

BATTLE OF FLOWERS® ASSOCIATION

2023 ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES

THE RULES BELOW APPLY TO THE CONTEST HELD IN PERSON. IF DUE TO COVID 19, THE CONTEST MUST BE HELD VIRTUALLY, CONTESTANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THESE RULES AT THAT TIME.

CONTEST DATE, TIME AND PLACE: The Battle of Flowers® Association (“Association”) Oratorical Contest will be held on **Friday, February 24, 2023**, at the Witte Museum located at 3801 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas, 78209, or via Zoom or equivalent platform, depending on COVID-19 public safety requirements.

PRIZES: 2023 winners will be awarded \$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. Other contestants who deliver their entire speech from memory will receive \$250.

2023 CONTEST TOPIC: **HEROINES & HELL-RAISERS:** *Trailblazing Texas Women*

- Prospective contestants may choose and research only one of the suggested individuals/groups shown on the list of “Suggested Trailblazing Texas Women” in the Topic Description or may choose another subject(s) NOT on the suggested list as long as it fits within the topic description.
- As in previous contests, the historical subject’s lifetime or significant contribution(s)/event **must have occurred prior to 1973**.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a Texas university or college. An undergraduate applicant must be enrolled in at least 12 class hours and a graduate applicant in at least 6 class hours during the semester in which the contest takes place.
- The applicant must have an academic advisor from the university or college he/she attends. In extraordinary circumstances the selection committee can excuse this requirement.
- The total number of contestants selected to participate shall be limited to not more than twelve, and no more than three students from any one university or college may compete.
- Previous first place winners are not eligible to compete in subsequent contests. Other previous contestants may submit an application; however, since the contest can accommodate only a limited number of contestants, consideration will be given to how closely the contestant complied with contest rules and deadlines and whether he/she fully participated in all aspects of the previous contest.

SPEECH AND JUDGING CRITERIA: The Association expects a speech that is seamless, historical, impassioned and stimulating. Judging will be based on the content and presentation of the speech, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Content
 - adheres to the contest theme and remains on topic throughout
 - must be original with an intent to inform and educate (not a theatrical performance)
 - is well-developed and clearly organized
 - appropriate for the intended audience at the Association’s Fiesta Luncheon of 500 guests, primarily women devoted to and well-versed in Texas history
 - provides historically accurate information supported by research and references
 - follows rules of grammar (e.g., word usage, pronunciation, sentence structure)
 - Contestants are required to use and cite multiple sources from scholarly articles and books in the body of the delivered speech. All sources must be footnoted in the bibliography of the written speech. The speech will be submitted to plagiarism software examination.

2023 ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES CONT'D.

- Presentation
 - delivered completely from memory (no notes) from podium with stationary microphone in front of judge and an audience
 - no visual aids or costumes
 - educates the audience by showcasing knowledge of the topic
 - entertains the audience without being overly dramatic
 - is not less than 10 nor more than 12 minutes in length

The length of each speech should not be less than 10 or more than 12 minutes. Contestants who do not adhere to these time limits may have points deducted from their score or may be subject to disqualification. Timing by contest officials will start when the contestant begins to speak and the length of the speech will be reported to the Judges Chairman. A contestant may arrange for his or her own time prompter to be seated in the audience and give only non-verbal prompts.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: To enter the contest, a completed entry form, along with a resume and a topical abstract must be received by the Contest Chairman at oratoricalcontest.bof@gmail.com no later than **11:59 PM., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022.**

- Topical Abstract: approximately 500 words in length and designed to give the selection committee a “snapshot” of the speech for the “Trailblazing Texas Women” topic chosen, i.e., how the applicant intends to show what makes the woman selected a trailblazer, and how she/her accomplishments impacted the state of Texas and/or its people or otherwise addresses the Contest Topic.
- Selection Criteria: Criteria utilized by the selection committee may include, but are not limited to, the following: adherence to the topic, clear development of the theme, suitability and interest to our audience, proper use of grammar, and historical accuracy supported by research.
- Applicants will be notified whether or not they have been selected as a contestant by **November 7, 2022.**

APPLICANTS SELECTED TO BE CONTESTANTS: For those applicants selected to be contestants, a written copy of their entire completed speech and bibliography must be submitted to the Contest Chairman no later than **11:59 PM Wednesday, January 25, 2023.** 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. If selected to be a contestant, see *additional RULES FOR APPLICANTS SELECTED TO BE CONTESTANTS.*

A copy of these rules, as well as the entry form and other important contest information, is available on our website: www.battleofflowers.org