



2026 SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT LEAFLET

A ministry of Sunday School & Discipleship provided by gifts of Alabama Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

GREEN CYCLE

WHAT IS THE YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT?

The Youth Speakers' Tournament is a ministry for youth in grades 10-12 and is designed to . . .

- Encourage growth toward Christ likeness.
- Challenge youth to seriously think about their commitment to Christ.
- Help teenagers express their faith verbally.
- Stimulate spiritual growth as teenagers engage in research, study, prayer, preparation and practice of a speech.
- Help youth develop poise and confidence.
- Help teenagers develop the skills to articulate truth in a way that people will hear and understand.
- Help youth be ready to stand for Christ in their churches, at school, in their work places, and in their communities.

If a church does not have a discipleship ministry, students may participate in the tournament with the help of an adult church member. Speakers in the tournament are judged on composition and delivery of their speeches. This newsletter will help leaders and youth as speeches are prepared.

Youth Speakers Tournament demands serious time and effort, but the pay-off is tremendous! It is exciting to watch the spiritual growth that occurs as youth go through the process of researching, studying, and preparing his/her speech. Encourage youth to pray for God's guidance as they choose a speech topic and consider how to develop it.

Today's speakers will be more prepared to stand for Christ and their Christian beliefs. Evidence of this will be seen as they interact with others at church, at school, at work, and in their communities. What a joy it is to see teenagers develop the skills and have the desire to share their faith with others in a way that people can hear and understand!

JUDGING THE YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

There should be three judges for the Youth Speakers Tournament. Content/composition and delivery are the two categories used by the judges as a basis for judging the speakers. Participants will be scored on the following 10 areas on a scale of **1 to 10: (2=poor; 10=excellent)**. Participants will be penalized 2 points per 10 seconds for failure to stay within time allotment. You may obtain a copy of the score sheet by visiting our website www.alsbom.org/bibledrill or by calling 1-800-264-1225 ext. 255 or 334-613-2255. Score sheets may be duplicated as needed.

CONTENT/COMPOSITION (50%)

1. **Originality/Related to Subject.** Does the speech give evidence of original and creative thinking by the speaker? Does the speech deal with the subject? Does the content connect with the title?
2. **Organization/Logical Sequence.** Does the speech flow logically and are ideas and information properly sequenced? Is the speech's core belief or idea evident to the audience?
3. **Structure/Grammar.** Does the speech use complete sentences? Are the sentences grammatically correct? Are the words spelled correctly? Are paragraphs used properly?
4. **Purpose Accomplished.** Does the speech do what it intended to do as evidenced by the subject and content?
5. **Choice of Resources/Credit for Quotations with Bibliography Required.** Are a variety of scripture and good sources used? Do the resources used clearly help the audience understand the topic and speaker's point? Do the resources reflect an adequate understanding of the various facets of the subject? Is proper credit given to scripture and resources used?

DELIVERY (50%)

1. **Eye Contact with Audience.** Does the speaker maintain good eye contact with the audience? Does the speaker look at persons in all parts of the audience?
2. **Articulate/Expressive Communication.** Does the speaker use good vocal energy and enunciate clearly? Does the speaker speak with passion without being overly emotional? Does the speaker speak loudly enough for everyone in the audience to hear clearly?
3. **Poise/Confidence.** Does the speaker appear to be relaxed and in control? Does the speaker appear to believe in himself and his message? Does the speaker appear to be confident?
4. **Posture/Movement/Gesturing.** Does the speaker demonstrate good posture and appropriate body movement? Does the speaker use effective hand and arm gestures? Does the speaker smile and use appropriate facial gestures?
5. **Delivered from Memory.** Does the speaker rely on notes? Does the speaker require prompting?

2026 SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT LEAFLET

GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Preparing the Speech

- ◆ Each speaker must compose his/her own speech. Research should include the Bible and other sources. With proper credit, it is permissible to use quotations from any source. In the written speech, quoted material should be included in a "Works Cited" page. When the speech is delivered, the speaker should indicate that the material used is being quoted, but he is not required to give the complete source of the quotation.
- ◆ Each speaker is required to present a typed, **double-spaced** manuscript of his speech to the Bible Drill caller of each regional tournament.
- ◆ Each speaker will have four to six minutes. Speeches shorter or longer will be penalized two points per 10 seconds (up to 10 points) for failure to stay within the time allotment.
- ◆ Speakers will be judged on the basis of 100 points. Content/composition will count 50 percent, and delivery will count 50 percent.
- ◆ A speaker is only disqualified for major reasons, such as not being of the eligible age, using a speech that is not his own, or not being a member of a Southern Baptist Church.
- ◆ Using notes is discouraged and will be taken into consideration by the judges.

Helpful Hints During Preparation

- ◆ Well in advance, thoughtfully choose your subject. Consider the audience. Will they be interested in the subject? What will they know about the subject? What will be their attitude toward the subject?
- ◆ Observe and talk with others.
- ◆ Consult your church, school, and public libraries for resource material. Several resources should be used.
- ◆ Determine your aim or objective. Do you want to interest, inform, convince, or persuade? Select words that express exactly what you mean. Include quotations, questions, illustrations, comparisons, and contrasts.
- ◆ Read extensively before you begin the construction of your speech. Take notes on what you read. (**Caution:** *Think about the subject before you start reading, or you will be overwhelmed with more ideas than you can use.*)
- ◆ In one sentence, state the main purpose or idea.
- ◆ Outline your speech. Ask yourself questions about the subject. These questions could form the outline of your speech. Consider the introduction, the body, and the conclusion.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPEECH

1. Get plenty of rest the night before the speech.
2. Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration, and eat a nutritious meal that day.
3. Assume a relaxed, but upright posture and use only hand gestures and facial expressions which are natural.
4. Appear calm and relaxed. Avoid nervous Mannerisms such as hands in pockets, twisting hands, shifting weight from one foot to the other, and so forth.
5. Maintain eye contact with the audience.
6. Speak loudly enough for the audience to hear you.
7. Speak slowly enough so the audience can comfortably comprehend your speech.
8. Articulate each word clearly, but don't over enunciate where words come out sounding odd.
9. Present the speech fluently and confidently.
10. Enjoy yourself! This is a special time for you to share what God has put on your heart.

2026 ALABAMA SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT LEAFLET

LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT IN THE YOUTH SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT

CHURCH TOURNAMENT

It is suggested that each church send the two participants with the highest scores to participate in the Associational Tournament.

ASSOCIATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Each Association may send the two speakers with the highest scores to participate in the Regional Tournament.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT - Pre-registration is required for this tournament. You may register at www.alsbom.org/bibledrillregistration. The deadline to register will be April 13, 2026.

The youth who are selected to participate in the Regional Tournament may participate in any Regional Tournament. Two speakers from each of the Regional Tournaments will advance to the State Tournament.

STATE TOURNAMENT

All participants who advance to the state tournament must be members of a cooperating Alabama Baptist Church.

NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The state winner will represent Alabama at the NIT. Information concerning the NIT will be handed out at the end of the State Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament.

Individuals are able to participate at the NIT ONCE in each category (Youth, High School, Speaker). No individual may return to compete in NIT at the same level (Youth, High School, Speaker).

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



REGIONAL AND STATE AWARDS:

Two Regional winners will advance to the State Speakers' Tournament. Each Regional winner will receive a trophy.

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS:

The participant with the highest score in the State Alabama Speakers' Tournament will receive a scholarship. This scholarship is good only at the following participating Alabama Baptist Institutes: University of Mobile and Samford University.

In the event the winner of the state scholarship delays entry to the college of choice by attending another institution initially (ex. may elect to attend a junior college), the scholarship will be awarded at the time of entry to the college of choice and will be for the remainder of the four-year award.

If a student wishes to delay entry, he/she must notify the college in writing of the delay and of the expected entry or the scholarship will be forfeited.

2026 ALABAMA SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT LEAFLET

2025 Speakers' Tournament Winners



2nd Place Winner
Ruth Anne Mitchell

Calvary BC
Enterprise

1st Place Winner
Elizabeth Oswald

Dawson Memorial BC
Birmingham

2026 TOURNAMENT TOPICS

- ♦ *The World Is Not Enough*
- ♦ *Keep Sharing the Good News*
- ♦ *Give All Your Worries to the Lord*
- ♦ *For Such a Time as This*
- ♦ *Certainties in an Uncertain World*
- ♦ *Is God Calling Me?*
- ♦ *One God or Many Gods?*
- ♦ *How Do I Know the Bible Is True?*
- ♦ *Games Christians Play*
- ♦ *Is Church Really Important?*

2026 SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT DATES & LOCATIONS

Your church may participate at any of the following drill sites.

Pre-registration is required online at www.alsbom.org/bibledrillregistration by April 13, 2026.

Regional & State Dates and Locations - TBD

CHECK-IN TIMES FOR REGIONAL DRILLS:

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday Drills

Check-in begins at 3:30 p.m.
Drills will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Drills

Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m.
Drills will begin at 2:00 p.m.