

# Southwestern Diocese College Oratorical Contest

1. The SW Diocese College Oratorical Contest shall consist of three levels of competition: **Level One** – Local Church; **Level Two** – District Congress; **Level Three** – Diocese Congress.
2. Each level shall have a supervisory committee. The supervisory committee for level one shall be the Pastor, Sunday School Superintendent and the Holiness Youth Ministries president or a committee agreed on by these persons. The supervisory committee for levels two and three shall be the elected officers of the Sunday School and HYM department of the respective levels.
3. Contestants shall enter the contest at level one unless the supervisory committee of an alter level makes special allowances for entering the contest after level one.
4. Each level shall send not more that one contestant to the next level. The number of contestants entering level one is not limited. The number of contestants in the contest at level two is limited to the number of local churches sending one contestant each to level two. Thus, the number of contestants in level three is limited to the number of districts in the SW Diocese.
5. The Southwestern Diocese College Oratorical Contest shall be self-supporting at each level. Levels one, two, shall bear the expense involved in sending their contest winners to level three, respectively.
6. The judges for the contest shall number three or five at each level. The judges shall be selected by the supervisory committee at each level. **The judges at each level shall not be members of the Church of Christ (Holiness U.S.A. When there is only one contestant at any level, there will be at least one judge who is not a member of the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.**
7. At the time of the SW Diocese College Oratorical Contest, each contestant must:
  - a. Have written his own oration
  - b. Be under 25 years of age
  - c. Not be a first place winner in a previous SW Diocese College Oratorical Contest.
  - d. Be enrolled as a college student having not graduated more than six months prior to entering the contest.
8. The subject of each contestant’s oration will be the current theme of the National Sunday School and Holiness Youth Ministries Congress.
9. The contestants will deliver their own orations from memory at each level. The time limit for each oration will be **six to 10 minutes.**
10. Each contestant shall submit a copy of his oration to the supervisory committee at the time of the contest at each level.
11. Each contest shall be judged in the following categories:

Originality of thought.....	20 points
Orientation.....	20 points
Coherence.....	15 points
Deliberation.....	15 points
Articulation.....	15 points
Gesticulation.....	10 points
Time.....	5 points
<b>Total possible points.....</b>	<b>100 points</b>
11. Each contestant in the contest at level three (Diocese Convention) shall register with the Congress on the opening day of the Congress.
12. At level three the first winner shall receive a scholarships budgeted by the SW Diocese Congress. 2<sup>nd</sup> and third winners shall receive budgeted honorable mention awards.
13. The scholarship will be given to the winners when they have furnished proof to the Congress Executive Board that they have begun education or training on the College Level.

# Oratorical Judging Criteria

The following list contains the areas in which each Oratorical contestant will be judged:

## **Originality of Thought**

## **Orientation**

## **Coherence**

## **Deliberation**

## **Articulation**

## **Gesticulation**

## **Time**

**Originality of thought** refers to the content of the contestant's speech. The content of each contestant's speech must be on the current National Sunday School and H.Y.M. Congress theme. Orations should present ideas that are original, creative and unique.

**Orientation** refers to how well the speaker is acquainted with his or her speech. Each contestant should take time and thoroughly prepare themselves so that they can present their speeches from memory.

**Coherence** refers to the clarity of the oral presentation. All parts of the speech should flow in a clear and concise manner. The major points of a contestant's speech should be precise and not vague or ambiguous. The listener should not have difficulty following the content of the speech.

**Deliberation** refers to how well the oral presentation is perceived by the listening audience. This area covers the total speaking presentation of the contest. The speeches should be presented slowly, unhurried and steady.

**Articulation** refers to how speech sounds are produced. A good articulator speaks distinctly. The judges will be interested in how well the contestant produces his or her connected speech sounds. The judges will use Standard English pronunciation as a guide.

**Gesticulation** refers to the movement of any part of the body to express or emphasize an idea, emotion or function. Gestures should appear natural and not overemphasized or forced.

**Time** refers to the 3-5 minute allotment of time for the Junior Oratorical level as specified in the rules. Any speech that is longer or shorter than this designated time frame will be penalized with a deduction of points.