ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The City of Swan’s Youth Out Loud is a public speaking contest for young people aged 12 to 25 who live, work, attend school or belong to a club within the City of Swan. The competition provides young people with a platform to speak out about issues that not only affect them, but their community too.

Councillors and Members of State Parliament usually attend the event, giving young people an even bigger opportunity to be heard by the community they live in on topics they are passionate about. Members of the City of Swan’s Youth leadership groups will also be paying close attention to what young people have to say, and will be looking at ways to help put some of those ideas into action.

Speeches can cover topics as far ranging as social media, different worldviews or the environment, as long as they are relevant to the theme of the competition, which is different each year.

WHO CAN ENTER?

The spirit of the Youth Out Loud 2020 competition is to give all young people a voice. The competition is open to young people aged 12 – 25 from all backgrounds and academic abilities. In order to be eligible, contestants must live, work, attend school or belong to a club within the City of Swan.

The City of Swan encourages ALL young people regardless of social or educational status, to enter.

The competition is run in four categories – Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Master.

• Junior - 12-13 years
• Intermediate - 14-15 years
• Senior - 16-17 years
• Master - 18-25 years

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In the heat stage, contestants present a six-minute speech relevant to the theme. The three top-scoring contestants from each category will then go through to the final.

In the final, successful contestants will be asked to present the same six-minute speech. For the six-minute speech, we recommend contestants present an improved version of their original speech from the heat.

A timer light is visible from the stage, which will turn green at the four-minute mark, yellow at the five-minute mark, and red at six minutes to mark the finishing time. Contestants who go more than 30 seconds over time will have 10% of their points deducted, and another 10% for every 10 seconds thereon.

Finalists are asked to submit a written or digital version of their speech at the conclusion of the final.

PRIZES

The winner of each category will receive a $200 prize, and the runners-up of each category will receive a $100 prize.

An overall winner will be announced, who will win an additional $100 prize and will be awarded the Charlie Gregorini Memorial Shield.

Prizes will be gifted as Coles Myer Gift Cards, which can be used at a range of stores.

HOW TO ENTER

Entry to Youth Out Loud is now done directly via the website at www.swan.wa.gov.au/youthoutloud

Complete and submit the entry form online by midnight on Friday, June 5 in order to register.

If you are unable to access the website, please contact Annie Martella on the details below to arrange an alternative enrolment method.

After nominations have closed, you will be sent further information about the event and which heat you will be competing in.

Transport assistance. If you are experiencing difficulties in finding transport to attend the event, contact Annie Martella on the details below to request a taxi voucher. Taxi vouchers are only available to young people registered at the event and who are traveling from, or returning to a location within the City of Swan boundaries.
THE THEME: SELF

Youth Out Loud 2020 asks young people to deliver a speech that explores the concept of self. Explore your own identity and what makes you who you are, what pressures you feel on your sense of self and self-reflection.

The contestant can discuss something they are passionate about as long as it references the theme. Some examples of potential topics include: housing availability and affordability, community and families, employment, discrimination, mental health, sexuality, physical environment, politics and collective action, and arts and culture.

It is important to remember that Local Government is your audience and a reference to the role of Local Government in relation to your topic/the theme, and a local community focus is strongly recommended.

THE JUDGING

There will be a panel of four judges during the heats and final. The panels will include City of Swan Councillors, City of Swan Youth Development Coordinator, a member from the City of Swan’s Youth Leadership group, people from the Youth Work sector, and other community members.

The judges will be looking at three aspects of the contestant’s speech. Below are the assessment criteria for judges, to give you an idea of how you will be assessed. However, they are not conclusive as to what makes a great speech – great speeches will go above and beyond the framework stated here.

Note: As a general rule, use of palm cards is acceptable. However, they must be used subtly and skilfully. The use of electronic devises (phones, iPad) is not permitted.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

CONTENT

• Do you communicate a solid argument with convincing conclusions?
• Do you show a depth of knowledge about your chosen topic?
• Is your speech relevant to the competition theme?

MANNER AND PRESENTATION

• Do you engage with and build rapport with the audience (e.g. appropriate use of eye contact, enthusiasm)?
• Do you make effective use of your voice to communicate (tone, pitch, clarity, volume etc. - are these used appropriately and with flexibility?)
• Do you have a confident presence, effective gesturing, use palm cards appropriately, and know your speech well?

Impact

• Are you logical, persuasive and do you achieve your purpose to inform and make an argument?
• Do you display sincerity and speak with conviction?
• Do you capture the audience’s attention and make an impact?

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

• Contestants must complete the required entry form and agree to abide by the conditions of entry in order to have their nomination accepted.
• Contestants must fit the age of their category and must meet one or more of the following criteria:
  • Live within the City of Swan
  • Work within the City of Swan
  • Attend school within the City of Swan, or
  • Belong to a club within the City of Swan.
• Contestants’ speeches must be their own original work.

• The judges’ decision is final.
• Contestants in the final are to provide typed or digital copies of their prepared speeches at the conclusion of the competition.
• The City of Swan reserves the right to reproduce and use contestants’ speeches (for the purposes of promotion, advocacy and celebration).
• An appropriate smart casual dress code is asked of all contestants. We encourage contestants to wear a formal version of the uniform from their school, club or youth service they are representing.

TOASTMASTERS WORKSHOPS

The City of Swan has formed a partnership with local Toastmasters clubs, who will be delivering training workshops for prospective contestants of Youth Out Loud, at no charge to you.

This training workshop is an opportunity for contestants to spend some time with experienced Toastmasters, who will provide advice and guidance about how to prepare and deliver a winning speech. We recommend that contestants bring their speech along to the workshop, even if it is still being developed.

Sign up for one of the workshops by contacting Annie Martella on the details below.

Transport Assistance. If you are experiencing difficulties in finding transport to attend the workshop, contact Annie Martella on the details below to request a taxi voucher. Please note that taxi vouchers are only available to young people registered at the workshop and who are traveling from and/or returning to a location within the City of Swan boundaries.

FURTHER INFORMATION

These guidelines aim to give you an idea of what to expect for the City of Swan’s Youth Out Loud Public Speaking Contest. Please complete and submit an entry form online by Friday, June 5.

Please contact Annie Martella, on the details below, for any further queries including:

• assistance with completing an entry form,
• discussing any accessibility or support requirements for physical, mental or learning disability, or further information about the theme.

Annie Martella
Youth Development Officer
Email: annie.martella@swan.wa.gov.au
Phone: 0419 953 973