

The 17th NATIONAL JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Date and Time:
Sunday, April 2, 2006 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
2. Place:
Vari Hall Lecture Theatre A, York University
4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
Contact: Norio Ota (416) 736-2100 x88750
3. Hosted by:
The Organizing Committee for the 17th National Japanese Language Speech Contest
4. Funded by:
The Japan Foundation (Tokyo and Toronto)
5. In collaboration with:
Embassy and Consulates General of Japan in Canada, York University, Organizing Committees for the Regional Japanese Speech Contests, corporations (to be listed)
6. Qualifications:
To qualify, applicants must satisfy all of the following criteria:
 - (1) Applicants must be over 18 years old and not be a high school student;
 - (2) Japanese must not be the native language of the applicant;
 - (3) Applicants must be 1st place winners of the Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced or Open (but not High School) levels at the regional Japanese Language Speech Contest hosted by the Embassy or Consulates General of Japan in Canada, held no longer than 3 months prior to the National Speech Contest; however, if a 1st place winner does not apply, the 2nd place winner may be eligible to enter upon recommendation of the Organizing Committee of the regional contest;
 - (4) Applicants who have competed in previous National Japanese Speech Contests may not participate in the same or lower level; and
 - (5) As a general rule, applicants must presently be studying Japanese at an educational institution recognized by the regional Speech Contest Organizing Committee; however, those who are deemed qualified by the regional Organizing Committee according to the following CATEGORIES and their criteria are eligible to participate.
7. Categories:
Criteria for eligibility are as follows, but if any questions arise regarding contestants' qualifications, the Embassy and Consulates General of Japan and regional and national Speech Contest Organizing Committees' decision will be final.
 - (1) Beginner Level
Applicants for this level:
 - (i) must not have a parent who is a native speaker of Japanese;
 - (ii) must have studied the Japanese language for less than 130 hours; and
 - (iii) must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total of three months from the age of six.

(2) Intermediate

Applicants for this level:

- (i) must not have a parent who is a native speaker of Japanese;
- (ii) must have studied the Japanese language for less than 350 hours; and
- (iii) must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total of six months from the age of six.

(3) Advanced

Applicants for this level:

- (i) must not have a parent who is a native speaker of Japanese;
- (ii) there is no limit on the hours of study; and
- (iii) must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total of three years from the age of six.

(4) Open

Applicants for this level:

- (i) both or either of the parents may be native speakers of Japanese as long as the applicants are studying Japanese as a foreign language;
- (ii) there is no limit on the hours of study; and
- (iii) there are no restrictions on length of stay in Japan.

** Hours of study should include those of secondary education to the present (the day of the contest).

8. Speech Titles and Content:

- (1) Contestants are free to choose the title and subject of their speeches.
- (2) Speeches must be written by the contestants themselves.
 - (i) The contestants must memorize their speeches. Reading the scripts or looking at cue cards will be subject to major demerit points.
 - (ii) Contestants must submit a copy of their speech to the Organizing Committee prior to the contest. Small disparity between the written copy and the speech will not be subject to penalty as long as the content is the same.

(3) Length of speech:

- Beginners:** 3 minutes
- Intermediate:** 4 minutes;
- Advanced & Open:** 5 minutes.

Note: Those who substantially exceed the above limits will be subject to major demerit points.

9. Judges and Criteria:

- (1) There will be a panel of seven judges composed of individuals involved in various activities relating to Japan.
- (2) Speeches will be assessed according to content, delivery, pronunciation, grammar, etc. (ref. Evaluation Sheet)

10. Certificates and Prizes: TBA

- (1) Top winners in each category will be awarded prizes and certificates. As the main objective of the National Japanese Speech Contest (Canada) lies in promoting the Japanese Language and in improving learners' skills, the grand prize should be

awarded to the top prize winner of the Beginners', Intermediate or Advanced categories. Contestants in the Open category are considered to be far more advanced than this level.

- (2) The grand prize winners in the past are not eligible for the grand prize.
- (3) Contestants who did not win a prize will receive a participation prize.