

# TEXAS FOREIGN LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM

## Information and Event Rules (last modified 1/17/14)

### I. General Information

#### A. Entry Fee

Entry fee is \$6.00 per student (not per event).

#### B. Enrollment

1. Public middle schools may participate with the high schools in their district in all NET- OLE languages. No more than two entries will be allowed per *event* per *district*. Therefore, middle schools will **not** be considered independent from the high schools in their district in the NET-OLE competition.
2. Students in private schools, grades seven to twelve, are eligible to participate in French and German events.
3. Students must be currently enrolled in a course in the school in the language in which they are competing.
4. Students must compete on their level of study or higher.

#### C. Membership Dues

Each teacher who participates must send membership dues of \$20.00 along with the membership form by January 10<sup>th</sup> of each year. Late dues are \$25.00. ***No late membership enrollments are accepted after February 28<sup>th</sup>.***

#### D. Judges

1. Participating teachers are expected to serve as judges or monitors.
2. Each teacher should provide at least two additional qualified adult judges.

## **E. Lunch**

Teachers and judges will receive a food voucher for the Food Court Located downstairs in the SRSC (Sam Rayburn Student Center). It is good for anything and everything you can eat within the Food Court, or you may ask for a take-out box and cup. Students must pay for their own for lunch.

## **F. Student Behavior**

1. Students who are not competing should remain on the first floor until the time of their competition.
2. Students are to use the stairs unless physically challenged.
3. Food or drink should remain downstairs only.
4. Students should be quiet and orderly in contest areas.
5. Students must make sure that they clean up after themselves.
6. Students should cooperate with adults instantly. Failure to do so could result in the teacher asking for their name badge, thus removing them from being able to compete, and reporting their behavior to their teacher.
7. Student attire and demeanor should reflect high school policies, but may not reflect the school or town name. This will result in disqualification.

## **G. Levels of Competition**

### **1. All Languages**

- a. Students must be registered for the appropriate level of study.
- b. Students may not compete below their current level of study.

c. Levels of competition:

- i. **Beginner**: first year of study
- ii. **Intermediate**: second year of study
- iii. **Advanced**: third & fourth year of study
- iv. **Advantaged**: fifth year and up/ prior or additional experience outside of classroom

## 2. Spanish Only

- a. An **advantaged speaker** is defined as having any experience in the target language outside of the classroom with the exception of trips.
- b. A bilingual speaker is defined as anyone who is equally proficient in English and the target language.
- c. A heritage speaker is defined as someone who was born and educated in a country where the target language is spoken by caretakers.
- d. Material for these students will be selected by contest directors. Events will be scheduled for Advantaged and Bilingual only if requested by three or more schools.

## H. Rating Sheets

- 1. All competitors should submit two (2) copies of current year rating sheets to the judges.
- 2. Rating sheets must be completely filled out or students will be disqualified prior to event. School numbers are provided to teachers prior to the competition.
- 3. The school name should NOT appear on the rating sheets or on other performance materials or the student will be disqualified.

4. Rating sheets will not be provided at the competition. Students without rating sheets will not be allowed to compete.
5. Students' handwritings must be legible on rating sheets or they will be disqualified.

## **I. Materials**

1. Materials for all languages are available online.
2. Copies of materials for memorized poetry, memorized prose, and sight-reading poetry will be provided for the judges.
3. Competitors in prepared speech, drama, and vocal must submit two (2) copies of their material to the judges with their names and school numbers written on the material.
4. Rating sheets will not be provided at the competition. Students without rating sheets will not be allowed to compete.
5. Students' handwritings must be legible on rating sheets or they will be disqualified.

## **J. Nametags**

1. Participating students must wear a nametag with name and school number at all times, except when in costume for a performance competition.
2. In all non-costumed events, students without a nametag will not be allowed to compete.
3. Teachers should provide nametags that include the student's name and school number.

1. **French-** Blue
2. **German-** Red
3. **Spanish –** Green

## **K. Trophies**

1. There will be no awards ceremony due to time constraints.
2. All awards will be available at the rules committee meeting to be held within ten days of the symposium. Each school should send one representative to participate in the meeting and to pick up the awards. Schools that are not represented at the meeting will be responsible for picking up their students' awards from the main office in the Hall of Languages.

## **II. Event Rules**

### **A. Entry Limits**

1. Academic Events: 2 entries per level per language
2. Drama, Craft and Instructional Video: 1 entry per level per language
3. Dance: 2 entries per language per school
4. Food: 1 entry per category per language per school, but no more than 3 per language per school.
5. Exceeding the entry limit in an event will disqualify all of the competitors for that event from that school.

### **B. Judging Criteria**

1. The judges' decisions are final and may not be challenged.
2. Judging criteria will be based on meritorious performance with awards given on that basis when standards are met. A grade of "incomplete" will be given to a student if the score is less than "70". A grade below "70" will not be awarded 1st- 5th places.
3. See individual ranking sheets for specific point values.

4. The judges carry out their responsibilities in good faith and should be respected.
5. Challenging a judge's decision, berating a judge, or impugning his/her honesty and impartiality is considered unprofessional and may result in a school's being excluded from future competition.
6. Judges must verify eligibility of rating sheets. If rating sheets are not legible, students will be disqualified.
7. Students will be disqualified if rating sheets are not filled out properly including title of selection.

## **C. Academic Events**

### **1. Spelling (available on all levels)**

- a. The competition will be written and in the target language.
- b. Each school is limited to two entries per level per language.
- c. Words will be taken from the appropriate level of state-adopted textbooks.
- d. Instructions and words will be given via audio device and judges will monitor throughout the entire 30 word session.
- e. Once the recording is over, the judges pick up the pencils, rating sheet, and cover sheet, and then dismiss students.
- f. Judges will grade the rating sheets as a standard spelling test. The student with the fewest errors will receive 1st place. In the case of a tie, the student who made the first error furthest into the test will take first place, etc.

### **2. Drama (available on all levels)**

- a. Drama is limited to ten (10) minutes, including setup and exit.

- b. Memorization of the lines is required. Using scripts or prompts will result in disqualification.
- c. Only one entry per level per language will be allowed.
- d. Two copies of the script should be presented to the judges.
- e. Two copies of rating sheets should be presented to the judges.
- f. The monitor should ask each group if it is ready, say “Begin”, and start timing at that point.
- g. In the case of a single student enrolled in 5th/ 6th year, or a single Advantaged student, he/she may participate in Advanced Level Drama.
- h. All sound effects and musical accompaniment must be furnished by the competing school.
- i. Judging criteria are: pronunciation/ enunciation, intonation, audibility, characterizations, staging (costumes and props), memorization, and level of difficulty.
- j. Audiences are allowed, but must remain quiet and should not enter or exit during a drama.
- k. All props and other competition material must be completed before arrival at A&M-Commerce. No painting is allowed on university premises.
- l. Props are restricted to designated areas. Do not store them at other locations on campus.
- m. Students may remove their nametags while in costume.

### **3. Memorized Prose and Poetry (available on all levels)**

- a. Students must choose one of the pre-approved selections.

- b. Copies of selections will be provided to judges by the contest directors.
- c. Each school is limited to two entries per level per language in each event.
- d. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, intonation, movements and gestures, interpretation, comprehension of material, and projection of voice.
- e. The poem or prose selection MUST be memorized.
- f. Audiences are not allowed.
- g. Contestants will be admitted into the room one at a time.

#### **4. Sight-reading Poetry (available on all levels)**

- a. Each school is limited to two entries per level per language.
- b. Students will be given a selection and allowed three minutes to study it before recitation.
- c. Dictionaries are not allowed.
- d. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, interpretation, and projection of voice.
- e. A monitor will be present to time the student's preparation of the selection.
- f. Students studying should have different selections from those reading for the judge.
- g. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the monitor if he/she has prior knowledge of the selection he/she has given.

#### **5. Verbal Fluency (available on all levels)**



- a. Each school is limited to two entries per level per language.
- b. Beginning students will converse with a judge for 1-2 minutes.
- c. Intermediate students will converse for 2-3 minutes.
- d. Advanced students will converse for 3-4 minutes.
- e. Advantaged and Bilingual students will converse for 4-5 minutes.
- f. Judging criteria are: comprehension, correct vocabulary, pronunciation, correct grammar, and response without undue hesitation.
- g. Judges should speak with students one at a time, using the sample questions provided in the packet as a starting point.

#### **6. Prepared Speech (available for all levels)**

- a. Topics are to be selected from the official list.
- b. Schools are limited to two entries per level per language.
- c. Speeches should not include any identifying characteristics (school, town, teacher's name).
- d. Speeches must be written by the student in the target language.
- e. Teachers may assist the student by pointing out grammatical errors.
- f. Speeches should be level appropriate.
- g. The speech must be memorized.
- h. Student must submit two typed or clearly written copies of the speech to the judges.

- i. The student should be prepared to answer three or four questions about his/ her speech in the target language at the judge's discretion.
- j. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar that is both correct and level-appropriate, comprehension, intonation, and memorization.
- k. Speeches are limited to three (3) minutes in length.

## **7. Reading Comprehension Tests (available on all levels)**

- a. Schools are limited to two entries per level per language.
- b. Students will read a short selection in the target language and answer 10 comprehension questions.
- c. There will be a thirty-minute time limit.
- d. Judging criterion is number of correct answers.

**First place:** 10 correct, superior

**Second place:** 8 or 9 correct, excellent

**Third place:** 6 or 7 correct, good

- e. An unlimited number of ties will be allowed.
- f. This event is excluded from calculation of sweepstakes.
- g. Students who are not present at the beginning of the time period will not be allowed to compete.
- i. The student should be prepared to answer three or four questions about his/ her speech in the target language at the judge's discretion.

j. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar that is both correct and level-appropriate, comprehension, intonation, and memorization.

k. Speeches are limited to three (3) minutes in length.

## **8. Scholarship Exam (available to Juniors and Seniors only)**

a. The scholarship exam is for students at the intermediate level and above, but a single test will be given regardless of the level of the student taking it.

b. A student may take the exam only one time in his/her high school career.

c. Scholarships will be awarded to the winners upon enrollment in a university or junior college. Proof of paid enrollment, as well as a copy of the letter of scholarship notification, must be provided to the NET-OLÉ treasurer (see address in section E) no later than September of the year after the competition.

d. At the time of the exam, students must provide an official letter signed by the high school counselor and language teacher verifying the level of study and enrollment.

e. Students will have one hour to complete the test.

f. One 1st place scholarship of \$500 and a 2nd place scholarship of \$250 will be awarded in French and German. In Spanish, a 1st place scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to the bilingual/heritage exam winner, and another to the non-heritage speaker exam winner. A second \$500 scholarship may be awarded if there are more than 20 competitors in a particular category.

g. The Texas A&M University-Commerce scholarship office will double our Net Olé scholarships if and only if the winner attends A&M-Commerce. First place winners will receive \$1,000 (\$500 in Fall, \$500 in Spring); second place

winners will receive \$500 (\$250 in Fall, \$250 in Spring). All winners will receive notification of their award directly from the university.

- h. This event is excluded from calculation of sweepstakes.
- i. The Scholarship Exam is proctored and reviewed by Texas A&M University- Commerce faculty for identification of student placement in Spanish and French classes at Texas A&M University-Commerce students may, with an appropriate score, place out of up to 3 courses at Texas A&M University-Commerce (a 4th semester of placement credit may be awarded based upon performance on an optional composition.) These credits are meant to provide additional incentive for students to continue their language study at Texas A&M University-Commerce, and the placement credit does not apply at any other institution.

#### **8. Essays (Bilingual/ Heritage speakers only)**

- a. Each school is limited to two entries per teacher per language.
- b. Essays must be written by the student with no help from teachers.
- c. Essays should be typed: double-spaced with 1½ inch margins.
- d. Essays should be no longer than three pages in length.
- e. A header should include the student's name and school number.
- f. Essays must be mailed or preferably e-mailed to either of the Spanish Contest Directors (see Section E) postmarked no later than February 15th. No late entries will be accepted.
- g. Topic: Describe el evento que tuvo más impacto en tu vida y como te afectó.

- h. Judging criteria are: form, content, and mechanics (see rating sheets for specifics)

## **D. Cultural Events (open enrollment)**

### **1. Dance**

Spanish dance is divided into four categories: couples regional/folklórico, group regional/folklórico, couples ballroom, and group ballroom (Paso Doble, Salsa, Merengue, Tango, Cha-Cha, Mambo, and Samba.) Dances must be authentic, not interpretive.

- a. Schools are limited to two entries per language.
- b. Two copies of the rating sheets must be submitted to the judges.
- c. A CD/Cassette player will be provided at the contest site. No piano will be available.
- d. Performances are open to the public. Audience members should not enter or exit during a performance and should remain quiet.
- e. Performances are limited to four (4) minutes including set up and exit.
- f. Judging criteria are: skill/ mastery, costuming, reflection of culture, general effect, and introduction (may be in English).

### **2. Vocal**

- a. Schools are limited to two entries per language.
- b. A CD/ Cassette player will be available at the contest site. No piano will be available.

- c. Musical performances will be open to the public. Audience members should remain quiet and should not enter or exit during a performance.
- d. Lyrics must be memorized.
- e. Two copies of the material to be performed should be presented to the judges including the lyrics to the music.
- f. Winners will receive academic points.
- g. Performances may not exceed four (4) minutes from setup to exit. Entries exceeding this time limit will be disqualified.
- h. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, interpretation, memorization, tone, general effect, and introduction.
- i. There will be four categories in Spanish: solo/duet popular, group popular, solo/duet folk, and group folk.
- j. There will be four categories in French and German: solo/duet popular, group popular, solo/duet classical, group classical.

### **3. Food**

- a. Schools are permitted to enter up to three entries per language. However, no school may present more than one entry in a single category.
- b. Categories include: entrées, hors d'oeuvres, salads, and desserts.
- c. All entries must be labeled with student name, school number, and category.
- d. A recipe on a 5x8 card must accompany the entry. **RECIPE CARD MUST INCLUDE REGION OF ORIGIN** (recipe must be authentic, not Americanized). To authenticate

recipe, provide website address, title of the book, or name and relationship to student of the person who provided the recipe.

- e. The card must bear a colored stripe to signify the category of the entry as follows:

**Hors d'oeuvres: blue**

**Salad: red**

**Entrée: green**

**Dessert: pink**

Entries which do not bear the required colored strip may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.

- i. Entries must be displayed in disposable containers or students will be disqualified.
- ii. Entries will no longer be served to students and guests after the judging.
- iii. All foods and containers will be disposed of at the end of the judging.
- iv. Judging criteria are: taste, color, texture, aroma, garnishment, and complexity of preparation.

#### **4. Manualidades (Crafts)**

- a. Schools are permitted to enter one entry per level per language.
- b. Categories include: textiles, wood crafts, natural crafts, paper crafts and beading.
- c. All entries must be accompanied by a 5x8 card labeled with student name, school number, name of craft, and region of origin.

- d. The card must include a short description of what the craft signifies and how it was/ is used.
- e. Entries may be retrieved at the end of the competition.
- f. Judging criteria are: color, neatness, complexity of preparation, skill/ mastery, reflection of culture, and general effect.

## **5. Instructional Presentation (available on all levels)**

- a. Schools are limited to one entry per level per language.
- b. The presentation may contain an unlimited number of students of the language from a variety of instructors.
- c. The presentation is limited to three (3) minutes in length.
- d. Teachers may supervise and assist in the planning and organizing of the production.
- e. The presentation should instruct the viewer on any number of topics including: How to make Enchiladas, How to conjugate in the Future tense, the importance of learning a Second Language, etc.
- f. The production should be conducted in the target language as much as possible according to the competition level.
- g. Judging criteria are: video, audio, technical difficulty, creativity, quality, and value of instruction.
- h. Presentation must be downloaded onto a DVD and mailed by February 15th to appropriate Contest Director.



**E. Contact Information – Please direct questions about events, judging, and rules to the appropriate Contest Director.**

**NET-OLÉ SPANISH CONTEST DIRECTORS**

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**NET-OLÉ FRENCH CONTEST DIRECTOR**

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**NET-OLÉ GERMAN CONTEST**

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**F. Awards**

**1. Academic Events**

- a. 1st place will receive a medal.
- b. 2nd place will receive a red rosette.
- c. 3 rd – 6th places will receive ribbons.
- d. 7th & 8th places (Spanish only) will receive ribbons.

**2. Drama**

- a. 1st place will receive a team trophy and individual blue rosettes.
- b. 2nd place will receive red rosettes.
- c. 3 rd – 6thplaces will receive ribbons.

**3. Reading Comprehension**

- a. 10 correct questions will receive a “Superior” ribbon.
- b. 8-9 correct questions will receive an “Excellent” ribbon.

- c 6-7 correct questions will receive a “Good” ribbon.
- d. There will be an unlimited number of these awards.

#### **4. Cultural Events**

- a. 1st – 4th places will receive ribbons.

#### **5. Overall Awards**

- a. **High Point**- This award is presented to the school receiving the highest number of points in each language.

- b. **Excellence Awards**

- i. One Excellence Award will be presented in each language.
  - ii. Calculation: total points divided by enrollment.
  - iii. This formula allows smaller schools to compete more fairly with larger ones.
  - iv. Schools which fail to provide enrollment figures will not be eligible for this award.

- c. **Sweepstakes**

- i. One Sweepstakes award will be presented to the top school of the Symposium.
  - ii. Calculation: total number of points, divided by number of languages taught at the school.

#### **G. Point Values**

### **Academic Events**

1st 30 points

2nd 25 points

3rd 20 points

4th 15 points

5th 10 points

6th 5 points

### **Drama**

1st 40 points

2nd 35 points

3rd 20 points

4th 15 points

5th 10 points

6th 5 points

### **Cultural Events**

1st 20 points

2nd 15 points

3rd 10 points

4th 5 points