



# FLORIDA CITRUS MUTUAL



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## **Julia C. Black Memorial Speech Contest & Scholarship**

### **Rules and Details of Competition**

- 1) Contestants must be students in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2023-24 school year.
- 2) Contestants must be residents of the FCM District they are representing (see FCM Districts).
- 3) The speech must be the original work of the contestant.
- 4) The topic for the speech is: “The Importance of the Citrus Industry to the State of Florida.” The purpose of this contest is to promote a better knowledge and understanding of Florida’s citrus industry and to help promote the industry’s many values and virtues.
- 5) Speaking order will be randomly determined by event officials. Contestants will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation. Visual aids are not allowed.
- 6) Speeches must be a minimum of six minutes and a maximum of eight minutes in length. Short/long speeches will face point deductions; no time warnings will be given.
- 7) There will be a question and answer session at the end of each speech, maximum 5 minutes.
- 8) Each judge will individually rank the contestant and then rankings from all judges will be averaged to determine the final placings.

- 9) The contest has two levels: district and state. Winners of the District competitions will come together to compete in the State competition. The winner of the State Competition will be invited and must be available to attend the Florida Citrus Industry Annual Conference to present their winning speech at the banquet Thursday night, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2024.
- 10) Application window runs from November 13 – December 30, 2023; first come-first served basis for a total of 15 contestants per District.
- 11) District competitions will take place during the month of January 2024. State competition will take place the week of March 18, 2024.
- 12) District prizes are as follows:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$100
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$75
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$50.
- 13) State prizes are as follows:
  - a. 1st Place - \$1,000 (Plus hotel accommodations (2 rooms for 2 nights) at the FCIAC and seating for up to 6 people, for at the Thursday night banquet June 13, 2024
  - b. 2nd Place - \$500
  - c. 3rd Place - \$250