

## TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST OPENING CEREMONY SCRIPTS

*The event script starts here with the Sergeant at Arms.*

### 1. Call to Order

#### **Sergeant at Arms:**

"Good [morning/afternoon/evening], everyone, and welcome to the [Club/Area/Division/District] Toastmasters International Speech Contest. My name is [Name], and I am honored to serve as your Sergeant at Arms today.

{OPTIONAL} Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance."

(Lead the audience in the **Pledge of Allegiance**, if applicable.)

#### **Sergeant at Arms:**

{OPTIONAL} "Thank you. Please remain standing for the invocation."

(Deliver the **Invocation**, or invite a designated individual to deliver it.)

#### **Sergeant at Arms:**

"Please be seated.

I will now read the Toastmasters International Mission Statement:

*'We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.'*

I am honored to introduce our Contest Chair, [Contest Chair's Name]."

(Exit the stage and pass control to the Contest Chair.)

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### 2. Contest Chair Welcome and Opening Remarks

#### **Contest Chair:**

"Thank you, [Sergeant at Arms Name].

"Good [morning/afternoon/evening], everyone! Welcome to the [Club/Area/Division/District] International Speech Contest, where we witness our fellow Toastmasters in action. Today's contest is a journey, not just for our speakers but for all of us.

Every speech we hear will be a step towards the World Championship of Public Speaking. But beyond the trophies and titles, this journey is about growth—pushing boundaries, inspiring others, and becoming the best versions of ourselves. Let's make this event one to remember by showing our enthusiasm and encouragement for every contestant who steps up today!"

We're excited to have you here to celebrate the art of public speaking and witness the incredible talent, dedication, and courage of our contestants. Thank you for joining us, and let's enjoy this inspiring event together!"

**Contest Chair:**

"I have a few brief announcements before we proceed:

1. Please ensure that all cell phones and electronic devices are silent.
2. Flash photography is not allowed during the speeches, but photo opportunities will be afterward. (No recording allowed except at the District Speech Contest)
3. The Sergeant at Arms will secure the doors once the contest begins. Please avoid entering or exiting the room during speeches to minimize distractions.

Please let me know if there is any club business to address, and we can proceed quickly before transitioning to the contest."

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**3. Introducing the Contest Master** (For use when the Contest Master isn't the Contest Chair)

**Contest Chair:**

"It is now my privilege to introduce our Contest Master for today's International Speech Contest. [Name] is a dedicated Toastmaster with [# years of Toastmasters International membership, leadership roles, or contest experience]. Please join me in welcoming [Contest Master's Name]!"

(Exit the stage and pass control to the Contest Master.)

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*(Go next to the Toastmasters International Speech Contest Master Script)*