

GUIDELINES

THE 36th ANNUAL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

April 13, 2025

For Middle School ♦ High School Students

Organized by the Consular Office of Japan in Portland

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1. OBJECTIVES

By showcasing the talent of middle school and high school students of Japanese and encouraging them to pursue their studies, it is hoped that the Speech Contest will serve to support Japanese language learning and education in our jurisdiction, and to promote mutual understanding and strengthen the ties that Japan now shares with the citizens of these States.

2. CONTEST LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

Date: Sunday, April 13, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 3:30p.m. (Tentative time)

Location: Hawthorne Room, Wells Fargo Center Building
3rd floor, 1300 SW 5th Ave, Portland, OR, 97201

Tentative Schedule:

11:30	-	12:00	Registration
12:00	-	12:20	Explanation of Guidelines
12:20	-	2:30	Speeches
2:30	-	3:00	DVD Screening, Judge Scoring
3:00	-	3:30	Award Ceremony

3. ORGANIZER AND SUPPORTERS

Organized by: Consular Office of Japan in Portland

Supporters : Association of Teachers of Japanese in Oregon
City of Sapporo
Portland -Sapporo Sister City Association
Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation
Shokookai of Portland

4. JUDGES

The judges' panel consists of Japanese professors from local universities, a member of the Shokookai of Portland, a member of the Portland-Sapporo Sister City Association and a staff member of the Consular Office of Japan. (Tentative)

Dr. Suwako Watanabe	Portland State University
Dr. Satomi Newsom	Lewis & Clark College
TBD	Shokookai of Portland
Ms. Mami Kikuchi	Portland-Sapporo Sister City Association
Ms. Lisa Murakami	Consular Office of Japan in Portland

5. CONTEST STRUCTURE AND APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Level of Competition and Speech Length

Division 1 Reading aloud	Middle school students & High school students who are not immersion program students nor do they come from homes where Japanese is spoken <i>Reading length: Two (2) minutes</i> <i>Reading Text: See Attachment 1</i>
Division 2 Speech	Middle school & High school students who are not immersion program students nor do they come from homes where Japanese is spoken <i>Speech length: Three (3) minutes</i>
Division 3 Long Speech	Middle school & High school students in immersion programs or from homes where Japanese is spoken are allowed excluding students of the Portland Japanese school <i>Speech length: Five (5) minutes</i>

- Participants of Division 1 are able to use the Reading Text with “Roma-ji” phonetics.
- Speeches slightly over (30 seconds or less) the time restrictions set above are acceptable. However, contestants will be asked to stop when speeches are longer than prescribed time and 30 seconds.

B. Speech Topic:

スピーチ トピック : わたしが^{す き}好きな^{りょうり}料理
Speech topic: My Favorite Dish

Speeches must be written by students themselves.

Students are allowed to bring notes if they need. No visual aids such as panels, OHP, or music tapes/CDs are allowed.

C. Number of participants by category

Division 1: 7 students

Division 2: 5 students

Division 3: 5 students

D. Selection Process

The panel will consider Japanese language ability, speech content and presentation. Judges do not expect students to perform like native speakers; rather, they will be looking for mastery of a certain skill level. For this reason, we encourage teachers and family to refrain from excessive correcting and rewriting of their student's speeches.

The panel will evaluate each contestant for Japanese language ability, speech content and presentation/delivery. One of the judges will ask the student two to three questions in order to check whether or not the speech is rote memorization. The scores of contestants will not be disclosed for any reason.

The City of Sapporo's special award will be selected by a judge of the Portland –Sapporo Sister City Association separately from the above selection process.

6. AWARDS

The awards will be announced on the day. After speeches, the judges will deliver their decision. The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 3:00pm. In the past, the contest has proceeded ahead of schedule, so we may begin the Awards Ceremony earlier than 3:00pm.

7. OTHERS

- Participants shall participate in this contest at their own risk and should take appropriate measures to safeguard their health.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Consular Office of Japan at (503) 221-1811 or email to bunkaportland@se.mofa.go.jp

Reading Text for Division 1

「くじらぐも」

四じかんめの ことです。

一ねん二くみの 子どもたちが たいそうを して いると、
空に、大きな くじらが あられました。
まっしろい くもの くじらです。

みんなは、手を つないで、まるい わに になると、
「天までとどけ、一、二、三。」
と ジャンプしました。

その ときです。

いきなり、かぜが、みんなを空へ ふきとばしました。
そして、せんせいと 子どもたちは、手を つないだ まま、
くものくじらに のって いました。

「さあ、およぐぞ。」

くじらは、青い 青い 空の なかを、
げんき いっぱい すすんでいきました。

うみの ほうへ、
むらの ほうへ、
まちの ほうへ。

みんなは、うたを うたいました。

「おや、もう おひるだ。」
せんせいが おどろくと、
「では、かえろう。」
と、くじらは、まわれみぎを しました。

くじらぐもは、ジャングルジムのうえに、みんなを おろしました。

「さようなら。」
みんなが 手を ふったとき、四じかんめの
おわりの チャイムが なりだしました。

くもの くじらは、げんきよく、
青い 空の なかへ
かえって いきました。