

The Battle of Flowers Association
2012 ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES
(Please read carefully - many changes in 2012!)

1. The competition is by invitation only and will be held on Friday, February 24, 2012, at the Witte Museum located at 3801 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas 78209. The topic for the 87th contest is "**Hides, Horns and Hooves – The Trail Drives of Texas**".
2. This year, we are limiting the total number of contestants to twelve with no more than two students from any one university or college competing. You must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a four year Texas university or college to be eligible for the contest. An undergraduate student must be enrolled in at least 12 hours and graduate students in at least 6 hours during the semester in which the contest takes place. Students who have previously won first place are not eligible to compete.
3. The speech must be original and historically accurate with the intent to inform and educate the audience on the topic. The form of delivery should be conversational platform style. Minimal notes are permitted on one index card. Visual aids will not be permitted. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. All sources, including the Internet, must be footnoted in the bibliography.
4. **The length of each speech should not be less than 10 or more than 12 minutes.** Speakers who do not adhere to the time limits may have points deducted or may be subject to disqualification. Timing will start when the contestant begins to speak. A contestant may arrange for his or her own time prompter.
5. Entry forms are due to the chairman of the Oratorical Contest by October 19, 2011. To avoid having presentations on the same subject, we encourage participating students to send their entry form in early to reserve their subject. Contestants will be notified if they are accepted by email on or before November 11, 2011. A confirmation letter will be mailed prior to the contest. If a student has any questions they should contact the contest chairman by phone or email.
6. Judging will be based on content and presentation. Content includes the following: (a) appropriate subject matter consistent with the topic, (b) how well the topic is developed and organized, and (c) whether the speaker provides historically accurate information supported by bibliographical references. Presentation includes the following: (a) delivery from a lectern with a stationary microphone, (b) use of conversational platform rather than dramatic style, and (c) adherence to timing parameters. The winning speech should be suitable for delivery to a large audience at the Battle of Flowers Annual Luncheon as well as for the taping session by KLRN Public Television.
7. On the day of the contest, contestants and coaches should arrive at the Witte Museum by 8:30am to sign in. It is imperative that you arrive on time. At registration each student must provide two copies of his or her speech, including a bibliography. We regret that students who fail to do so will not be eligible to speak. Spelling, punctuation and neatness are important as the

first and second place speeches will be placed on file at The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library at the Alamo. The contest will begin promptly at 9:00am. The order in which the speeches will be given will be determined by a random drawing prior to the contest and listed in the event program.

8. The Preliminary Session will take place in the morning and be judged by a panel of three to five individuals who: (a) are professional judges of intercollegiate forensics competitions, (b) possess knowledge and/or academic/curatorial expertise in Texas history or the current topic, or (c) are members of the Battle of Flowers Association chosen by the Judges Chairman. At the conclusion of the Preliminary Session, contestants and coaches are invited to be guests of The Battle of Flowers Association for lunch at the museum. Following lunch, all participants in the Preliminary Session will be presented a Certificate of Appreciation and the names of the five contestants continuing on to the Finals Session will be announced. For each of those contestants not moving on to the finals round, an award of \$100 will be given for delivering their entire speech in the Preliminary Session.

9. The Finals Session will begin promptly at 1:00pm before a new panel of three judges with the credentials listed above. The speeches will be delivered in reverse order from the Preliminary Session. After the judges have deliberated, Certificates of Merit will be presented to the five finalists along with cash awards of \$1000 for second place, \$750 for third place, \$500 for fourth place and \$300 for fifth place.

10. The first place winner will deliver his or her speech for members and guests at the Battle of Flowers Annual Luncheon which is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 11:00am at the Marriott River Center Hotel in San Antonio. The winner will be presented a check for \$2000 at the conclusion of the speech and will ride along with their director of forensics/coach in the annual Battle of Flowers Parade on Friday, April 27, 2012.

11. Each contestant may request a copy of his or her score sheet(s) from the chairman at the conclusion of the contest.

*This information is also available on our website at www.battleofflowers.org.