



EXTRA! EXTRA!



Texas Journalists Making History

96TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF FLOWERS® ASSOCIATION

Oratorical Contest

2021 CONTEST RULES FOR APPLICANTS SELECTED TO BE CONTESTANTS

THE RULES BELOW APPLY TO THE CONTEST IF WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE IT IN PERSON. DUE TO COVID 19 THE CONTEST MAY BE HELD VIRTUALLY. THAT DECISION WILL BE MADE IN EARLY OCTOBER. IF HELD VIRTUALLY, CONTESTANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THESE RULES AT THAT TIME.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF SPEECH AND BIBLIOGRAPHY: Written copy of entire completed speech and bibliography must be submitted electronically to the Contest Chairman at oratoricalcontest.bof@gmail.com on or before Tuesday, **January 26, 2021 at 11:59 PM**. Failure to turn in the written speech by this deadline will result in disqualification of the contestant. Minor changes in the speech may still be made prior to the contest date. Speeches will be subject to plagiarism software.

CONTEST DAY:

- Contestants and their faculty advisors (if attending) must arrive at the Witte Museum on February 26, 2021 no later than 8:15 AM to sign in. Contestants **MUST** arrive on time.
- At registration, **each contestant shall provide 2 copies of his or her final speech, which must include a bibliography**. Contestants who fail to do so will not be eligible to compete. (Please proofread speeches for correct grammar and spelling as the first and second place speeches will be archived in the permanent records of The Battle of Flowers® Association).
- Contest begins **promptly** at 9:00 AM. The order in which the speeches will be delivered will be determined by a random drawing prior to the contest and listed in the event program.

PRELIMINARY SESSION:

- To be judged by panel of five judges who are either: (a) professional judges of intercollegiate forensics competitions, (b) individuals who possess specific knowledge of and/or expertise in the current topic, or (c) members of the Association chosen by the Judges Chairman.
- Following the session and a luncheon including the participants and advisors, all participants in the Preliminary Session will be presented a Certificate of Participation and the names of the five contestants continuing on to the Final Session will be announced.
- Contestants who have delivered their entire speech by memory in the Preliminary Session but are not selected to participate in the Final Session will receive an award of \$125.

FINAL SESSION:

- Begins ***promptly*** at 1:30 PM before a new panel of five judges with similar credentials as those in the Preliminary Session. These speeches will be delivered in reverse order from the Preliminary Session.
- After the judges have deliberated, a Certificate of Merit will be presented to the five finalists along with cash awards to the second through fifth place winners. The prize amounts our contest will award to 2021 winners are \$5,000 for first place, \$2,500 for second place, \$1,500 for third place, \$1,000 for fourth place and \$750 for fifth place. The top three winning students will earn their University Advisors a monetary award for the Advisor's department: first place, \$2,500; second place \$1,500 and third place \$1,000.

POST CONTEST:

Each contestant will receive a mailed copy of their judges' comments from the contest at a later date. The first-place winner will deliver his or her speech for members and guests at the Association's annual Fiesta Luncheon to be held on **Thursday, April 22, 2021** at 11:00 AM at the Mays Family Center at The Witte Museum in San Antonio. The winner will be presented a check for \$5,000 at the conclusion of the speech and will ride in the annual Battle of Flowers® Parade on **Friday, April 23, 2021**. ***A copy of these rules, as well as the entry form and other important contest information, is available on our website: www.battleofflowers.org.***