



## 2024 CARCD CONSERVATION EDUCATION SPEAK-OFF

**TOPIC:** What is the role of agriculture in meeting California's climate goals?

### **RULES:**

#### **Contestant Qualifications:**

- Must be a high school student, grades 9-12, at the time of the state conference in December.
- Any prior state winner is not eligible as a contestant.
- Must have an interest in agriculture, resource conservation or the environment.
- Contestants must speak at the regional level to compete at the state level.

#### **Application Requirements:**

- Each contestant must fill out and submit an application form to their local Resource Conservation District office.
- The application must include: name, address, phone number, school, grade, age, club affiliations, and a brief statement about interest or involvement in agriculture, conservation or environmental practices. Please see attached application.

#### **Speech Requirements:**

- Speaking order will be determined by drawing numbers.
- The speech will be three to five minutes in length, including the salutation and title.
- The speaker shall not introduce themselves or state what school they represent. However, mentioning their county or area is allowed.
- Notes will be allowed at the district and regional levels, but not at the state level.
- No props, costumes, or visual aids will be allowed at any level.
- The speech must include a link to Resource Conservation Districts.

#### **Judging:**

- There will be three judges and a timekeeper at the district, regional, and state speak-offs.
- It is the Regional Director's responsibility to include the speak-off on a meeting agenda and to secure regional judges and a timekeeper.
- Judges and timekeepers shall not be related, in any way, to contestants.
- At the regional level, directors from districts with contestants CANNOT be judges or timekeepers
- At the state level, directors from districts with contestants CANNOT be judges or timekeepers.
- At the regional level, any questions will be decided by the Regional President. At the state level, questions will be decided by the Speak-Off Committee or the Conservation Education Committee.

All regional winners will receive certificates at the state speak-off. The state speak-off winners will receive:

- 1st Place - \$300
- 2nd Place - \$200
- 3rd Place - \$100