



# 2021-2022 District Events

## Talking Points

For the 2021-2022 program year, several decisions were made related to District events to ensure the safety of our members while still allowing members to participate in District activities.

### **District Conferences**

Districts may choose between a hybrid or online conference, but an exclusively in-person conference is not permitted. For a hybrid conference, Districts will need to be able to include remote attendees as much as possible. Hybrid events may include opening ceremonies, keynotes/guest speakers, education sessions, recognition/celebration ceremonies, and speech contest if it was previously recorded (defined below). Events such as the dinner dance may not be feasible in a hybrid format. Districts may consider a nominal fee for attendees to attend remotely.

### **District Council Meetings**

All District Council meetings for the program year are to be conducted online. This means no proxies are permitted. Each member of the council is expected to represent their club by registering for *and* attending the meeting, including voting when called upon to do so. The District Council meeting has traditionally been held during the conference but may need to be held at a time and/or day outside the conference itself, especially if the District is holding a hybrid conference. To ensure members are able to attend the online District Council meeting, the meeting can be held before or after the conference.

### **District Speech Contests**

Districts had the option to choose between online or in-person contests for all contests from the Area- to the District-level. Each District Executive Committee was required to submit the format in which the District's contests will be conducted by July 31, 2021. If no selection was submitted, the District must conduct their contests online. Districts may switch from in-person contests to online contests to ensure that member health and safety remain a priority. This is the only change permitted, and it applies to all remaining contests within the District. The decision is made by the District Director, Program Quality Director, and Club Growth Director. These leaders should monitor local restrictions and guidelines to assess whether a change from in-person contests to online contests is required. Districts cannot switch from online to in-person contests.

Online speech contests must be conducted with all contestants participating from physically-distant locations, using equipment that they obtain themselves. All contestants and contest officials must be present in real-time for a live, online contest. The contest may be recorded and then shared with general audience members at a later date.

If any Districts have questions they can reach out to District Growth and Support Team at [districts@toastmasters.org](mailto:districts@toastmasters.org).