



CALGARY INTERNATIONAL
SPEECH CONTEST
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**APPLICATION
GUIDE**

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Calgary International Speech Contest!

Important Dates

March 15	Application Package Submission Deadline
April 1	Finalists Notified
July 1	Deadline to Submit Proof of Travel Documents
August 8 - 11	Calgary International Speech Contest

Before you begin, please make sure that you have carefully read through all the qualifications and requirements and have all the information you will need on hand:

1. Applicant's information
2. Passport photo
3. Parent/guardian's information
4. Emergency contact information
5. School details
6. Speech Manuscript
7. Link for your (unlisted/private) YouTube video of your speech
(For instructions on how to upload an unlisted video to YouTube, please click [here.](#))
8. Medical information
9. Parent/Guardian consent
10. Media Release

Send submissions or any questions to floatinglanternpeace@gmail.com

Qualifications

- High school students; 15 years old or older and under 19 years old on August 9th, 2025
- Able to converse in English
- Original speech of one's own writing in English
- Valid passport/visa for entry into Canada
- The expiration of the passport must be on or after February 8, 2026
- Able to visit Canada between 8/8 (F) to 8/11 (M), 2025

Required Application Package Contents

1. **Application Form**, which will include:
 - a) Video link that films your speech.

The video should be a single take, which is "without any cuts or edits," and uploaded to YouTube as "UNLISTED" and fill in its URL to the application form.
 - b) Consent signature from the parents/guardians for the travel abroad and the video release.
2. **Speech manuscript** of 1000 words to 1200 words based on the unified theme: *My Blueprint to Build a Peaceful and Sustainable World*

This must be your original writing and can be a draft. You have to have **your own individual title** of your speech. You can further polish your draft after the submission and before the speech contest. If you wish to utilize images and/or photos during your presentation, please make an inquiry when you submit the manuscript.
3. **PDF or image (JPEG) file of your passport**

Please send us only the page that includes your personal information with a photo. We need to confirm that you are able to travel. This will be kept on file for individual emergency purposes.

Important: Passport and Travel requirements

Due to government travel guidelines you **MUST** confirm that you have a valid passport and it does not expire for 6 months after the first day of the competition weekend (Feb 8, 2026).

For more information on necessary travel documents, which the Canadian Government requires, such as passport, visa, or eTA, please refer to the Government of Canada guidelines:

- For general passport requirements, please check [here](#).
- For visas, please check this [here](#).
- For eTA, please check [here](#).
- To check if you need to give biometrics or not, please check [here](#).

An official **Letter of Consent to Travel** will be required. More information will be provided to the finalists.

Detailed Timeline

- March 15** **Submission Deadline**
Deadline to submit the complete required Application Package to floatinglanternpeace@gmail.com
- April 1** **Finalists Notified**
Selected students will have to start preparation to obtain necessary travel documents, which the Canadian Government requires, such as passport, visa, or eTA.
- July 1** **Submit Proof of Travel Documents**
Submit the official digital invoice and E-ticket issued by an airline after purchasing the round-trip air ticket, as well as your banking information for the reimbursement. Include the invoices for your travel & health insurance. Your purchase of the round-trip airfare (between your country and Calgary) + travel and health insurance will be reimbursed upon your arrival in Calgary. See the details below.
- August 8-11** **Calgary International Speech Contest**
- Fri Aug 8 A representative of the Peace Committee will welcome you at the appropriate gate upon your arrival at the Calgary/Banff International Airport (YYC) and bring you to hotel
- Sat Aug 9 Calgary International Speech Contest
- Sun Aug 10 Friendship Excursion to Banff
- Mon Aug 11 A representative of the Peace Committee will pick you up at the hotel and bring you back to the Calgary/Banff International Airport (YYC) for the flight to your home country

About Reimbursement of the Travel Cost Between Your Home and Calgary

About reimbursement of the travel cost between your home and Calgary:

Your airfare will be reimbursed (plus travel and health insurance) and the fee of the local transportation of your country to get to the airport you depart/arrive at, up to \$3,000 CAD for international participants and up to \$500 CAD for Canadian participants. The refund will be made after your arrival at Calgary.

In order to receive the reimbursement, you have to submit PDF or JPEG files of the official invoice and E-ticket that are issued by an airline, as well as your banking information (Name of the Bank, a branch name, a banking account number, an exact name of the account holder, and BIC - Bank Identification Code - or Swift Code). If you are a Canadian participant and have an account that enables you to receive money through Interac e-Transfer, please submit the email address and the exact name of the account holder that is used for the transaction.

For the official receipts of local transportation in your nations from your home to an airport you depart/arrive at, please obtain the official receipts. If it is not possible, you need to take a photo of each ticket and these photos need to be submitted to the Peace Committee during your stay in Calgary.

In case you cancel your participation in the contest for any reason, we will not be able to refund for an unrealized travel airfare among other costs you have paid in advance.

Evaluation of Speeches

Our judges will employ a robust set of judging criteria that considers various aspects of content, delivery, and overall impact with the following points:

Content	Delivery and Impact
<p>Originality: The uniqueness and creativity of the speech content, showcasing novel ideas and perspectives that are developed by the speaker's understanding and interpretation of the unified theme.</p> <p>Depth: The depth of research and analysis evident in the speech, demonstrating a well-rounded understanding and interpretation of the unified theme.</p> <p>Organization: The speech is well organized with an orderly presentation of premise, content, and conclusion</p>	<p>Confidence: The speaker's self-assurance conveys a sense of conviction in her/his message.</p> <p>Connection with the Audience: The ability to engage and inspire the audience fostering a sense of resonance.</p> <p>Overall Impact: The lasting impression created by the speech, considering its positive influence that is derived from the speaker's understanding and interpretation of the unified theme.</p>

Scholarship Prizes

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	Participation Honorarium
1 Student	2 Students	2 Students	3 Students
\$2000	\$1000	\$500	\$100

*Official **Certificate of Participation** will be provided to all participants*

Sponsors

This event would not be possible without the generous support of:

Dr. Arthur Clark
 Calgary Center for Global Community
 Humainologie
 City of Calgary

