Spirited Speech Masters

Welcome Packet

Welcome to Spirited Speech Masters, an experiential, self-directed learning program offered through Toastmasters International. Your success depends on how much you participate. This introductory packet will help you begin the process of self-development, giving you the tools most needed to be successful. If you have any questions, we encourage you to reach out to your mentor or any one of the members of the Executive Leadership Committee. If you have not yet been paired with a mentor, ask the Vice President of Education (see the enclosed page on current Executive Committee members). Your mentor will work with you to help make a game plan to achieve your goals.

## My Toastmasters mentor is

## Toastmasters Mission Statement

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| *The mission of the Toastmasters program is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which participants have the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.* |

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## Important URLs

* **Spirited Speech Masters:** [spiritedspeechmasters.org](https://spiritedspeechmasters.org)
* **Toastmasters:** [toastmasters.org](https://www.toastmasters.org)
* **District 56:** [tmd56.org](https://tmd56.org/wp)

# Educational Goals and Objectives

Please send a copy of your goals to the **Vice President of Education**, when complete.

List two goals you wish to accomplish this year within Spirited Speech Masters.



List two objectives you want to accomplish in the next few months in support of the above-listed goals.



## The target date of my first speech is

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Personal and Vocational** | **Interest Level** |
| Improve critical-thinking skills. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Improve meeting-management skills. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Improve listening skills. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Improve leadership skills. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Improve communication skills. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Improve evaluation skills. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
|  |  |
| **Program Administration** | **Interest Level** |
| Help increase enrollment. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Serve on the Executive Committee. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Assist with public relations efforts. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Contribute to the Program web site. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
|  |  |
| **Outside of MD Anderson** | **Interest Level** |
| Participate in outside Toastmasters events. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Visit other Toastmasters chapters. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |
| Compete in a speech contest. | ⬜ High ⬜ Med ⬜ Low |

# Pathways Self-Directed Learning

## The Pathways™ learning experience is designed to promote your personal and professional development. As the foundation of the Toastmasters experience, Pathways is designed to help you build the competencies you need to communicate and lead. There are 11 Paths from which you can choose based on your personal and professional goals. There are a number of resources available about making the most out of Pathways – including a guide to help you get started – on the **Learn** page of our web site (<https://spiritedspeechmasters.org/learn>).

## Dynamic Leadership

Builds skills as a strategic leader. Projects focus on understanding leadership and communication styles, the e­ffect of conflict on a group and the skills needed to defuse and direct conflict. These projects also emphasize the development of strategies to facilitate change in an organization or group, interpersonal communication and public speaking. Culminates in a project focused on applying your leadership skills.

## Effective Coaching

Builds skills as a positive communicator and leader. Projects focus on understanding and building consensus, contributing to the development of others by coaching and establishing strong public speaking skills. Each project emphasizes the importance of eff­ective interpersonal communication. Culminates in a “High Performance Leadership” project of your design.

## Engaging Humor

Builds skills as an accomplished public speaker. Projects focus on learning how an audience responds to di­fferent types of humor and improving your ability to deliver a message with humor. The projects contribute to developing an understanding of e­ffective public speaking technique, speech writing, speech delivery, and using humorous stories. Culminates in an extended speech that will allow you to apply what you learned.

## Innovative Planning

Builds skills as a public speaker and leader. Projects focus on developing a strong connection with audience members when you present, speech writing and speech delivery. The projects contribute to building an understanding of the steps to manage a project, as well as creating innovative solutions. Culminates in a “High Performance Leadership” project of your design.

## Leadership Development

Builds skills as an eff­ective communicator and leader. Projects focus on learning how to manage time, as well as how to develop and implement a plan. Public speaking and leading a team are emphasized in all projects. Culminates in the planning and execution of an event that will allow you to apply everything you learned.

## Motivational Strategies

Builds skills as a powerful and effective communicator. Projects focus on learning strategies for building connections with the people around you, understanding motivation and successfully leading small groups to accomplish tasks. Culminates in a comprehensive team-building project that brings all of your skills together—including public speaking.

## Persuasive Influence

Builds skills as an innovative communicator and leader. Projects focus on how to negotiate a positive outcome together with building strong interpersonal communication and public speaking skills. Each project emphasizes developing leadership skills to use in complex situations, as well as creating innovative solutions to challenges. Culminates in a “High Performance Leadership” project of your design.

## Presentation Mastery

Builds skills as an accomplished public speaker. Projects focus on learning how an audience responds to you and improving your connection with audience members. The projects contribute to developing an understanding of e­ffective public speaking technique, including speech writing and speech delivery. Culminates in an extended speech that will allow you to apply what you learned.

**Important:**While your first Path is free, each additional Path costs $20. If you dislike your chosen Path, you have 30 days to contact Toastmasters International to request a change.

**Phone:** +1 720-439-5050; 6AM-7PM MST, Monday-Friday (excluding U.S. holidays)  
**Email:** [supplyorders@toastmasters.org](mailto:supplyorders@toastmasters.org)

## Strategic Relationships

Builds skills as a leader in communication. Projects focus on understanding diversity, building personal and/or professional connections with a variety of people and developing a public relations strategy. Communicating well interpersonally and as a public speaker is emphasized in each project. The path culminates in a project to apply your skills as a leader in a volunteer organization.

## Team Collaboration

Builds skills as a collaborative leader. Projects focus on active listening, motivating others and collaborating with a team. Each project contributes to building interpersonal communication and public speaking skills. Culminates in a project focused on applying your leadership skills.

## Visionary Communication

Builds skills as a strategic communicator and leader. Projects focus on developing your skills for sharing information with a group, planning communications and creating innovative solutions. Speech writing and speech delivery are emphasized in each project. Culminates in the development and launch of a long-term personal or professional vision.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do members improve their public speaking skills?

Toastmastersprovides participants access to an educational program called Pathways. This program includes a number of different paths that include detailed projects within specific areas of interest, including but not limited to leadership, project management, motivational speaking, and delivering presentations. Weekly sessions are structured to provide support and encouragement to participants as they strive to improve speaking and leadership abilities.

## What are roles?

To help ensure that each session is successful and efficient, participants (and sometimes guests) volunteer to fulfill certain roles for the meeting:

* **Toastmaster-of-the-Day:** the master of ceremonies who leads the meeting
* **Speaker:** gives a prepared speech from the Pathways Program, usually 5 to 7 minutes in length, often with one or more specific objectives
* **Evaluator:** provides constructive feedback to the speaker at the conclusion of his or her speech
* **Timer:** monitors and records the time elapsed during each speech and table topic response
* **Grammarian:** introduces and monitors usage of the “Word of the Day”; listens for both imprecise uses of the English language as well as exceptional turns of phrase
* **Ah-Counter:** listens for the use of filler words (ex. “um”) as well as repeated “double clutch” words
* **Table Topics Master:** prompts volunteers to speak extemporaneously for 1-2 minutes on a variety of topics he or she selects
* **General Evaluator:** provides constructive feedback on the meeting in general

To ensure a prompt start time, participants are encouraged to sign up in advance for roles via our web site.

## Do I have to compete in contests?

While some participants find that the healthy competition provided by speech contests can motivate them toward achieving their goals, others prefer to progress at their own pace, focusing exclusively on Pathways as the source of their progress. No participant is required to compete in speech contests.

## How can I serve on the Executive Committee?

Elections for the Executive Committee are held annually during the month of May. Interested participants are encouraged to express their interest in a given position before the elections are held, although same-day nominations are accepted. Members of the Executive Committee are always happy to accept help, so if the position in which you are interested is presently filled, consider asking for an opportunity to share some of the responsibility of the role.

## What can I expect of my mentor?

Your mentor will help provide additional support as you progress through the Toastmasters educational program. He or she can also provide insight into how to get the most from your experience and help answer any questions you might have.

## How can I get the most out of Toastmasters?

* Ask the Vice President of Education to assign you a mentor.
* Try to speak at every meeting. If you are not signed up for a role, volunteer to participate during Table Topics.
* As soon as you are an official member, you should receive login information for the Spirited Speech Masters web site (<https://spiritedspeechmasters.org>). Log in to start signing up for roles. The three easiest roles to start with are:
  + Timer
  + Grammarian
  + Ah Counter

A good strategy is to sign up for the same role two weeks in a row. This will allow you to get comfortable performing the role, and then you can try a new role. You could also choose to alternate: Timer one week, then Grammarian, then Timer, then Grammarian, etc. Concentrating on these three basic roles at the beginning will help establish your footing in the world of public speaking, as well as teach you about how Toastmasters meetings are run.

* Plan to give your first speech – “the Icebreaker” – from your chosen Pathway curriculum within the first month of joining. Sooner is better since this speech is intended to serve as your introduction to the club.

# 2019-2020 Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee members serve for 12-month terms that run from July 1 to June 30.

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| --- | --- |
| President Presides at sessions, has general supervision of the operations. | *Name removed for privacy* |
| Vice President of Education Plans and directs club programs that meet the educational needs of participants. Plans and publishes regular schedules of meeting assignments. Keeps track of participants’ progress towards goals. | *Name removed for privacy* |
| Vice President of Membership Plans and directs programs to retain and increase enrollment. | *Name removed for privacy* |
| Vice President of Public Relations Develops and directs programs that inform participants and the organization about Toastmasters International and Program activities. | *Name removed for privacy* |
| Secretary Responsible for program records and correspondence. Maintains the roster of enrollment. Keeps an accurate record of sessions and activities by participants within the scope of the Program. | *Name removed for privacy* |
| Treasurer Responsible for financial policies, procedures and controls. Collects tuition, pays dues to Toastmasters International, and maintains records. Makes financial reports at least quarterly. Receives and disburses, with approval from participants, all Program funds. | *Name removed for privacy* |
| Sergeant-at-Arms Prepares classroom. Maintains Program property, including banner, nametags, and supplies. Greets visitors. Chairs Social and Reception Committees. | *Name removed for privacy* |
| Immediate Past President Supports the current members of the Executive Committee. Primary responsibilities involve serving as a resource for new Committee members and ensuring continuity with past terms. | *Name removed for privacy* |