



OPC EFFECTIVE SPEAKING PROGRAM COMPETITION GUIDE 2018



EFFECTIVE SPEAKING COMPETITION 2018

Program Aim

The aim of the Air Cadet League's annual Effective Speaking (ES) Competition program is:

- To provide an opportunity for Air Cadets to increase their self-confidence and enhance their ability to reason, organize and express ideas;
- To promote the citizenship component of local squadron training;
- To provide a focus at the Local, Provincial, and National levels to promote and encourage air cadets to participate in an optional activity that will provide them with an opportunity to acquire effective speaking skills through instruction and practice in a structured and competitive environment; and
- To increase public awareness regarding the citizenship and leadership aspects of the Air Cadet Program at the National, Provincial and Local levels.

The ES program strives to achieve these goals by providing a formal contest setting in which cadets can compete against other speakers and have their competence assessed at progressively higher stages of competition, commencing at Squadron level and advancing upwards through Regional, Provincial and National levels.

Competition Format

At each level of competition, cadets are required to present a prepared speech of 5 to 6 minutes and an impromptu speech of 2 to 3 minutes.

Topics for the prepared speeches are chosen annually by the Air Cadet League's National ES Committee based on suggestions provided by the previous year's competitors. These same topics are then used at each level of competition throughout the year.

The prepared speech topics for the 2018 competition are:

1. The Importance of Today's Youth in Building Canada's Future
2. How does Volunteerism Play a Role in the Life of Your Community or Squadron?
3. Humour is the Best Medicine
4. How Space Exploration can lead to Scientific Advances on Earth?
5. The Role Indigenous People have played in Canada's Heritage
6. How has Canada Changed the Face of Aviation?
7. Lest We Forget
8. How do you balance your Cadet career with the rest of your life?
9. Cadet's Choice of Topic on either of the Categories:
 - a. Cadet Life
 - b. Science and Technology
 - c. Aviation
 - d. Canadian History or Citizenship



The topic for the impromptu speeches will be selected by the respective ES coordinator and/or judges at each level of the competition, and will be provided individually to each competitor three minutes before he/she is scheduled to speak.

Competitors at each level of competition will be given the opportunity to individually choose whether or not they wish to hear the presentations given by their fellow speakers. Before the start of each competition, each speaker will be required to notify the Competition Coordinator whether they would prefer to be present in the auditorium, or otherwise sequestered in a separate holding area, for both the prepared speeches as well as for those impromptu speeches that will be presented by the remaining competitors following their own respective speeches.

At every level, a panel of three judges will assess the speeches, rank each competitor in order of merit, and then identify the top three finishers. They will then provide feedback to the competitors as a group in order to review the strengths and weaknesses noted during their presentations. Judges may also choose to provide individual debriefings and/or comment sheets for each speaker.

Squadron-Level Competition

Squadron-level ES competitions may be scheduled at any time between now and late March. Squadrons may choose to schedule their competitions as a parade-night event, with the full squadron and guests in attendance or, alternatively, as a separate special event with a selected audience and judges present.

The SSC is responsible for taking the lead role in planning, coordinating and conducting the competition at squadron level. Their responsibilities will include:

- Designating one SSC member to act as the ES Coordinator for the squadron-level competition
- Arranging with the CO to select a suitable date on which to hold the competition
- Disseminating information about the competition to the cadets
- Ensuring that all competitors have filled in the Air Cadet League's ES Competition Application Form and have read the Official Rules for the competition as detailed below
- Arranging for the participation of three competition judges, an official timer, and a teller, and providing them with a briefing and the paperwork needed to perform their duties. (Local Toastmasters Clubs and High School English Departments may be of assistance in providing judges.)
- Securing a suitable venue in which to stage the competition and setting it up with a dais, lighting, judges' tables, a sound system, etc. as required
- If so approved by the SSC, providing some form of recognition awards or cash prizes to be presented to the squadron's top-finishing cadet(s)
- Submitting information to the Regional Coordinator and Provincial Coordinator, the names and topics of all participating cadets at the squadron level.



At the Squadron Competition, participating cadets will deliver their prepared speeches in a pre-selected random order followed by their impromptu speeches in the reverse order. A member of the SSC, or a designated volunteer (perhaps a former cadet), will act as the event's Master of Ceremonies responsible for introducing each speaker in turn. Competitors will be assessed, marked and ranked in order of merit by the three judges who will then debrief them and provide feedback as appropriate. Even if only a single cadet wishes to participate at squadron level, that cadet must be given the opportunity to speak before an audience and be assessed and debriefed by a judging panel.

The top speaker at the squadron-level will be entitled to go on to represent their unit in the subsequent Region-level competition. At the discretion of the Regional ES Coordinator, a squadron may be allowed to send a second competitor to the Regional competition if the Coordinator determines that there is room in the schedule to accommodate additional speakers beyond the one representative per squadron.

Squadrons wishing to send a second competitor to the Regional Competition must advise their Regional Coordinator in advance. Cadets competing at the Regional level may only do so within their respective Region; they will not be permitted to compete in a different Region against competitors from that Region.

Effective Speaking Resources Available Online

A wealth of information on how to plan and conduct an Effective Speaking Competition, as well copies of all the associated forms and paperwork can be found in the Members Section of the OPC website under Effective-Speaking-Resources. More resources can also be accessed on the Air Cadet League's National website through the following link: <http://aircadetleague.com/effective-speaking-program/>

Cadets wishing to compete in the Effective Speaking Competition must completely fill out the two-page Air Cadet League's official Application Form (ACC54e).

- Page 1 should have all four signatures- of the cadet, the cadet's parent/guardian, the Commanding Officer and Squadron Sponsoring Committee Chair
- Page 2 should be initialed by the cadet and parent/guardian
- Competitors are expected to read and comply with the Air Cadet League's "ES Rules and Regulations" which provide detailed information regarding competition regulations, format, procedures, and criteria for judging. They should also review the instructions contained in the "ES Guide for Speech" on how to prepare and deliver ES presentations. All of these items can be found on the websites indicated above.

Region-Level Competitions

Each Region will have an Effective Speaking Coordinator who, in consultation with the Regional Director will be responsible for liaising with the SSCs in that Region regarding ES matters and for overseeing the planning, and conduct of their annual Regional ES Competition.

Region-level ES competitions within each of the ES Regions will be conducted in the mid-March to early April timeframe, on a date and in a location to be determined and publicized by the Regional ES Coordinator.



Squadrons sending cadets to compete at the Regional Competition will be responsible for making travel and funding arrangements for their representatives to attend. They will also be required to notify their Regional ES Coordinator of the names and prepared speech topics of their competitors and provide copies of their ES Application Form to the Regional and Provincial Coordinator.

Regional Competitions will follow the standard competition format with competitors using their same prepared speech topics as at the squadron level but with a new topic assigned by the Regional Coordinator for the impromptu presentations. Cadets who compete in the Regional-level Competition become entitled to wear the Air Cadet League's bronze-level ES pin to be presented to each participant at the end of the competition.

SSCs should encourage staff members, parents and other cadets from their squadrons to attend the Regional Competition in order to give support to their local competitors.

Provincial and National Level Competitions

The top-ranked speaker from each of the 13 Regional Competitions will be eligible to go on to compete at the Ontario Provincial Effective Speaking Competition, to be held on Saturday, **April 2018- date and venue TBA**. The SSCs at each of the Regional winners' home squadrons will be responsible for arranging transportation and providing funding for their cadet to attend the Provincial finals. In the event that a Regional winner is unable to compete in the Provincial Competition, the second-place finisher from that Region will be asked to represent that Region.

Regional-level representatives who compete in the Provincial Competition will receive a silver-level Air Cadet League ES pin. The first place winner will receive \$500, the second place winner will receive \$ 250 and the remainder of the competitors will receive a \$100 honorarium from the OPC. These will be presented during the competition's closing ceremony.

The provincial winner will then go on to represent the OPC at the Air Cadet League's 2018 National Effective Speaking Competition to be held in Laval, Quebec in June 2018.

The OPC office will coordinate transportation and other arrangements for the provincial winner to attend the National Competition.

Effective Speaking Regional Squadron Assignments / Regional Coordination

The table on page 7 below identifies which squadrons are assigned to each of the OPC's ES Regions across the province and lists the names and contact information of the ES Coordinators for each of the Regions. SSCs should direct any ES- related questions or requests to their respective ES Coordinator.



Initial SSC Contact with Regional Coordinators

In order to ensure that Regional ES Coordinators have valid contact information for each of the SSCs within their Regions it is requested that all SSC Chairs contact the Provincial Coordinator and their respective ES Coordinators to provide them with current email addresses and telephone numbers for their squadron-level contacts.

OPC Provincial Level Effective Speaking Coordination

The OPC's Provincial-level ES Coordinator is PDO Jackie Villanueva.

Jackie is responsible for the coordination and oversight of all aspects the OPC's ES program across the province and for the planning and management of the OPC's Annual Provincial-level competition.

She can be reached by email at jackie.villanueva@aircadetleague.on.ca or by cellphone at 647-284-0970.

OPC Director George Hough will be serving as Jackie's volunteer co-coordinator for this year's provincial ES program. George can be reached via email at houghg@cogeco.ca or by phone at 905-979-5661.

Please ensure that all emails regarding ES matters are addressed to both Jackie and George.