

**Japan-American Society of Greater Austin (JASGA)**  
**PO Box 9276 Austin, TX 78766**  
[www.jasga.org](http://www.jasga.org)

## **Austin Regional Japanese Language Speech Contest**

The Annual Texas Japanese Speech Contest is the statewide competition for students and adults at all levels in Japanese language and Culture. Its 21st Annual Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held as described below. It is sponsored by the Japan-America Societies of Texas, the Consulate-General of Japan in Houston, the Japanese Association of Greater Houston, and the Japanese Teachers Association of Texas.

The Austin regional contest is hosted by the Japan-America Society of Greater Austin (JASGA).

### **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.

### **Date and Time**

Saturday, February 13, 2010 1:00pm - 4:30pm

### **Location**

O. Henry Middle School: 2610 W 10th St. Austin, TX 78703

### **Qualification**

Contestants must :

- 1) Be one of the top three winners of a regional Japanese language speech contest held in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio between February 1 and February 28, 2010,
- 2) Be resident in Texas, or
- 3) currently enrolled in a Japanese program in Texas,
- 4) Not be a native speaker of Japanese,
- 5) Not have a Japanese parent (Division IV ),
- 6) Have not had more than six months of schooling in Japan after age six.

### **Divisions**

Division I: High School & Middle School Poetry Recitation (3 minutes max)

「ありがとう」谷川俊太郎 \*

Division II: High school Poetry Recitation (3 minutes max)

「誠実について」高木いさお \*

Division III: Middle School & High School Free Speech (2-3 minutes)

Division IV: High School Free Speech (2-3 minutes)

Division V: College & Adult Free Speech (2-3 minutes)

Note:

\* Above two poems for Divisions I & II can be downloaded at:

<http://www.jtat.org/SpeechContest10/21stSpeechContest.htm>

\*\* Refer to the Entry Categories at: <http://www.jtat.org/SpeechContest10/21stSpeechContest.htm>

### **Number of Participants**

There will be a limit of 12 participants for Division I and 10 participants for Divisions II-V. For

Divisions I–IV, there will be a limit of 2-3 applicants for each school. Applications will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Once the limit of applicant's number for each division has been reached, no more applications will be accepted for that division. 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 in March 6, 2010 in Houston.

### **Free Speech Content**

Free speeches must be original, written by the contestant and not previously recited elsewhere. The theme is open and to be selected by the contestant. Personal experiences and anecdotes are welcomed and encouraged.

**Time Limit:** The time limit is three minutes, and the contestants must speak for at least two minutes. Points will be subtracted for speeches which 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.

### **Poetry Recitation Content**

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

**Evaluation Criteria:** Poetry recitation will be judged on pronunciation, flow and expression, accuracy of memorization, and delivery.

### **Prizes**

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

### **Registration**

E-mail: [jasga-education@jasga.org](mailto:jasga-education@jasga.org) or

Mail to:

Japan-America Society of Greater Austin (JASGA)

PO Box 9276 Austin, TX 78766

### **Deadline**

Friday, January 29, 2010

For more information, please contact: Lorin Park at [jasga-education@jasga.org](mailto:jasga-education@jasga.org) or 512-739-2613, 512-922-3938, or 512-947-8885

Refer to <http://www.jtat.org/SpeechContest10/21stSpeechContest.htm>

**21st Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest in Texas  
Austin Regional, Saturday, February 13, 2010, 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Location: O. Henry Middle School**

**Entry Form**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in Katakana \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_

Division: Div. I, Div. II, Div. III, Div. IV, Div V (Please circle one)

Have you traveled to Japan before? Yes No  
If yes, please indicate the dates and duration of the stay:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

School \_\_\_\_\_  
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 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest at O. Henry Middle School on Saturday, February 13, 2010. I understand the regulation and time limits specified by the Japan-American Society 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 postmarked or E-mailed by Friday, January 29, 2010.