



Japan-America Society of Greater Austin

[www.jasga.org](http://www.jasga.org)

## 2012 Austin Regional Japanese Language Speech Contest

**When:** Saturday, February 11, 2012 1:00 - 4:00 pm

**Where:** Lamar Middle School 6201 Wynona Avenue, Austin, TX 78757

We are pleased to announce that the third Austin Regional Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2012. The Austin Regional Contest is hosted and sponsored by the Japan- America Society of Greater Austin (JASGA), and co-sponsored by the Austin Independent School District and Asahi Imports, in cooperation with the Japan-America Societies of Texas, the Consulate-General of Japan at Houston, and the Japanese Teachers Association of Texas. Designed to promote awareness and understanding of Japanese language, culture and people, the contests are open to middle, high school and college/university students as well as adult contestants.

The Annual Texas Japanese Speech Contests are held statewide. First regional contests are held in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, then a State contest held is in Houston on March 10, 2012.

Co-sponsored by the Japan-America Societies of Houston and the Consulate-General of Japan at Houston, the State contest will offer participants an opportunity to demonstrate their oral communication skills in Japanese. The top two winners of Division III at the state level will compete at the National Japanese Speech Contest in Los Angeles.

### Purpose

This annual event offers participants an opportunity to demonstrate their oral communication skills in Japanese while competing in a statewide competition. It brings attention to the Japanese language and promotes the knowledge and understanding of Japan by Americans.

### Divisions & Qualification

#### Division I: Poetry Recitation (Beginner)

- Currently enrolled in a Japanese program in Texas including students who are being home schooled
- Not be a native speaker of Japanese
- All Middle School students are allowed to enter two times (maximum).
- High School students at novice level or those with less than two years of Japanese studies in school who did not previously participate in the poem category.

#### Division II: Poetry Recitation (Intermediate)

- Currently enrolled in a Japanese program in Texas including students who are being home schooled
- Not be a native speaker of Japanese
- High School students at intermediate level or
- High School students with minimum 2 years but less than 3 years of Japanese studies in school, who have previously participated once before in the poem category.

#### Content:

Contestants must memorize the poem specified for his/her level. Each contestant should say the title and the author of the poem then recite the poem for memory. The use of notes is not allowed.

#### Time Limit:

The time limit for Division I is three minutes. Points will be deducted for speeches that are over the time limit.

#### Evaluation Criteria:

Poetry recitation will be judged on pronunciation, flow and clarity, accuracy of memorization, and overall delivery and presentation.

**Division III: Speech with text Beginner's level**

- Currently enrolled in a Japanese program in Texas including students who are being home schooled
- Middle School students at the higher proficiency level with teacher's recommendation.
- High School students at intermediate level or High School students with minimum 2 years but less than 3 years of Japanese studies in school who already participated in the poetry division or equivalent.

**Content:**

The Speech must be original, written by the contestant and not previously recited elsewhere. The contestant must choose his/her own theme.

**Time Limit:**

The time limit is three minutes, and the contestant must speak for at least two minutes.

**Notes:** Contestants may use written materials or notes.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

The Speech at this level will be judged on overall ability and enthusiasm.

**Division IV: Free Speech Intermediate level**

- High School students at intermediate level and/or above, or High School students with minimum 3 years but less than 4 years of Japanese studies in school.
- High School students who have previously participated DIV II before.
- Currently enrolled in a Japanese program in Texas including students who are being home schooled
- Not be a native speaker of Japanese
- Not have a Japanese parent
- Not have had more than six months of schooling in Japan after age six.

**Content:**

The Speech must be original, written by the contestant and not previously recited elsewhere. The contestant must choose the theme. Personal experience and anecdote are welcomed and encouraged.

**Time Limit:**

The time limit is three minutes, and the contestant must speak for at least two minutes. Points will be deducted for speeches that are over or under the time limit.

**Notes:** Contestants may use written materials or notes, but those who deliver their speeches without them will be scored higher than those who rely on notes.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Free Speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, and understanding.

**Division V: Free Speech College & University- Advanced level**

- Be a resident in Texas
- Currently enrolled in a Japanese program in Texas including students who are being home schooled
- Not be a native speaker of Japanese

**Content:**

The Speech must be original, written by the contestant and not previously recited elsewhere. The contestant must choose his/her own theme. Personal experience and anecdote are welcomed and encouraged.

**Time Limit:**

The time limit is three minutes, and the contestant must speak for at least two minutes. Points will be deducted for speeches that are over or under the time limit.

**Notes:** Contestants may use written materials or notes, but those who deliver their speeches without them will be scored higher than those who rely on notes.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Free Speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, and understanding.

**Number of Participants**

There will be a limit of 50 participants for the contest, maximum of five contestants per school in each division. Applications will be accepted in the order in which they are received, provided that they meet the requirements. Once the limit has been reached, no more applications will be accepted. Therefore, it is important to send in applications as soon as possible.

## **Status of this Competition**

This competition forms the preliminary rounds for the statewide competition, which will be held on March 10, 2012 in Houston.

## **Prizes**

1<sup>st</sup> place winners from Divisions I & II, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in Division III, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in IV, and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> winners in Division V will participate in Texas State Contest.

## **Registration**

Please fill out the entry form and give it to your Japanese instructor.

## **Deadline**

**Sunday, February 5, 2012**

For more information, please contact: David Shimizu at [jasga-education@jasga.org](mailto:jasga-education@jasga.org) or 512-922-3938 or 512-656-4731.

Refer to: <http://jashouston.com/en/programs/japanese-speech-contest/houston-regional-speech-contest>

For the TX State contest, refer to: <http://jashouston.com/en/programs/japanese-speech-contest/state-speech-contest>

# The 3rd Austin Regional Japanese Language Speech Contest

**Saturday, February 11, 2012 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Lamar Middle School Cafeteria**

## Entry Form

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name in Katakana \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Division: (Please circle one)

Div I-Beginner, Div I-Intermediate, Div II, Div III, Div IV, Div V

For Divisions III, IV, and V applicants:

Enter Speech Title: 日本語 \_\_\_\_\_

英語 \_\_\_\_\_

Have you traveled to Japan before? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the dates and duration of the stay:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you attend school, indicate the name of the school and the grade or level:

School /Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Grade or level \_\_\_\_\_

If you are taking Japanese at school, please list your teacher's name and contact information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your agreement with the following statement by signing the line below "I will present my speech in the 3rd Japanese Language Speech Contest at Lamar Middle School on Saturday, February 11, 2012. I understand the regulation and time limits specified by the Japan-America Societies of Texas and will abide by the judges' final decisions."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (If contestant is under 18 years of age)

**\*Application must be received or E-mailed by Sunday, February 5, 2012.**