

The Battle of Flowers® Association

...celebrating Texas history

Post Office Box 6432 • San Antonio, Texas 78209

Member, Fiesta® San Antonio Commission

DUE TO COVID 19 THE CONTEST MAY BE HELD VIRTUALLY. THAT DECISION WILL BE MADE IN OCTOBER.
IF HELD VIRTUALLY, YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF CHANGES IN RULES AND PROCEDURES

September 1, 2020

\$5,000 FIRST PRIZE and \$2,500 to WINNER'S ADVISOR'S DEPARTMENT!

Dear Texas History and Speech Enthusiasts:

The 96th annual Oratorical Contest of the Battle of Flowers® Association will be held on Friday, February 26, 2021, at the Witte Museum in San Antonio. Our contest is the oldest college level forensics contest in Texas, held annually on a topic of Texas history since 1926. The Battle of Flowers® Association is proud to support the education and collegiate forensics experiences of our winners through the increased prize money to be awarded to the top five finalists *and* the top three sponsoring university departments. The topic for the 2021 Oratorical Contest is:

EXTRA! EXTRA! Texas Journalists Making History

The mission of the Battle of Flowers® Association is, "teaching the history of our state and keeping alive the patriotic traditions of Texas and San Antonio." In accordance with our mission, the committee members of the 96th annual Oratorical Contest invites you to choose from an era a Texas journalist, group of journalists, publication or production, and discover who they were and share how their work either told an important part of the Texas story, contributed to history or influenced change from a perspective that inspires you.

Each contestant should select one Texas journalist, group of journalists, publication or production to research in-depth and deliver an oration that could include: their background, in what aspect of journalism they engaged, what characteristics they had that made them exceptional, the significance of the stories they told or how they "made history." The resulting 10- to 12- minute speech should be original and historically accurate with the intent to inform and educate the audience on the Texas journalist(s) and their contributions. It must be delivered completely by memory from a podium before a panel of judges. **Complete Oratorical Contest rules and application information are enclosed and may be accessed at www.battleofflowers.org. The Entry Form is available at <https://form.jotform.com/202334623428046>.**

The benefits for the advisors and students entering this prestigious contest are many:

- **WINNINGS:** For the 2021 contest, the prizes 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.
- **IN ADDITION:** A monetary award will be given to the university department of the student's Faculty Advisor for each of the top three contestant places; \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second place and \$1,000 for third place.

- Contestants, who deliver their entire speech by memory during the Preliminary Session, but are not chosen for the Final Round of competition, will receive an award of \$125.
- The contest winner will deliver his/her speech to an audience of over 500 dignitaries and Association members at the Battle of Flowers® Annual Luncheon to be held during Fiesta Week on Thursday, April 22, 2021.
- The following day, Friday, April 23, 2021, the contest winner will ride as an honored guest in the Battle of Flowers® Parade through downtown San Antonio. This is the largest and oldest parade in the nation put on by a volunteer force of women and is televised to over two million people worldwide.
- Copies of the first- and second-place speeches will be archived in the Battle of Flowers® Association's permanent records and posted on our website at www.battleofflowers.org.
- The First-Place Winner's written composition will be published in 10,000 copies of the Parade Program, handed out at the Battle of Flowers® Luncheon and on Parade Day.

Interested students should complete the Entry Form found at <https://form.jotform.com/202334623428046> and submit on or before **Monday, November 2, 2020, at 11:59 PM**. The Entry Form may also be accessed on our website listed below. Please take time to view the winning video of the 2019 and 2020 winners on our website, which provide a better understanding of our contest day and subsequent activities/benefits for the winner. We welcome your interest in our historic Oratorical Contest. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Helen Eversberg
Vice President, Battle of Flowers® Association
2020 Oratorical Contest Chair
oratoricalcontest.bof@gmail.com
www.battleofflowers.org