**Jacksonville Exchange Club**

**Americanism Speech Contest**

**Eligibility**

Any **junior or senior** who is regularly enrolled in a Duval County High School or comparable education program will be eligible to enter this contest. A stu­dent winner in an individual high school contest to be graduated at the mid‑term must have been declared the winner of his or her school prior to graduation.

**Speech Rules**

Each contestant may choose his or her own speech title. The speech must carry a posi­tive theme of patriotism, relate to the American way of life or encourage continuance of the American democratic form of government.

Each contestant’s speech is to be the result of his or her own composition efforts, although facts, data, and direct quotations may be secured from other sources. Choice of subject is very important. The subject should inspire the audience, while its effectiveness in presenting a patriotic theme will be considered by the judges.

Some sample topics:

* The U.S. Constitution and its system of checks and balances
* Responsibilities and privileges under America’s form of government
* The role of religious freedom in the United States
* The opportunity for change under our form of government

These topics are listed as examples; the contestant may select any topic that carries a positive theme about America. The speech given at the club level must be the same speech delivered at the district level.

Each school should select their contestant through a preliminary contest or other comparable selection process conducted by the high school’s speech department.

Each high school should have their contestant selected by **March 15, 2013** in order to be eligible to compete in the Jacksonville Exchange Club’s 2013 Americanism Speech Contest Program, on **April 4, 2013.**

**Speech Length**

Each speech should be at least five minutes in length, but no more than eight minutes in length. Each contestant will also have an additional two minutes to answer a question asked by one of the contest judges. The question will relate specifically to the contestant’s speech.

Two points will be deducted for each minute or fraction thereof that the speech is less than five minutes or exceeds eight minutes.

**Speech Contest Rules**

The speech contestant shall follow a written text that must be presented to the Exchange Club’s Speech Program Chair within seven days of the contest.

**NOTE: Each contestant will be permitted to hold and refer to notes printed on no more than two 3” x 5” index cards.** However, speech contestants may not use audio/visual equipment, printed displays, or other prompts in conjunction with their speech.

During the speech, prompting will be permitted only if a five second delay occurs and the speaker signals for assistance by glancing and nodding at the prompter. Points may be deducted for prompting.

At the club contest, contestants will not be permitted to use a lectern; however, a portable microphone may be used if the room is large enough to require a public address system and if the system has quality sound. The speaker's movements should not be restricted.

The local club contest will be held at the direction of the sponsoring club's American Citizen­ship Public Speaking Contest Chair.

The order in which the contestants will speak will be determined by lot. The program chairman shall then introduce each contestant by number in the order of drawing.

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| **Speech Contest Rules**At the speech contest, a timekeeper will be designated to record the time of each contestant’s speech. The timekeeper will notify the contestant at the end of five minutes by standing and catching the eye of the contestant. At the end of eight minutes, the timekeeper will again stand and remain standing until the contestant is finished. After all contestants have finished, the timekeeper will give his timing results to the judges, who will include in their scoring formula.After a speech is completed, one of the judges will ask each contestant a question related somehow to his speech. Time allowed for his answer should not be more than two minutes. This is mandatory for all contestants.When all contestants have finished speaking and the judges have compiled their scores, the chairman of the judges will assemble the score sheets from all judges. Totals shall then be tabulated, computations made, and a final decision rendered.The first place speech contestant in the Jacksonville Exchange Club contest will be invited to participate in the Florida District Speech Contest (state‑wide), which is held in mid-May during the Florida District Exchange Club Annual Convention. Details on the district competition will be provided by the Jacksonville Exchange Club Americanism Speech Contest Program Chair.Entering the Jacksonville Exchange Club**Americanism Speech Contest**To enter a contestant in Jacksonville Exchange Club’s 2012 Americanism Speech Contest, simply contact one of the following:Albert Marchant Jim Hurst 904.465.1452 Cell 904.318.6664 Cell Email: albert\_marchant@hotmail.com jhurstjr@bellsouth.net **2012-2013 Americanism Speech Contest****Florida District Exchange Clubs****Nomination Form****General Instructions:** This nomination form should be completed by every A.C.E. Award nominee who is competing at the club level.This form can be completed and submitted electronically or can be filled in by hand and sent via email to albert\_marchant@hotmai.com or jhurstjr@bellsouth.net

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| **Exchange Club of:** **Jacksonville, Florida** | **Albert Marchant and/or Dr. Jim Hurst Co- chair** |
| **Candidate’s Name:**  | **Date of Birth:**  |
| **Home Address:**  |
| **City:**  | **State:** | **Zip Code:**  |
| **Home Phone:** **Cell Phone:** | **School Name:**  |
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| We certify that the above-named student has participated in activities listed in this nomination and will graduate , 2013 from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***Signature of School Official Signature of Parent/Guardian Signature of Club President*** |

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