



# AAUW California Speech Trek

## Student Toolkit

2024-2025

**ATTENTION:**

**Speech Trek contests may take place in-person or virtually this year.**

**Please contact your local AAUW branch for more information.**

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The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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## 2024-2025 SPEECH TREK SPEECH CONTEST TOPIC

Climate change is happening. The effects are widespread and touch upon almost all aspects of our life on this planet.

### **TOPIC:**

***Select one area of impact and explore the effect climate change is having on women in the USA and around the world.***

### **BACKGROUND:**

The adverse effects of climate change are well studied in relation to agriculture, ecosystems, water resources, human health, and industry, especially in geographical locations that are economically dependent on local natural resources.

Many studies also highlight climate change in terms of impact to economics.

But do any reports identify any disproportionate effects on women? Is women's health more vulnerable to environmental changes?

Many companies claim their bottom line is impacted by the cost of climate change legislation. Does this have an impact on women's career and leadership opportunities?

If there are disparities in any of these areas, how does that change the way you look at climate change, and what impact is climate change having on women in the USA and around the world?

# CONTEST INFORMATION

**Eligibility:** Speech Trek is open to all actively attending high school students in California.

**Deadlines:** Interested students must submit a "Student Application and Parent/Guardian Permission" notice to their local AAUW California branch per the date set by that branch (please see Page 4).

**Time Limits:** Students are to prepare an original 5:00-6:00 minute speech, with a 30-second grace period on either side. **Speaking under 4:30 or over 6:30 will result in disqualification.**

**Presentation:** These presentations are to be original speeches. Appropriate use of **one** 4" x 6" note card is an option-  
-prompting is not allowed.

**Judging:** During the state semifinal and final competitions, judges shall use the official ballot and score each speaker in two areas: Content (includes Introduction, Organization, and Conclusion), 0-50 points and Delivery, 0-50 points. Branches may opt to use their own judge's ballot at the local level. Students are advised to request a copy of their branch's judge's ballot.

**Prizes:** Each local branch of AAUW California will determine the level of award for their contestants.

**Branch Winner:** Each participating branch will post the video of their winning speech online (via YouTube) by **March 15, 2025**. The state Speech Trek judges will identify five finalists, two of whom will be named as Honorable Mention. The judges will award the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place finalist with \$500. A new panel of three judges will view the top three finalists' videos and determine the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. The top three finalists' videos will be showcased at the virtual AAUW California Annual Event on April 26, 2025. Winners will be announced at that time.

**State Finalists:** First place winner at the state contest will receive \$2500; second place winner at the state contest will receive \$2000; and third place winner at the state contest will receive \$1000. If held live, travel expenses, lodging, and meals for each finalist and her/his chaperone will be reimbursed by Speech Trek. Families should contact the Speech Trek Program Director for the spending limits on reimbursable expenses.

Your School Contact is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Your AAUW Branch Contact is: [Pam Buchanan](#)

Phone: 805-588-2916 Email - <mailto:pamelajoybuchanan@icloud.com>

Your Speech Contest Coach, if provided, is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT APPLICATION AND PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

**Student Name**

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**Address:**

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**Email:**

**Phone:**

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**High School Attending:**

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**School Advisor/Counselor:**

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*My signature below certifies that I wish to participate in the AAUW California Speech Contest and that I have received and read the following forms:*

- Student Instructions
- Judge's Instructions & Ballot

**Student Signature:**

**Date:**

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**Parent/Guardian Information and Permission:**

**Name:**

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**Address:**

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**Email:**

**Phone:**

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*My signature below certifies that I have read the rules for the speech contest and wish for my child to participate in the AAUW California Speech Trek Contest. In addition, I understand that my child's name may be publicized locally as a contest participant, and that the speech will be recorded for higher-level competition and selection of finalists.*

*If my child is selected as the 1<sup>st</sup> place branch winner or one of three state finalists, I understand that the video of my child's competition speech may be posted online (see videos of previous speakers at: [aauw-ca.org/Programs/Project/Speech Trek](http://aauw-ca.org/Programs/Project/Speech%20Trek)) or used to promote the contest in subsequent years. I understand I will need to sign an AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY AND LIABILITY RELEASE, prior to my child's participation in the competition.*

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this application to your local branch contact:

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**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

# AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY AND LIABILITY RELEASE

## AAUW Speech Trek Contest

The undersigned participant of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Speech Trek Contest and the participant's parent or guardian hereby declare that they have read and understand all of the rules and conditions for the contest and that the undersigned has met all eligibility requirements on the date their contest entry was submitted.

The undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian represent that the speech submitted to the contest (the "Entry") is the participant's own original creation, and that the participant has perpetrated no fraud or deception in entering the contest or claiming any prize.

The undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian represent and warrant that neither she/he nor any parent or guardian is an employee of AAUW, or its related, parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, advertising and promotion agencies, or the panel of judges, nor is she/he or any parent or guardian connected with them in any way.

The undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian irrevocably grant to AAUW, its successors and assigns and all other persons deriving rights from them, all rights, title and interest in the undersigned's Entry in perpetuity, to print, publish, broadcast, use or modify in any manner in any media whatsoever the Entry as submitted for the contest to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

In addition, the undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian grant to AAUW, its successors and assigns and all other persons deriving rights from them, the right to use the participant's name, likeness and/or voice and biographical information, and city of residence for promotional purposes in any medium without compensation, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

The undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian hereby waive the opportunity and any right to inspect or approve any such promotion, printing, broadcast use or publication, and further release AAUW, its successors and assigns from all liability in connection with any such promotion, printing, broadcast, use or publication.

The undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian hereby release and hold harmless AAUW and its officers, directors, employees, and agents from any and all losses, claims or damages that may result, directly or indirectly, from participation in the contest or use of the prize award. The undersigned understands that any and all local, state or federal tax liability for the award will be the responsibility of the undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian.

The undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian further acknowledge and agree that the contest prize is non-transferable, and that no substitution of prizes will be allowed, except by the AAUW due to the unavailability of prizes at the time of the award.

The undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian understand that AAUW is proceeding with the award of any prize in the contest in express reliance on this release and the undersigned and the participant's parent or guardian represent and agree that they are free to grant the rights set forth in this release.

The undersigned contest participant and the participant's parent or guardian hereby attest that they have read and understand all the foregoing provisions of this affidavit and agree to be bound by the same.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of contest participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Type or print name of contest participant

Participant's current address

Telephone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/guardian (if contest participant is under 18 years of age)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of parent or guardian

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2024-2025 JUDGES BALLOT

Climate change is happening. The effects are widespread and touch upon almost all aspects of our life on this planet.

**TOPIC: Select one area of impact and explore the effect climate change is having on women in the USA and around the world.**

CONTESTANT NAMES																					
Assign a score in the following categories	Need to Improve	Fair	Avg	Excellent	Superb/ Outstanding																
<b>CONTENT - INTRODUCTION</b>																					
Interesting - held the audiences attention	0-1	2	3	4	5																
<b>CONTENT</b>																					
Well prepared																					
Evidence of audience analysis	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30																
Effective use of example, story, illustration																					
Well researched and referenced																					
<b>CONTENT - ORGANIZATION</b>																					
Effective arrangement of ideas																					
Main points easy to follow	0-5	6	7	8	9-10																
Transitions to move from point to point																					
Material appropriate for topic & purpose																					
<b>CONTENT - CONCLUSION</b>																					
Summary and a clear sense of finality	0-1	2	2-3	4	5																
<b>DELIVERY</b>																					
Good diction, volume, rate, projection																					
Displayed poise and confidence																					
Displayed energy and enthusiasm	0-12	13-21	22-30	31-40	41-50																
Maintained eye contact with audience																					
Avoided distracting mannerisms																					
Prepared delivery - not a reading																					
Appropriate movement and gestures																					
<b>TOTAL FOR EACH SPEAKER</b>																					
<b>RANK SPEAKERS - High score = 1, Second = 2, Third = 3, Fourth = 4, Fifth = 5</b>																					
Judge's Printed Name _____ Judge's Signature _____																					