [YonkersRotary.org](http://YonkersRotary.org)  
or contact Contest Coordinator Alan Gray  
at [alangrayjr@gmail.com](mailto:alangrayjr@gmail.com)



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## Rules for the First Annual Youth Speech Contest

(Revised 03/15/2022; underlining indicates additions; ~~strikeout~~ indicates deletions)

- Youth who live in Yonkers and are enrolled in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to participate in the contest. Immediate family members of Rotary Club members are not eligible to participate in the contest.
- Students wishing to participate in the contest must, no later than **March 11, 2022**, complete a registration form (attached) and return it to Rotarian Alan Gray, Chair, Youth Speech Contest, via email at [alangrayjr@gmail.com](mailto:alangrayjr@gmail.com), or online, at [YonkersRotary.org](http://YonkersRotary.org).
- Contestants are to prepare and deliver an original, five-minute, English-language speech on the topic, “What I would like to see improved in Yonkers and why.”
- The allotted time for each speech is five minutes. Contestants will be penalized if their speech is less than four minutes or exceeds six minutes.
- Speeches are meant to be delivered, not read. While notes are permitted, contestants should not read their speeches from a script.
- Professional business attire is encouraged, but is not required.
- The use of audio/visual aids is NOT permitted.
- Contestants should note, and prepare for the possibility, that lecterns may be unavailable where the preliminary and final rounds will be held.
- All contestants will participate in a preliminary round on **March 28, 29, and 30, 2022 at 5 p.m. at the Yonkers Riverfront Library**. The preliminary round will be held via Zoom if circumstances so require.
- Contestants will be emailed the specific day and time at which they must arrive for the preliminary round. Contestants are not required to be present for the entire preliminary round and will not be permitted to watch other contestants’ speeches.
- Contestants may be accompanied to their speech in the preliminary round by no more than two guests.
- Contestants will be scored in the preliminary round by a panel of three judges on demeanor, introduction, content, conclusion, and delivery. A sample scoresheet will be posted online at [YonkersRotary.org](http://YonkersRotary.org).
- **NEW 03/15/22:** Contestants will be shown time signals during their speech. A contest coordinator present in the contest room will display a green card when four minutes of speaking time have elapsed and a red card when five minutes of speaking time have elapsed.

- **REVISED 03/15/22:** The ~~three~~ contestants with the highest combined scores from the preliminary round judges on each day of the preliminary round (“finalists”) will be invited to deliver their speech at the final round before the regular Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers meeting on **April 27, 2022 at 6:15 p.m.** (location to be provided).
- **REVISED 03/15/22:** All ~~non-advancing~~ contestants will receive a certificate of achievement recognizing their participation in the contest.
- **REVISED 03/15/22:** Finalists must appear and speak at the final round. If a contestant is unable or unavailable to appear and speak at the final round, the contestant(s) with the next highest combined scores from the preliminary round judges on that day of the preliminary round will be contacted and invited to appear and speak.
- Finalists will be scored in the final round by a panel of five judges on the same criteria as the preliminary round.
- Based on the scores of the final round judges, the first-place finalist will be awarded \$500, the second-place finalist will be awarded \$300, and the third-place finalist will be awarded \$200. All three finalists will receive plaques recognizing their participation in the final round.
- **NEW 03/15/22:** In the event either that two or more contestants on a day of the preliminary round tie with the same highest combined score for that day of the preliminary round, or that any of the finalists tie with the same combined score in the final round, ties will be broken by that days’ judges’ preference (i.e., which tied contestant/finalist was scored higher than the other tied contestant/finalist by more judges). If the tie remains, then ties will next be broken by determining which contestant or finalist has the highest combined score after subtracting that contestant or finalist’s lowest score in the round. If the tie remains, then ties will next be broken by determining which contestant or finalist was awarded more 5s on that contestant or finalist’s scoresheets among all of the day’s judges, then, if the tie remains, determining which contestant or finalist was awarded more 4s, then 3s, and then 2s.
- The Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers reserves the right to amend or change these rules at any time as it deems necessary.



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### First Annual Youth Speech Contest Registration

**Deadline: March 11, 2022**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade:            9                            10                            11                            12

We, the abovenamed student ("Student") and his/her/their parent/guardian, whose signatures appear below, have read and agree to the rules of the Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers's ("the Club") First Annual Youth Speech Contest ("the Contest"). We further understand and agree that the Club may photograph and/or audio- and/or videorecord Student's performance(s) at the preliminary and/or final rounds of the Contest and that the Club may use, reproduce, and/or distribute any such photographs and/or audio and/or video recordings taken. We understand and agree that, if Student is among the three contestants with the highest combined scores in the preliminary round, he/she/they will appear and speak at the final round, and that failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of any prize that Student might otherwise have won.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this completed registration form to Alan Gray at [alangrayjr@gmail.com](mailto:alangrayjr@gmail.com)