

Buc Days Public Speaking Competition

2025 Rules & Guidelines

Superintendent – Warner Seidel

General Information

May 7, 2025 Public Speaking

Check In Begins	3:30pm
Competition Begins	4:00pm
Preliminary Rounds	4:00pm-7:00pm
Senior Division Final Round	7:00pm
Award Ceremony	7:30pm

Buc Days Public Speaking Competition Rules of Play

1. **Participation:** The Buc Days Public Speaking Competition will be divided into three age divisions.
 - a. Junior Division (3rd, 4th, 5th graders only)
 - i. 8 years of age (in addition to being in the 3rd grade) and not over 10 years of age as of August 15th, 2024.
 - b. Intermediate Division (6th, 7th, and 8th graders only)
 - i. 10 years of age (in addition to being in the 6th grade) and not over 14 years of age as of August 15th, 2024.
 - c. Senior Division (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders only)
 - i. 14 years of age (in addition to being in the 9th grade) and not over 18 years of age as of August 15th, 2024.
2. **Eligibility:** Participation in the Buc Days Public Speaking Competition is limited to TX resident students, who are enrolled in a Texas Youth Development program. Exhibitors must be United States citizens and possess a valid social security number to be eligible for participation in the event. Exhibitors must be enrolled in, and attending, public or private elementary or secondary schools in TX. Students must be between the ages of 8 (in addition to being in the 3rd grade) and 18 on or before August 15th, 2024. Each 4-H, FFA, and FCCLA member must be in good standing with its state and National affiliates. Involvement in international or national events does NOT disqualify otherwise eligible participants.
3. **Ineligible Exhibitors:** Participants are eligible by the Buccaneer Commission for participation in the event at the time that entries are received. Any advisor who has a member who becomes ineligible to participate, for any reason, must provide written and signed notification to the appropriate Superintendent at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of any activity in which the ineligible exhibitor was to participate. If an exhibitor is determined ineligible, then the entry is ineligible.
 - a. Foreign Exchange Students: Non-United States citizens and Foreign Exchange students are ineligible to compete in the Buc Days Public Speaking Competition. All contestants must be United States citizens and possess a valid social security number to be eligible for participation in the event.
4. **Registration:** Registration will be completed through our website at <https://bucdays.com/public-speaking-competition/>. Registration will be open in February of 2025. Registration will close when the event has reached capacity of 20 participants per division. Each participant must pay a mandatory \$30 fee to participate in this competition.
5. **Exhibitor Code of Ethics:** The Buc Days Public Speaking Competition is a family-friendly event. As such, an individuals' conduct as an exhibitor or patron should be exemplary, and violators are subject to disqualification or removal from Buc Days grounds. For more information on the Buc Days festival/ American Bank Center Exhibit Hall rules and regulations, please go to 'www.americanbankcenter.com/visitors-guide/' or '<https://bucdays.com/festival-grounds/>'.
6. **Photographs:** All photographs taken by the official photographer become property of the Buccaneer Commission. Unofficial (i.e. – personal) photographs may not be published without the written approval of Management. Contestants wishing to purchase photographs must contact the official photographer.

- a. Commercial photography and filming are often conducted at the Buccaneer Commission. You may be depicted in photographs or video recordings or video recordings of any Buccaneer Commission event, and by entering the grounds/ American Bank Center and/ or competitive events associated with the Buccaneer Commission, you consent to the use of any depictions in connection with advertising, news reporting, public relations, webcasts or other broadcasts, or any other activities relating to the Buccaneer Commission, and you further release and waive all claims for compensation and any rights of review and approval, copyright, and right of publicity with respect to thereto.
7. **Electronic Devices:** No electronic devices (except medically required) are allowed in contest. This includes cell phones, smart watches, or other communication devices.

Buc Days Public Speaking Competition Format

1. **Contest Format:** A panel of judges will evaluate and score each presentation. Contestants will compete in the Junior (3rd to 5th grade), Intermediate (6th to 8th grade) or Senior (9th to 12th grade) divisions. Contestants will be placed in alphabetical order by last name to draw speaking order prior to the start of the contest. Contestants will not be judged by topic. Contestants are permitted to use notes but excessive reference to notes may result in point deductions by the judge(s). The use of any additional items or props of any kind will lead to disqualification.
2. **Speech Topics:** Contestants will present speeches composed of original material and may not repeat a speech previously used in this contest. Contestants are free to choose their subject matter, but topics should pertain to the agriculture industry. The presentation should serve to persuade or educate others regarding a particular issue or concern. If sources of information are used in the speech the source should be cited. The speaker must give credit when he/she quotes the words or writings of another individual.
 - a. **Animal Science:** Any current or future subject that deals with any aspects of the dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, goat, swine, beef or specialty animal industries.
 - b. **Plant Science:** Any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the horticulture and/or agronomy industries including floriculture, fruit and/or vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production or specialty crop production.
 - c. **Natural Resources:** Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air, water quality, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling or energy environmental issues.
 - d. **Agricultural Policy:** Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as domestic farm issues, international trade, international competition, rural economic development, legal issues, animal right, subsidies or price supports.
 - e. **Industry In The Coastal Bend:** Economic effects/ benefits industry has on the Coastal Bend citizens/ agriculture.
3. **Dress Attire:** Contestants should wear presentable business attire. Official 4-H or FFA attire is also allowed.
4. **Time:** Each speech shall be a minimum of five (5) minutes in length and a maximum of eight (8) minutes. Judges may stop presenters at ten (10) minutes if they are still speaking. Time point deductions will apply as follows:
 - a. Under five (5) minutes – one point per ten (10) seconds
 - b. Over eight minutes – one point per ten (10) seconds
 - c. Junior contestants will be given a discrete, two-minute warning by the timekeeper prior to the eight-minute deadline
5. **Question and Answer Period:** A three (3) minute question and answer period will follow each speech. At the end of three minutes, time will be called, and all questioning will end.
6. **Awards:** Contestants must be present to receive their awards. Any remaining awards will not be mailed following the competition. Once announced, all contest results are final. A total of \$1,500 in prize money will be awarded throughout the event.
 - a. A total of \$400 will be awarded to the top three participants in the Junior Division (3rd, 4th, and 5th graders).
 - i. Grand Champion- \$200

- ii. Reserve Grand Champion- \$125
 - iii. 3rd place- \$75
- b. A total of \$400 will be awarded to the top three participants in the Intermediate Division (6th, 7th, and 8th graders).
 - i. Grand Champion- \$200
 - ii. Reserve Grand Champion- \$125
 - iii. 3rd place- \$75
- c. A total of \$700 will be awarded to the top three participants in the Senior Division (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders). The final three contestants in the Senior Division will give their speech again on the Community Stage and will be placed following that presentation.
 - i. Grand Champion- \$400
 - ii. Reserve Grand Champion- \$200
 - iii. 3rd place- \$100