

**TEXAS FARM BUREAU  
FREE ENTERPRISE SPEECH CONTEST  
2019 RULES AND AWARDS**

**PURPOSE**

To provide selected young people an opportunity to organize and present their knowledge of Constitutional Government and the Free Enterprise System. They will also improve their ability to orally communicate the advantages of these systems and develop their abilities of leadership.

**CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY**

1. Eligibility of participating contestants is based on the following criteria:
  - a. All contestants must have attended the 2019 TFB Youth Leadership Conference.
  - b. Each contestant must have presented at least three (3) speeches concerning free enterprise during a period of time from June 17 to September 20, 2019. Speeches will be verified by the county Farm Bureau president.
  - c. Contestants must be a part of a Texas Farm Bureau member family in accordance with the Texas Farm Bureau Membership guidelines. The membership and contestant's residence must be within the district of competition. Contestants who reside outside the district where they are members shall compete in the district of their membership with the approval of the state director of the district of their membership.
2. Exceptions for participation include the following:
  - a. Texas Farm Bureau employees, dealers and/or servicing agents' families are **NOT** eligible for district or state contest participation.
  - b. County Farm Bureau employees' families **ARE** eligible to compete in district and state level contests.

**DISTRICT CONTEST REGISTRATION**

1. Contestants must complete Parts I & II of the entry form and then must request a signature from the county Farm Bureau president. Once Parts I-III are completed, the entry form must be submitted to the address, email or fax number listed on the form by September 20, 2019.
2. District contests will be conducted during the month of October. Contestants will be notified of the date, location and time for the district contest by their **County Farm Bureau**.

**STATE CONTEST REGISTRATION**

1. Once a student has been deemed the district contest winner, Part IV of the entry form must be completed by the State Director from the contestant's respective district. Once Parts I-IV are completed, the entry form must be re-submitted to the address, email or fax number listed on the form by October 18, 2019.
2. The state contest will be conducted during the month of February 2020 at the Texas Farm Bureau Presidents Conference. Contestants will be notified of the date, location and time for the state contest by the **state office**.

**CONTEST RULES**

1. Each contestant will deliver an informative speech concerning the free enterprise system. The prepared speech must be no less than six (6) minutes nor more than eight (8) minutes in length. Contestants exceeding eight minutes will be penalized 10 points per judge. Time commences when the contestant begins speaking. Contestants may use a wristwatch **ONLY** to keep record of time.
2. Students are not to identify themselves or their county during the speech.
3. Props are not allowed.
4. Dress code for district and state contests will be business professional.
5. At each district contest, one (1) student will be selected as the winner and will be eligible to compete at the state contest. One (1) student will be named the runner-up for each district in the event that the district winner cannot compete at the state contest.
6. A state winner, one (1) runner-up and (4) finalists will be selected from the field of contestants.

**TFB Free Enterprise Speech Contest  
Rules and Awards – 2019  
Page 2**

**SCORING CRITERIA**

1. The contestants will be judged on the following criteria:
  - a. Speech content and composition – Total 30 points
  - b. Verbal Communication – Total 40 points
  - c. Non-verbal Communication – Total 30 points
2. See attached scoring rubric for more specific criteria on each scoring factor

**AWARDS**

1. District Winners
  - a. Texas Farm Bureau will pay mileage or public transportation, meals and lodging for each district winner and one **parental** escort to the Texas Farm Bureau Presidents Conference in February 2020.
  - b. Each district winner will be awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship by Texas Farm Bureau. The scholarship certificate will be mailed to all winners following the state contest.
  - c. The district winner must compete in the state contest in order to receive the district level scholarship. Exceptions to this rule include emergencies, such as illness (verified by a physician) or act of God. In the event the district winner is unable to compete in the state contest (other than for above reasons), the district runner-up will become the district winner with all privileges and awards.
2. State Winners
  - a. The college scholarship for the state finalists will be increased to the amount listed. The amount is determined by their placing in the finals.

Four (4) finalists .....	\$2,000 each
Runner-up.....	\$3,000
Winner.....	\$6,000
  - b. These scholarships are not in addition to the \$1,500 district scholarship. Scholarships for the Runner-up, Winner and Four finalists are increased to the amount specified.
  - c. Four finalists, one winner and one runner-up will receive a four-day, three-night expense paid trip to Washington, D. C. to visit with elected officials, witness the legislative body in session and visit historical sights. Chaperones will be provided by Texas Farm Bureau. The trip will occur during the summer following the state contest.
    - i. In the event that a contestant cannot attend, the next alternate will be invited to take his/her place on the trip.
  - d. Contestants winning more than one Texas Farm Bureau Scholarship will receive all scholarships earned.
  - e. Contestants winning scholarships will not receive cash. The scholarship is payable directly to the college or university in two (2) or more payments. The certificates (scholarships) will be mailed to all winners following the state contest. The scholarship certificate must be signed and returned to Texas Farm Bureau in order for the award to be validated.