

The South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education N.J. Brockman Oratorical Contest Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education Annual N. J. Brockman Oratorical Contest. This event takes place at the One-Day Session that convenes in November. The Congress theme for the year is posted on the website and is updated after the annual session. Youth participants must speak on the Congress theme. The finalist representing your association should register online at www.sccongress.org using the form provided. You will receive registration confirmation from the Director of the State Oratorical Contest confirming your plans to participate.

The contest guidelines and instructions are provided for your convenience. They are for youth who are members of the churches affiliated with the Congress in a Christian, educational, competitive experience in oratory when the Congress convenes. We encourage participation from each registered association.

I. Plans for Preliminary Contestants

The winner from each associational congress competition will be sent to the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education's One-Day Session in November to compete in the State Contest. Each associational congress must see to it that its winner's name is submitted via the Congress website's **On-Line Oratorical Registration**, at least **two weeks** before the contest. The On-line Oratorical Registration is **preferred**. However, the hard copy of the Oratorical Registration form is also available on the website IF a manual registration is more convenient.

II. Requirements for Eligibility

- A. The contestant's church and congress must be registered in the South Carolina Congress of Christian Education.
- B. Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh graders currently enrolled in secondary schools are eligible.
- C. Winners in grades 7-10 are eligible to compete twice in the N. J. Brockman Oratorical Contest. This ruling specifically stipulates that winners in grades 7-10 may participate again in the contest, but only one time after they have won initially. Winners in grade 11 are not eligible to participate again in the N.J. Brockman Oratorical Contest, after having won at the state level. All contestants, however, are highly encouraged to maintain their involvement in oratory by participating in the C. O. Jackson Oratorical Contest held at the State Congress in July and, hence, adhere to its guidelines.
- D. A contestant must have won his/ her Associational Congress contest to be eligible to compete in the State Contest. A State Elimination will be held in the event that there are more than eight contestants. The eight contestants earning the highest points will be selected to compete in the State Finals, which will be held on the same day.
- E. The Contestant's speech must show creativity and originality and pertain to the theme of the Congress.
- F. At least five days before the contest, ONE typewritten copy of each contestant's speech must be submitted online in the N. J. Brockman Oratorical Speech repository. Contestants may also email the speech to the State Director if that is more convenient. Preferably, speeches are sent the same time the Contestant registers.

III. Topics for Speeches

Generally, all Contestants at the local, associational, and state levels must adhere to the most updated Congress theme, which is generally always the theme established in July during the annual session. Contestants must incorporate use of the exact words of the Congress theme and/or emphasis; however, it is also permissible to additionally use a sub-topic that is closely related to the theme. A contestant will be disqualified if he/she speaks on a non-Christian topic or on one that is totally unrelated to the theme. Specifically, each topic must be related to Christian education.

IV. Time Limit

- A. Each contestant should limit his or her speech to a minimum of three minutes (or fractions thereof) and to a maximum of five minutes. If a Contestant speaks fewer than three minutes or more than five minutes, he or she will be penalized by the judges. Ten points will be subtracted from the

- Contestant's total score for each minute he or she speaks under or over time.
- B. Timekeeping Judges will time the presentations.

V. Judges

- A. The contest will be judged by a group of five to seven judges. A panel consisting of three to five persons will serve as Content Judges. The Content Judges will be responsible for rating the participants' overall performance. A panel of a maximum of two persons will serve as Timekeeping Judges. The Timekeeping Judges will be responsible for the assessment of penalties and for timing the presentation.
- B. The judges will be persons professionally trained and knowledgeable in speech, oratory, composition, and the performing arts, and persons who are involved in Christian Education.
- C. A panel of a maximum of two persons will serve as Statistician Judges. The Statistician Judges will tally the score sheets to determine the final ratings of the Contestants.
- D. The maximum number of points a contestant can earn is 110. He or she cannot receive more than 10 points for each item on which the judge or rater evaluates him or her.
- E. Each Contestant will be introduced according to number. The Contestants should not identify himself/herself nor give any indication of his/her church nor locale.
- F. There will be no ties. In the event of a tie, the judges will make a final decision.

VI. Evaluations and Selection of Winners

- A. Each Contestant will receive a participation award.
- B. Three Contestants will be chosen as winners and will be awarded scholarships in the form of gift cards. The first place winner will receive a \$200 gift card; the second place winner will receive a \$175 gift card; and, the third place winner will receive a \$150 gift card.