



# Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. Congress Senior Oratorical Contest 2024

**Convention President**

Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson

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**Congress Dean**

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**State Oratorical Director**

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**Theme:** Firmly Committed to God's  
Promises For My Life in All Things

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 29:11 and  
1 Corinthians 15: 8

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# Submission Deadline

April 1, 2024, 11:59pm

## Submit to

OrationFGBCI@gmail.com

## Purpose

To provide training on communication skills and public speaking experience. We further purpose to afford each contestant an opportunity to earn a college scholarship. This is accomplished through completion of all required phases of the contest, conveying intellectual thinking, and confident delivery of an original written and oral presentation on the selected theme. The goal of the scholarship award is for students to receive financial assistance with tuition, books, housing and other related costs of attending an institution for higher education.

The FGBCI Senior Oratorical Contest will be held in person, during the FGBCI Annual Session on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, time to be determined. We have made several updates to this year's oratorical contest guidelines and rules. An overview of these updates are detailed in the following pages.

## Theme

Firmly Committed to God's Promises For My Life  
in All Things

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 29:11 and 1 Corinthians 15:68

# Qualifications

- Be a member in good standing of a church that is currently registered with Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. and an affiliated district association
- Contestants must be high school students currently enrolled in their senior year and graduating prior to August 2024. Contest for the lower grades will be held during 2024 State Congress of Christian Education
- They must express intent of continuing their education at a college or university.
- The contestants will participate in a multiple-step process, including, but not limited to:

## **1. Competing in their church's Oratorical Contest.**

## **2. Competing in their local District Association Oratorical Contest.**

## **3. The contestant chosen at the State level to compete in the National Baptist Congress Oratorical Contest may be sponsored by either his or her local church, the District or the State Convention.**

# Organization of written speech

- The Speech must use the scripture and theme below:  
Write an essay about how GenZers can stay firmly committed to God's promises for their life in all things.

Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11 and 1 Corinthians 15:68

- The speech must be original, prepared, and written by the contestant. The use of quotes, AI writing software, and any wording not by the oratorical contestant must be properly cited using the citation format of the orator's choosing.
- The speech must be typewritten, organized, and submitted in a word document or .pdf format in Times New Roman, 12 point black font, double-spaced.
- The speech must progress logically, be correct in form and content, relevant, and address the established theme and scripture.
- There should be no typographical or grammatical errors in the final submitted copy.
- The speech must clearly document all references or copyrighted material cited in the oration. All supporting documentation must be neatly filled, complete, and accurate.
- The contestant's oration and supporting documentation, i.e., (contestant cover sheet, documentation submission form, electronic photo and the student's most recent report card) must be received from the District Congress President, the State Youth Director, or the State Director of the Oratorical Contest by April 1, 2024 at 11:59 PM via electronic version (email)

# Submission Guidelines

The email submission should include the following:

- Contestants name in the subject line
- Contestant Cover Sheet
  - Documentation Submission Form
- Contestant's last report card
- Contestants written Oration (no identifying information should be on this document and it must be sent in PDF format)
- Electronic photo of contestant (please no copies of ID cards-this photo will be submitted for the website posting)

*\*Only the email submission is required.*

**Send to:** OrationFGBCI@gmail.com

**Subject line:** Oratorical Contest 2024

# Instructions to Contestants

- The first place winner will receive \$3,000, the second place winner will receive \$2,000, and the third place winner will receive \$1,000 in the form of a savings bond. All participants will receive a medal for their participation in the contest. The winners will be announced during Congress Session. All awards will be distributed through mail following the Congress.
- The top three winning contestants will receive an email from the Oratorical Coordinator or designee immediately following the contest to complete all required documents to receive their award scholarship award (including mailing confirmation and W9 tax form). Be sure to respond in a timely manner.
- Regardless of your opinion, the Judges' decision is final.
- The judges are selected prior to the Oratorical Contest. Each judge receives the guidelines and judge's score sheet during the judge's training session(s). Each judge is scheduled to attend a training teleconference prior to the Annual Session and will virtually attend a final review before the live contest. Each judge has attested to providing a fair and impartial scoring of each contestant.
- The judges will use the following criteria to rank each oration: composition, subject matter, content, originality, delivery, memorization, vocal control, enunciation, pronunciation, presentation, and mastery of material. The oration must be memorized.
- The judges will also give each contestant an intangible score (most commonly used to describe things that are not recognized but not easily quantified) and in the "event of a tie", the contestant with the highest intangible score will be the winning contestant.

# Competition Checklist

The email submission should include the following:

1. Successfully advance through church, local, and state contests.
2. Ensure your church/district is registered to attend the 2024 Annual Session.
3. Complete application and email all additionally required documents (i.e. written oration, most recent report card and headshot) by April 1, 2024 to compete at the state oratorical contest.
4. Have a state representative confirm your participation and placement in the state oratorical contest through email.
5. Receive confirmation of selection

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

- / **SERMONIC TONES** refers to “whooping” or “singing” at the conclusion or during any part of the oration.
- / **TESTIMONIALS** refers to framing the body or content of the speech around a personal testimony/story. This decision is made at the judges’ discretion.
- / **EXCESSIVE GESTURING** is determined at the judges’ discretion. Contestant beware. Limit all movement, including your hands. Excessive gesturing or movement may result in disqualification.



# FGBCI Congress of Christian Education

## Oratorical Contest 2024

### CONTESTANT COVERSHEET

*Information must be received by April 1, 2024 , 11:59pm*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

*The information below may be completed by district association admin with  
the approval of the district's moderator*

District Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Moderator: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Congress Dean/President: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

District Youth Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

District Oratorical Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of District Contest: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Contestant anticipates graduating from high school: \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Contestant plans to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Website address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date classes start: \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Has Contestant received official notice of acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**District Youth Directors, Moderators, President or Congress Deans are asked to verify the accuracy of all information by signing beneath their name. Please assure that all information is legible.**

**Florida General Baptist Convention**  
**ORATORICAL CONTEST**  
**DOCUMENTATION SUBMISSION FORM 2024**

*Name and Contact information of Person submitting the Contestant Information*

*by April 1, 2024, 11:59 PM*

*Name of person submitting information* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*City:* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *Zip* \_\_\_\_\_

*Telephone:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Email Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name of Contestant You Represent:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name of District:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Who will accompany the contestant to the Oratorical Contest?*

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Telephone :* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date scheduled to arrive at Annual Session:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Departure date:*

\_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET-2024**

Contestant # \_\_\_\_\_

Intangible Score \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>EFFECTIVENESS</b>             | Poor<br>1-2 | Fair<br>3-4 | Good<br>5-6 | Excellent<br>7-8 | Superior<br>9-10 | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------|
| Content                          |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| Composition                      |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| Clear Purpose                    |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| <b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>            | Poor<br>1-2 | Fair<br>3-4 | Good<br>5-6 | Excellent<br>7-8 | Superior<br>9-10 | Total |
| Introduction/Closing             |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| Originality                      |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| <b>DELIVERY</b>                  | Poor<br>1-2 | Fair<br>3-4 | Good<br>5-6 | Excellent<br>7-8 | Superior<br>9-10 | Total |
| Memorization                     |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| Enunciation/<br>Pronunciation    |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| Vocal Control                    |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| Eye Contact                      |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| <b>DECORUM/ATTIRE</b>            | Poor<br>1-2 | Fair<br>3-4 | Good<br>5-6 | Excellent<br>7-8 | Superior<br>9-10 | Total |
| Poise/Limited<br>Gestures/Attire |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |
| <b>Grand Total</b>               |             |             |             |                  |                  |       |

\_\_\_\_\_(TYPE NAME) \_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Signature

- Each judge must sign his/her individual score sheet and submit the same to the competition coordinator or designee at the conclusion of each contestant's speech. Each contestant must receive a score for each category and an intangible score.