

**Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association**  
**2025 PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

**ENTRY FORM \$20.00**

**Entry Deadline: Noon on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Fair Office**  
**Contest held on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, in conjunction with the Talent Show**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Age Division:  Junior  Intermediate  Senior (*See Rules for Age Ranges*)

Parent/Guardian's Names \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please list as you would like printed in programs and papers)**

Phone #: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Examples: Food Safety, Proper Showing Techniques for Beef Cattle, Equine Diseases)*

\*\*\*\*\*

I \_\_\_\_\_, consent to my child

\_\_\_\_\_ entering the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association's Public Speaking Contest. I authorize the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association to release any of the above information to the press. I understand that the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association will not supervise or be responsible for my child during contest activities and that it is my responsibility to supervise my child at all times and do hereby knowingly and voluntarily release the above referenced Event, the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association, Board of Directors, members, judges, volunteers and employees of the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association, Matagorda County and any other person, firm or individual charged and chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns from and against any and all claims, lawsuits, demands, damages, loss of services, actions and causes of action based upon, arising out of, such event(s) or in any way related to any honors, awards, or rights sought by me as a participant in the Matagorda County Fair Association the conduct of business threat thereat, the ownership and possession of any honors, awards, or rights, thereby, any negligent act, act of misfeasance of nonfeasance by the Matagorda County Fair Association with any honors, awards, and rights, bestowed at said events. Further, I do hereby agree to exonerate, hold harmless, and indemnify such event(s) past, present or future in connection with such honors, awards, and rights. Such indemnification to include all fees (including reasonable attorney's fee), costs and other expenses reasonably incurred by or on behalf of the above referenced event(s) and investigation of or defense against any such claims, lawsuits, demands, actions, or causes of actions. I have had a full and adequate opportunity to be thoroughly advised of the terms and conditions of this release and indemnity agreement by counsel of my own choosing. I have also been afforded the opportunity to ask all questions that I have concerning this document and its execution by me. I do fully understand the terms of this agreement and do intentionally and voluntarily agree to same.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Legal Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

# **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

## **RULES**

**Deadline: Thursday, February 5, 2025, 12:00pm NOON**

**Entry Fee-\$20.00**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

1. The Public Speaking Contest is open to any contestant who is a citizen of the United States, a current resident of Matagorda County or attends home school, private school, or public school for the current year in Matagorda County.
2. Contestants will be divided into three categories. The Senior Division will consist of contestant's grades 9-12, the Intermediate Division will consist of contestant's grades 6-8, and the Junior Division will consist of contestant's grade 3-5.
3. Previous winners may continue to compete in their same age division for as long as they are eligible by age for that division.

### **SUBJECT MATTER**

1. Contestants are free to choose their subject matter if it relates to any agricultural topic, anything that can be connected to agriculture and its way of life, or anything relating to the Fair or subjects that can be found at the Fair.
2. Contestants must present speeches composed of original material. If other sources of information are used in preparing the speech, the contestant should give source credit in the speech.
3. A contestant MAY NOT repeat a speech used previously in this contest.

### **TIME LIMIT**

1. Each speech shall be a minimum of four (4) minutes and a maximum of seven (7) minutes in length. Speeches that are under four (4) minutes or over seven (7) minutes in length will be deducted ten (10) points per minute, with a maximum of twenty (20) points deducted.
2. The judging committee will be allowed two (2) minutes to ask questions of the intermediate participants and five (5) minutes to ask questions of the senior participants.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Judges will be selected from out of the county and will have knowledge on judging public speaking.
2. Contestants from each division will be drawn prior to contest by public speaking committee for speaking order.
3. Contestants will be permitted to use notes, but excessive reference to notes may result in point deductions by the judges.
4. No props, or visual aids, music, etc. will be permitted.
5. A designated timekeeper will record time used by each contestant, noting under time and overtime.
6. Each judge will be allowed to ask questions to Intermediate and Senior Participants which must pertain to the contestant's speech. Each contestant will be judged on his or her ability to answer the questions.
7. Buckles will be awarded to the top one (1) Junior, top one (1) Intermediate, and top one (1) Senior Public Speaking contestants.
8. You may request a copy of your scorecard. These copies will be available two (2) weeks after the Fair and upon a written request to the Fair Office.
9. **ENTRY DEADLINE: To Fair Office by 12:00 pm, NOON, on February 5, 2025.**
10. Contest will be held **Sunday, February 23, 2025,**
11. All protests concerning Matagorda County Fair Entries must be submitted prior to judging and be accompanied by a \$150 cash deposit. The deposit will be returned ONLY if the protest is upheld. Once judging has commenced NO protests will be accepted. The Judges decision is final and not subject for protest. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation. The protest will be reviewed by at least (5) members of the Fair Board. The ruling of the Fair Board Directors will be final. Both sides of the protest must be present at the time of the protest. There will be no anonymous protests accepted. Every exhibitor, in consideration of his/her entry being accepted by the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association, agrees that the conclusion reached by the Fair Board Directors shall be final, without any recourse against the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association, Board of Directors, Division Chairman, Superintendent, or Committeemen.