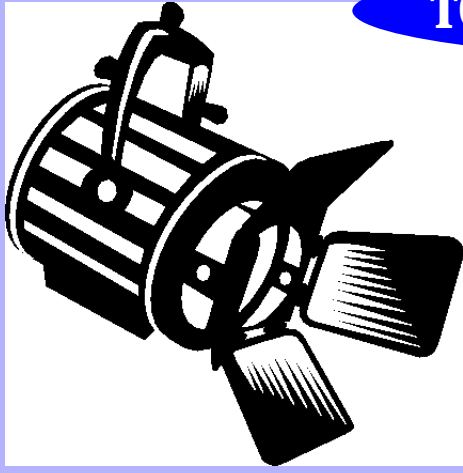


**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL®**



# **Accredited Speaker Program**



**Rules  
&  
Application**

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# Accredited Speaker Program

**T**oastmasters International's Accredited Speaker Program is designed to recognize those Toastmasters who have attained a professional level of excellence in public speaking. The professional speaker is one who applies his or her communication skills toward the various purposes of speaking: informing, motivating, inspiring, entertaining, leading seminars and discussion groups, handling public relations, and dealing with problems of management. It is a mistaken belief that the "professional speaker" is an individual who is involved only in circuit platform speaking engagements.

The Accredited Speaker Program is not for everyone. Only a handful of Toastmasters have what it takes to become Accredited Speakers. Less than one-fourth of those who have applied for the program have qualified as Accredited Speakers.

## How You Will Benefit From Participation

Toastmasters International has designed this exciting recognition program for speakers who make major presentations beyond the club level. By qualifying and taking part, you will experience:

- A professional standard by which you will receive widespread acknowledgement
- A greater opportunity to grow in public speaking
- An opportunity to participate in an expanded Toastmasters International program
- Recognition as an accomplished speaker who has attained the height of excellence in public speaking skills

- An opportunity to expand your speaking expertise through the challenge of demanding major public presentations
- The beginning steps to launch you on a career in public speaking
- An opportunity to work through the Advanced Communication and Leadership manual system.

## Eligibility

To qualify as an Accredited Speaker, an applicant must be a current member in good standing of a Toastmasters Club. He or she must also be an Able Toastmaster or an Advanced Toastmaster Bronze. Those members serving as International Officers or Directors or who are candidates for those offices are ineligible.

Additionally, the applicant must have had a minimum of 25 speaking engagements (outside Toastmasters Clubs) within the past three years of application date. Applicants must provide five copies of letters of acknowledgement or appreciation from any of the 25 engagements as documentary evidence of successful presentations.

## How to Apply

Attached is an application form which is to be sent to World Headquarters, along with the five letters of acknowledgement, a taped presentation, and application fee.

## Your Taped Presentation

A 15- to 45-minute (not including introduction) taped presentation (spoken in English and recorded before a live audience, audio tape only) must accompany the application. (Use

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fresh cassette tape, and clearly mark cassette and container with name.) A Toastmasters International Review Committee will judge the presentation. This taped session is to be a platform style presentation that does not involve the use of visual aids, and must not be given before a Toastmasters audience. At the next level, a different presentation will have to be made before a live audience.

This taped presentation will function as a first level screening of applicants for accreditation. Following an evaluation of the taped presentation by the Committee, applicants will either be notified of ineligibility to qualify for the presentation before a Toastmasters International panel, or be invited to make the second presentation.

When preparing and submitting your tape, be sure to do the following:

- Submit only a good-quality taped presentation. The performance you choose to submit should be planned and arrangements made to insure you have a professional recording.
- Keep your taped presentation within the time limits specified by the rules (15- to 45-minutes). If you submit a tape that exceeds 45 minutes in length, it will not be accepted.
- Use blank cassette tape of the highest quality (BSR, Maxell, Memorex, etc.) when recording your presentation. Don't use a cheap, dime-store brand – these can be destroyed when connected to a high-speed duplicating machine.
- Keep a backup tape of your presentation.
- If possible, tape off of the speaking microphone when recording your presentation. You won't be judged on the quality of the recording, but good sound quality will enable the judges to clearly hear your words and the audience's response.
- Do not record in stereo. Most judges will use portable cassette players when reviewing applicant's presentations.
- Record the introduction preceding your speech. (This does not count toward the 45-minute time limit.) Every aspect of your presentation should be professional, including your introduction. A good introduction is extremely important to your presentation, as it prepares the audience for your presentation and establishes your credibility in the subject area. To insure a good, professional introduction, write it yourself, give it to your introducer, and ask that he or she rehearse it.
- Check your presentation for clarity and effectiveness. Be sure the presentation you submit has an opening, a body, and a closing, and is arranged logically.
- Include all of the presentation on the tape. Do not submit edited or incomplete presentations. Also, submit only one presentation on the tape.
- Make sure the tape you submit is clearly labeled with your name, the title of your presentation, and its running time.
- On a separate sheet, include the following: Nature of the audience (group or organization), the purpose of your speech, and the skill areas used in presentation.
- Watch your language! Any use of suggestive material or "blue" humor will seriously hurt your chances of qualifying.

## **Presentation Before a Panel**

After successful completion of the first level of screening, the applicant will be assigned to appear before a Toastmasters International panel at a Regional Conference or International Convention, at his/her own expense. The site will be decided by Toastmasters International in cooperation with the speaker. There, the applicant will make a 20- to 45-minute presentation (depending on the time available), spoken in English, to be evaluated. This is to be a seminar and may or may not involve the use of visual

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aids. It is possible that a qualified applicant may be assigned to a neighboring Region, at his or her own expense, to make the second presentation.

As many applicants will be processed as time permits. Depending upon the volume of applicants and the logistics of scheduling, it may require as much as one full year for an application to be processed and to be scheduled for the second presentation.

The anonymous panel of judges for the live presentation shall consist of five Toastmasters. A four out of five vote by the panel judges will determine the passing of the applicant for this segment of the judging. Decisions by the judges are final. Failure to qualify cannot be contested. However, applicants may reapply and again be judged at a Regional Conference or International Convention but need not submit another taped presentation. Only one presentation per program year is allowed. If a candidate does not pass the second level after three opportunities, the candidate must submit a new application, another \$50.00 fee, and a different taped speech, and be judged at the first level again.

## **Application Fee**

A non-refundable application fee of \$50.00 must accompany the Accredited Speaker application and tape. If the applicant passes the first level review and is invited to give a presentation at a Regional Conference, an additional \$100.00 fee will be required to go forward. The \$100.00 fee will be refunded upon failure to qualify. This fee covers all award and administrative functions related to the program.

Applicants who fail to pass the first level review and reapply later must submit a new tape, the \$50.00 non-refundable fee, and an updated application.

## **Deadline**

Applications, taped presentations, acknowledgement letters, and the application fee must be received by World Headquarters no later than November 1 for consideration in the program.

Send all material to:

Education Department  
Toastmasters International  
P.O. Box 9052  
Mission Viejo, CA 92690 U.S.A.

## **Recognition**

A Toastmaster recognized as an Accredited Speaker under this program will be acknowledged and awarded in the following manner:

- Letter of commendation
  - Ceremonial presentation of a handsome certificate at the International Hall of Fame ceremony
  - Hall of Fame acknowledgement in THE TOASTMASTER
  - A news release sent to selected publications
  - A gift of a plastic badge bearing the symbol of this prestigious recognition.
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TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

# Accredited Speaker Application



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB/DISTRICT NUMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF TAPED PRESENTATION \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT AUDIENCE \_\_\_\_\_ ABLE TOASTMASTER OR ADVANCED TOASTMASTER BRONZE CERTIFICATE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNITY SPEECHES

List 25 speaking engagements which you have had outside a Toastmasters Club within the past three years. Be sure to attach five copies of acknowledgement letters.

Presentations must include all of the following communication skills areas:

- Informing
- Persuading
- Motivational/  
Inspirational
- Entertainment/  
Humor
- Seminar/  
Discussion Leader

	DATE	NAME OF ORGANIZATION SPONSORING MEETING	SPEECH LENGTH 20 MIN. MINIMUM	AREA OF COMMUNICATION SKILL WHICH WAS USED
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION SPONSORING MEETING</b>	<b>SPEECH LENGTH 20 MIN. MINIMUM</b>	<b>AREA OF COMMUNICATION SKILL WHICH WAS USED</b>
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____	_____	_____
19.	_____	_____	_____	_____
20.	_____	_____	_____	_____
21.	_____	_____	_____	_____
22.	_____	_____	_____	_____
23.	_____	_____	_____	_____
24.	_____	_____	_____	_____
25.	_____	_____	_____	_____



**Toastmasters International**

P.O. Box 9052 ■ Mission Viejo, CA 92690 U.S.A. ■ (714) 858-8255 ■ Fax (714) 858-1207

# Accredited Speaker Program Biographical Information

NAME	CITY OF RESIDENCE
BIRTH PLACE	BIRTH DATE
SPOUSE'S NAME (OPTIONAL)	CHILDREN'S NAMES & AGES <i>(Optional)</i>
EMPLOYER'S NAME	ADDRESS
	IF SELF-EMPLOYED OR OWNER OF ABOVE FIRM, PLEASE CHECK HERE <input type="checkbox"/>

## Educational and Professional Background

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## How did you first become interested in public speaking?

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## Please list any professional organization you belong to and wish us to notify by a news release (please give address for local chapters).

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## Please list corporate employee publications or others you wish to receive news releases.

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## Special awards, recognition you have received.

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Remember to enclose a black and white glossy photograph (5 x 7 or 8 x 10), preferably a speaking pose.



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CATALOG NO. 1208