



MULTIPLE DISTRICT 202 NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND LIONS' YOUNG SPEECHMAKER CONTEST 2026

National Young Speechmaker Coordinator

E: speechmaker@lionsclubs.org.nz

THE ACTIVITY:

The purpose is to give students the opportunity to enter into a speech competition with the first three winners, receiving cash (scholarship) prizes. Contestants are required to have had their 16th birthday and not be over 21 years on the 15th of November of year of entry.

All applicants **must** be sponsored by a Leo or Lions Club and an official entry form **must** be duly completed. **Photocopy additional entry forms if needed.**

SPEECH CRITERIA- 2 Speeches: Prepared and Impromptu

Prepared: All candidates shall speak on a subject of their choice for not more than 6 minutes, and not less than 5 minutes. Contestants speaking for under 5 minutes or over 6 minutes incur time penalties.

Impromptu: Contest judges will determine a topic at the contest venue. All contestants will have the same topic. All contestants will have one minute to prepare their impromptu speech.

Anyone exceeding 2 minutes (no minimum time) will incur time penalties.

JUDGING CRITERIA: (Maximum points available)

| CRITERIA | PREPARED SPEECH | IMPROMPTU SPEECH |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Voice and Grammar | 15 points | 8 points |
| Physical Manner | 20 points | 10 points |
| Speech Structure and Development | 25 points | 12 points |
| Speech Value | 20 points | 10 points |
| Effectiveness | 20 points | 10 points |



Total Points Available - Prepared Speech = 100; Impromptu = 50

GRAND TOTAL OF POINTS AVAILABLE – 150

The judges will consider:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Voice and Grammar | Pitch, flexibility, volume, pronunciation |
| Physical Manner | Gesture, poise, assurance, enthusiasm |
| Speech Structure Material | Opening, body, close, material. |
| Speech Value | Ideas, logic, impressiveness, humour |
| Speech Effectiveness | Achievement of purpose, interest, audience reception |

- a) No profane language allowed.
- b) The timekeeper shall use a set of lights clearly visible to the speaker, but not necessarily the audience, showing a green light at 5 minutes for prepared speech (1 minute for impromptu speech), an amber light at 5½ minutes (1½ minutes for impromptu), a red light at 6 minutes (2 minutes for impromptu) which remains on until speaker concludes.
- c) There shall be three judges at all finals, and they must determine a clear first, second and third placing. In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker is used i.e., a selected person in the audience will write their opinions of the speakers, placing contestants in a definite order. This is sealed and handed to the Chairman, only to be opened if the judges' marks result in a tie.
- d) The Chairman shall allow judges at least one minute silence between each speaker.
- e) Each Lions' district throughout New Zealand shall be allowed to send the following contestants to the national final:
 - i. Districts with one to eight entries = one contestant to the national final
 - ii. Districts between nine and seventeen entries = two contestants to the national final
 - iii. Eighteen entries and over = three contestants to the national final

Obligations of Competition Entrants:

- (1) To follow guidance/instructions of the organisers at both district and final competitions.
- (2) To accept the judges' decisions as final and binding.
- (3) To allow photographs and videos of competitions to be used by Lions Clubs NZ as part of future promotions.



Entries close with Lions Clubs International District Youth Chair at a date determined by the District Youth Chair. The sponsoring Lions Club will advise entrants of this date.

Lions Young Speechmaker Contest is sponsored by the local Lions Club at the cost of \$125 per contestant.

District retains \$40, per contestant, for their District level contests and forwards \$85, per contestant, to the Multiple District to support the National Final (refer below for exceptions to this).

Please note: Where Districts only attract between 1 – 4 contestants, they collect the \$125 contestant fee from each sponsoring club and then pay a flat fee of \$425 to the Multiple District to cover their share of the Multiple District Young Speechmaker Contest costs.

Each Lions District throughout New Zealand shall be allowed to send the following contestants to the National Final:

- Districts with one to four contestants = one contestant to the national final
The District pays \$425 flat fee to Multiple District.
- Districts with five to eight contestants = one contestant to the national final
The District pays the standard \$85 per contestant fee to the Multiple District.
- Districts with nine to seventeen contestants = two contestants to the national final
The District pays the standard \$85 per contestant fee to the Multiple District.
- Districts with eighteen entries or over = three contestants to the national final
The District pays the standard \$85 per contestant fee to the Multiple District.

For more information on when and where your District Finals will be held, please contact your District Youth Chair.

Multiple District final will be held on Saturday, 1 August 2026, in the Concert Chambers, Central Hawkes Bay Municipal Theatre, 16 Kenilworth Street, Waipawa.

For further information contact your local Lions Club or MD202 Young Speechmaker Coordinator:

Email: speechmaker@lionsclubs.org.nz



SPEECHMAKER TIMING AND SO ON

Prepared Speech

Speak between 5 minutes and 6 minutes

LIGHTS

- GREEN at 5 minutes
- ORANGE at 5 minutes 30 seconds
- RED at 6 minutes

PENALTIES

- Between 5 and 6 minutes - None
- Up to 3 seconds more than 6 or less than 5 minutes – 1 point
- Up to 6 seconds more than 6 or less than 5 minutes - 2 points
- Up to 10 seconds more than 6 or less than 5 minutes - 3 points
- More than 10 seconds more than 6 minutes or less than 5 minutes additional 3 points every 10 seconds or part thereof

Impromptu Speech

Speak up to 2 minutes.

Time to prepare: 1 minute after looking at the topic. Start speech timing at the first word.

LIGHTS

- GREEN at 1 minute
- ORANGE at 1 minute 30 seconds
- RED at 2 minutes

PENALTIES

- No penalty for speaking less than 2 minutes
- 1 point for every 10 seconds or part thereof over 2 minutes



New Zealand Lions Young Speechmaker Contest, National Final

Contestant: _____

District: _____

PREPARED SPEECH

| | MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE | POINTS AWARDED | CRITERIA FOR BOTH SPEECHES |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| Voice and Grammar | 15 | | Pitch Flexibility Volume Pronunciation |
| Physical Manner | 20 | | Gesture Poise Assurance Enthusiasm |
| Speech Structure and Development | 25 | | Opening Body Closing |
| Speech Value | 20 | | Ideas Logic Impressiveness Humor |
| Effectiveness | 20 | | Achievement of Purpose Interest Audience Reception |
| TOTAL | 100 | | |

Penalty - Under 5 or over 6 minutes

- 1 point off up to 3 seconds
- 2 points off up to 6 seconds
- 3 points off up to 10 seconds
- Thereafter additional 3 points off every 10 seconds or part thereof

IMPROMPTU SPEECH

| | MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE | POINTS AWARDED |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Voice and Grammar | 8 | |
| Physical Manner | 10 | |
| Speech Structure and Development | 12 | |
| Speech Value | 10 | |
| Effectiveness | 10 | |
| TOTAL | 50 | |

PENALTY – No penalty for speaking less than two minutes **BUT** 1 point per 10 secs or part therefore over 2 minutes.

| | Points Awarded |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Prepared | |
| Impromptu | |
| TOTAL POINTS | |