



Speech

Purpose

To provide a challenge to students to excel in public speaking and encourage high standards in speech content, organization and delivery. Public speaking is one of the greatest fears among Americans. It is proven that if a person learns to speak in public before they learn to fear it, then they will carry the talent with them for the rest of their life. Public speaking is a talent that will propel all professions and walks of life. Through participation in this event, the students will learn to demonstrate the simple elegance of persuasive speech without the aid of modern technologies.

Event Participation

1. The Speech event will be held on a grade-by-grade basis for grades 3-12. Each student must participate in the academic grade in which he/she is presently enrolled.
2. Students in Pre-K through second grade are given the opportunity to speak, although they will not be rated.
3. While not required, participation in Year-Round Speech provides valuable experience.
4. All students should study the *L2L Speech & Debate* book and lessons 4 & 5 in the *Field Book of Leadership: Revised* to develop their public speaking skills. Both may be ordered from the [L2L Online Store](https://www.lads2leaders.com). It is very important that participants, parents, coaches, and judges watch the Event Training and Judging Videos on the L2L website: <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>

Event Rules and Guidelines

1. The speech shall be related to the current year's convention theme. The speech does not have to specifically quote the theme.
2. Speeches are to be viewed as Bible lessons or short sermons. As such, costumes, excessive props, and overly dramatized presentations (screaming, crying, etc.) are unnecessary and will detract from the message. Please strive to maintain the focus of the speeches on a biblical message related to the annual convention theme and not the acting abilities of the speaker.
3. Participants may receive help in the preparation of their speech. Since one of the goals of participating in Speech is to learn how to research and write speeches, the amount of adult help should decrease as the student gets older. Review of the speech and suggestions by parents or mentors is a part of the process, but the students should do progressively more work on the speeches as they grow through the program.
4. Time Limits and Penalties
 - Speeches will be three to five minutes in length for grades 3-6. Speeches will be four and one-half to six minutes in length for grades 7-12.
 - Participants going over or under the time limit will not be cautioned, but will be penalized two points for one to 30 seconds over or under; four points for 31 to 60 seconds over or under; etc.
 - Students reading entirely from a script will be penalized five points.
5. Identification of Participants
 - Participants shall not be introduced by name or by congregation.
 - Each participant will draw a number for the position in which he or she will speak. The number drawn shall be his or her identification. The participant's name, home congregation, and even geographical origins should not be known to the judges. Any self-identification by the participants, including apparel, shall be penalized three points.
6. A Finalist is defined as a student who gives his/her speech a second time during a second/final round. If a grade uses only one room, and does not break out into a second room, there will be NO FINALISTS for that grade. Only the top three students will be called by name to the stage during the awards ceremony. When two rooms are used for a grade, the top three students in each room will come together again to give their speeches a second time in the second/final round. These students are FINALISTS and should proceed to the stage when finalists for that grade are called.

7. The use of electronic handheld reading devices is allowed for the purpose of reading scripture and/or lesson notes ONLY. The sound must be turned off. The use of other modern technologies, such as, but not limited to, computers, projectors, CD players, etc. will not be allowed.
8. A written copy of the speech does NOT have to be turned in at the time the speech is presented.
9. No males will be allowed in the rooms where girls are participating in Speech. See page 95 of this rulebook for more information on this L2L policy. Filming is allowed in this event so that family members and others may view them later. L2L reserves the right to withhold permission of filming in certain cases such as sensitive debate topics where the participant is giving the negative argument. Use of camera or cell phone cannot be disruptive to the event. Filming of other participants is prohibited unless permission is granted beforehand from the parents/guardians of the participant.
10. Refer to the Evaluation Forms section of this rulebook to see the forms that will be used by the judges in this event. This will help the student in preparation for the event to see exactly what the judges will be looking for.
11. More information on this event and others, check out the videos on our website here - <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>
12. Non-Competitive Speech: Year-Round Speech provides opportunities for participants to earn these awards and are completely non-competitive. At convention, the Bartimaeus event (for special needs) is completely non-competitive. If a participant wishes to participate in a regular event but not be judged, they must still register for the Speech event as usual, but can tell the head judge in their room that they wish not to be scored. The non-scored participant will not be eligible for an award other than the "I Gave a Speech" ribbons.

Judging

1. Judges should be familiar with all of the event rules.
2. Each group must provide one judge for every three participants. (If less than three speakers, a minimum of one judge must be provided.) Please register your judges along with your participants. Please make sure to register the appropriate number of female judges for the number of girls registered for speech and the appropriate number of male judges for the number of boys registered for speech.
3. Every attempt shall be made to ensure fairness in evaluating the event.
4. Although there are definite standards of good oratory and clear principles regarding content, organization, and delivery, these are all matters of value judgment as one attempts to score another's performance.
5. Other Guidelines
 - The primary round shall not have more than 12 participants per room.
 - No spectator may enter or leave the audience while a participant is speaking. The audience should be alerted to this rule before the event begins.
 - An interval of at least one minute shall be allowed between participants.
 - The judges shall not be acquainted with any of the participants, if possible.
 - The judges must use the Official Score Sheets furnished.
 - The judges shall be at different locations in the room. They should not be recognized or introduced until after the event is completed.
 - Each judge shall render his or her final decision on all participants without consultation with other judges or any other person.
 - The results of the judges' decisions shall be kept confidential.
 - **Feedback for participants: L2L does not give judges authority to provide feedback/coaching to participants in Speech at convention because, in some cases, this could be harmful to the participant. A judge who does not know your student cannot possibly know how to adequately provide such feedback. Students who participate in Year-Round Speech are given feedback during the course of completing these events by adults at their home congregation. Students who participate in Speech at convention should be provided feedback/coaching at the local level by group leaders and/or L2L coaches from the local congregation. This allows real feedback from someone who knows the student's circumstances and can give positive feedback that would be helpful toward improvement in the skill.**
 - Applause is in order after all speakers have finished presenting their speeches. The applause simply says, "We appreciate you and the good efforts you have put forth."
 - Boys and girls speech events are held separately. No males will be allowed as spectators in the girls speech event at convention. See page 95 of this rulebook for more information on this L2L Policy. This policy does NOT restrict

a mother from bringing her infant or toddler son into a girls' event room.

6. For more information on serving as a judge, check out the informative videos on our website here - <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>

Judges' Instructions for Speech and Winners' Circle Speech

Participants may receive help in the preparation of their speech. The speech, Convention theme, and the material should receive equitable point value. The scoring has been divided into four phases.

The general intent of each phase is as follows:

PERSONAL QUALITIES – 20 POINTS

1. Poise – Does the speaker have command of self and of the materials? Is the speaker under control?
2. Personality – Does the speaker appear prideful or haughty? Humble? Is the tone warm and friendly?
3. Appearance – Is dress appropriate/modest? Is the speaker neat, clean, and well-groomed?
4. Attitude – Does the speaker act like he or she desires to be in the event, or is made to participate; command the respect of the audience; or speak “to” people or “at” people? Caution: Don't judge on the externals alone. Be careful with response based on theatrics or emotion alone.

MATERIAL ORGANIZATION – 30 POINTS

1. Biblical Truths – Is the speech scripturally sound? Are scriptures used or referenced?
2. Adherence to Theme – Does the content of the speech relate to the convention theme? (The actual theme phrase itself does not have to be used.) Or does the speaker use the theme phrase occasionally, while the speech has no relation to the theme subject?
3. Value – Is the content a relevant/important message? Is the content appropriate to the speaker's age level?
4. Logic – Does the speech present a rational thought process, sequential order to the speech?

DELIVERY AND PRESENTATION – 30 POINTS

1. Voice – Does the speaker project well? Is the speaker's volume too high or too low?
2. Enunciation – Are the speaker's words clear? Does the speaker avoid colloquial slurs (thang vs. thing)? Does the speaker emphasize proper syllables? Are d's, t's, n's, and ing's left off the end of words?
3. Pronunciation – Are the speaker's words distinct? Does the speaker observe the rules of proper grammar? Does he or she pause for commas, stop at periods, etc.?
4. Sincerity – Does the speaker feel his or her message? Is the speech personally owned? Is the speech appropriate to the age level? Does the speaker maintain eye contact with the audience?

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS – 20 POINTS

1. Appeal – Has the speaker communicated in such a way as to create understanding for his or her subject? Does the conclusion cause the audience to desire to own the message?
2. Impression – Does the speaker accomplish his or her purpose? Does the content of the message fit the presentation? (Speaker's personality, gestures, delivery, etc.)
3. Effect – Did the speaker's message and presentation move the audience to action? Did the audience form a conclusion, opinion, etc. based on the speaker's message and presentation?
4. Knowledge of Material – Did the speaker show a confidence that implied his/her in-depth knowledge of the subject of the speech? This helps to show how much the student was involved in writing the speech and/or how much the student practiced the presentation of the speech.

Awards

First, second, and third place awards will be given for each grade division of participation for both boys and girls. Any participant who is asked to give his/her speech more than once will receive a finalist award. There will be only one round (no finalists) if only one participation room is assigned and/or used. All students will receive a participation ribbon in the room when they give their speeches. They are encourage to wear the ribbons so others at convention can congratulate them on having the courage to give a speech in front of strangers at convention.