2027 Florida State Fair Creative Living Competitions

Speech
Contest Handbook
YOUTH



IMPORTANT DATES

Entry Deadline: December 11, 2026

ENTRY FEE

Competition is FREE to Enter.

ELIGIBILITY

The Florida State Fair Speech contest is open to Florida residents in grades 1 – 12, as of August 1, 2026.

Entries will be broken up in to 3 age divisions; Ages 6-10, Ages 11-13 & Ages 14-18.

GUIDELINES

- The speech must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- The speech must not have been created using generative artificial intelligence. AI-assisted writing, in whole or in part, is not permitted.
- **The Florida State Fair is a family-friendly event. Entries may not contain content that includes hate speech, discriminatory messages, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, explicit material, political campaigning or figures, or other content deemed inappropriate or offensive by the Fair. Entries that violate this rule may be disqualified and removed from exhibition at the discretion of the Fair.**
- Speech must follow the topic specified. This year's topic is: **"What role does the Florida State Fair play in educating the public about Florida agriculture, and how does that impact future generations?"**
- Speech must be a minimum of 2 minutes but no more than 5 minutes.
- Each youth exhibitor will receive (2) tickets to the Florida State Fair, February 4-15, 2027.
- Top 3 exhibitors in each age group will be required to come to the 2027 Florida State Fair to give their speech to determine placings.
- The student must be visible and audible throughout the recording.
- The speech must be delivered by the student submitting the entry.
- The video must be accessible to Judges through the submitted link.
- The video must show the complete speech without edits.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter, email a YouTube link of to of you delivering your speech to CreativeLiving@FloridaStateFair.com along with the following information:

- Full Name
- Age/Birth date
- Address

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Depth: *How thoroughly the student addresses the topic.*
- Structure: *Organization, introduction, supporting points and conclusion.*
- Impact: *How effectively the speech communicates its message and engages the audience.*
- Delivery: *Clarity, pacing, volume and confidence.*

CONTEST TIMELINE

- Entries Must be received by December 11, 2026
- Finalists and participants will be notified by January 8, 2027.
- An email will be sent to Speech Contest finalists to provide additional details when speeches are to be given in person.

GENERAL RULES

PREMIUM PAYMENTS

Prizes will be awarded based on the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Prize checks will be sent after the fair ends and are void 6 months after the date on the check. No replacement checks will be issued after that, so please cash them promptly.**

AWARD PREMIUMS

First Place - State Fair Ribbon **$150**
Second Place - State Fair Ribbon **$125**
Third Place - State Fair Ribbon **$100**

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded at the discretion of the judge(s)