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 **Student Toolkit**

 2022-2023

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| **ATTENTION:** **Speech Trek contests may take place virtually this year.** **Please contact your local AAUW branch for more information.**  |

Contact:

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# 2022-2023 SPEECH TREK SPEECH CONTEST TOPIC

***Topic: How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?***

***Background:***

“We know that expanding the ability of all eligible citizens to vote is the central pillar…ensuring all eligible voters can cast a vote; that all lawful votes are counted; and that every voter has access to accurate information.” – *Attorney General Merrick Garland*

**Voting Rights Timeline**

* 1776 - Birth of the United States of America
* 1870 - 15th Amendment granted African American men the right to vote.
* 1920 - 19th amendment granted women the right to vote.
* 1964 - 24th amendment prohibited poll taxes.
* 1965 - Voting Rights Act prohibited racial discrimination.
* 1971 - 26th amendment lowered legal age to vote from 21 to 18.
* 2021 - More than 440 bills introduced in 49 states with provisions that restrict voting access\*
* 2022 - January 1 – May 4: six state legislatures (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and Oklahoma) passed nine “election interference” laws (defined as opening door to partisan interference in elections and/or threatening the people and processes that make elections work)\*
* 2023 - ?

Restrictive legislation can make it more difficult to cast a ballot; expansive legislation can make it easier to cast a ballot.

“There are many things that are open to debate in America,” said Attorney General Merrick Garland. “But the right of all eligible citizens to vote is not one of them. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, the right from which all other rights ultimately flow.”

 What say you? ***How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?***

 \*According to Brennan Center for Justice and its Voting Laws Roundup

# CONTEST INFORMATION

**Eligibility**: Speech Trek is open to all actively attending high school students in California.

**Deadlines**: Interested students must submit a "Student Application and Parent/Guardian Permission" notice to their local AAUW California branch per the date set by that branch (please see Page 4).

**Time Limits:**  Students are to prepare an original 5:00-6:00 minute speech, with a 30-second grace period on either side. **Speaking under 4:30 or over 6:30 will result in disqualification.**

**Presentation:** These presentations are to be original speeches. Appropriate use of **one** 4" x 6" note card is an option--prompting is not allowed.

**Judging:** During the state Semi-Final and Final competitions, judges shall use the official ballot and score each speaker in two areas: Content (includes Introduction, Organization, and Conclusion), 0-50 points; and Delivery, 0-50 points. Branches may opt to use their own Judge's ballot at the local level. Students are advised to request a copy of their branch’s Judge’s ballot.

**Prizes**: Each local branch of AAUW California will determine the level of award for their contestants.

**Branch Winner:**  Each participating branch will post the video of their winning speech online (via YouTube) by **March 1, 2023**. The state Speech Trek judges will identify five finalists, two of whom will be named as Honorable Mention. The judges will award the 4th place finalist with $250 and the 5th place finalist with $150. A new panel of three judges will view the top three finalists’ videos and determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The top three finalists’ videos will be showcased at the virtual AAUW California Annual Event on April 22, 2023. Winners will be announced at that time.

**State Finalists:** First place winner at the state contest will receive $1500; second place winner at the state contest will receive $1000; and third place winner at the state contest will receive $500. If held live, travel expenses, lodging, and meals for each finalist and her/his chaperone will be reimbursed by Speech Trek. Families should contact the Speech Trek chair for the spending limits on reimbursable expenses.

Your School Contact is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your AAUW Branch Contact is:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your Speech Contest Coach is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# STUDENT APPLICATION AND PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

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| --- |
| **Student Name** |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Email:**  | **Phone:** |
| **High School Attending:**  |
| **School Advisor/Counselor:** |

*My signature below certifies that I wish to participate in the AAUW California Speech Contest and that I have received and read the following forms:*

∎ Student Instructions ∎ Judge’s Instructions & Ballot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Student Signature:***  | ***Date:*** |

**Parent/Guardian Information and Permission:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Name:** |
| **Address:** |
| **Email:**  | **Phone:** |

*My signature below certifies that I have read the rules for the speech contest and wish for my child to participate in the AAUW California Speech Trek Contest. In addition, I understand that my child's name may be publicized locally as a contest participant, and that the speech will be recorded for higher-level competition and selection of finalists.*

*If my child is selected as the 1st place branch winner or one of three state finalists, I understand that the video of my child's competition speech may be posted online (see videos of previous speakers at: aauw-ca.org>Programs/Project>Speech Trek) or used to promote the contest in subsequent years. I understand I will need to sign an* AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY AND LIABILITY RELEASE*, prior to my child’s participation in the competition.*

***Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

Please return this application to your local branch contact: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY AND LIABILITY RELEASE

 **AAUW Speech Trek Contest**

The undersigned participant of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Speech Trek Contest and the participant’s parent or guardian hereby declare that they have read and understand all of the rules and conditions for the contest and that the undersigned has met all eligibility requirements on the date their contest entry was submitted.

The undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian represent that the speech submitted to the contest (the “Entry”) is the participant’s own original creation, and that the participant has perpetrated no fraud or deception in entering the contest or claiming any prize.

The undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian represent and warrant that neither she/he nor any parent or guardian is an employee of AAUW, or its related, parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, advertising and promotion agencies, or the panel of judges, nor is she/he or any parent or guardian connected with them in any way.

The undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian irrevocably grant to AAUW, its successors and assigns and all other persons deriving rights from them, all rights, title and interest in the undersigned's Entry in perpetuity, to print, publish, broadcast, use or modify in any manner in any media whatsoever the Entry as submitted for the contest to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

In addition, the undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian grant to AAUW, its successors and assigns and all other persons deriving rights from them, the right to use the participant’s name, likeness and/or voice and biographical information, and city of residence for promotional purposes in any medium without compensation**,** to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

The undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian hereby waive the opportunity and any right to inspect or approve any such promotion, printing, broadcast use or publication, and further release AAUW, its successors and assigns from all liability in connection with any such promotion, printing, broadcast, use or publication.

The undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian hereby release and hold harmless AAUW and its officers, directors, employees, and agents from any and all losses, claims or damages that may result, directly or indirectly, from participation in the contest or use of the prize award. The undersigned understands that any and all local, state or federal tax liability for the award will be the responsibility of the undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian.

The undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian further acknowledge and agree that the contest prize is non-transferable, and that no substitution of prizes will be allowed, except by the AAUW due to the unavailability of prizes at the time of the award.

The undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian understand that AAUW is proceeding with the award of any prize in the contest in express reliance on this release and the undersigned and the participant’s parent or guardian represent and agree that they are free to grant the rights set forth in this release.

The undersigned contest participant and the participant’s parent or guardian hereby attest that they have read and understand all the foregoing provisions of this affidavit and agree to be bound by the same.

Signature of contest participant Date

Type or print name of contest participant

Participant’s current address

Telephone number

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Signature of parent/guardian (if contest participant is under 18 years of age)

Print name of parent or guardian

Dated:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# 2022-2023 - JUDGES BALLOT

**Topic:**  How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights? 