

# 2018 Sikh Youth Symposium

(A Division of Sikh Youth Alliance of North America)

## GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: I (6 to 8 years)

Time allotted: 5 minutes

**Book:** Warrior Princess Rani Sahib Kaur

**Author:** Sardar Harmeet Singh

### **I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):**

1. Does the reading of the book Princess Rani Sahib Kaur inspire you to affirm your faith in Guru Gobind Singh ji? If so, what makes you feel so?
2. How was Rani Sahib Kaur successful in defeating a huge army of Marathas with such small number of her soldiers?
3. What changes do you propose to bring in your life after reading the life story of Rani Sahib Kaur?

### **II Presentation (40 points):**

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

Time allotted to finish the speech for this group is **5 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 5 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 5 minutes and 30 seconds have elapsed, one point would be deducted for every extra 10 seconds or part of 10 seconds, from every judge's score for the participant.

### **III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:**

Use of Punjabi and maintenance of Sikhi Saroop needs to be encouraged. Participants who use Punjabi and/or maintain Sikhi Saroop will be judged according to the above format. However, it is suggested that such participants be rewarded suitably.

### **IV Suggestions on preparing youth for the Sikh Youth Symposium:**

Given that the primary purpose of the Sikh Youth Symposium is for our children to focus on their learning, we would like to clarify the appropriate levels of support children should receive as they prepare for their speeches. It is our recommendation that it is in the best interest of the children to write their own speeches, with minimal support from parents or other adults.

Parents/Mentors may sit with children to read and discuss the book, as well as review the questions with them. They may write the child's responses as the child verbally answers the questions. The parents may help the children put their answers together in a speech format and further develop their thoughts, as needed.

If your child's speech is prepared in Punjabi, it must still follow the guidelines above. If it is prepared in English, it can be translated into Punjabi after it is created per the above guidelines. However, once the speech is in Punjabi, your child should understand the speech in its entirety.

*Although these are only suggestions, in order to make this experience most meaningful and equitable for all children, it is recommended that we adhere to these suggestions as closely as possible.*

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## GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: II (9 to 10 years)

Time allotted: 6 minutes

**Book:** Why am I a Sikh

Publisher: Sikh Missionary College, Ludhiana

### **I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):**

1. In your words, describe three important Sikh beliefs that impress you the most and inspire you to adopt into your life?
2. Describe the way of life of a Gursikh as told to us by Guru Gobind Singh ji and described in the book.
3. Define human equality, in principle and in practice, according to the Sikh faith.

### **II Presentation (40 points):**

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

Time allotted to finish the speech for this group is **6 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 6 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 6 minutes and 30 seconds have elapsed, one point would be deducted for every extra 10 seconds or part of 10 seconds, from every judge's score for the participant.

### **III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:**

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### **IV Suggestions on preparing youth for the Sikh Youth Symposium:**

Given that the primary purpose of the Sikh Youth Symposium is for our children to focus on their learning, we would like to clarify the appropriate levels of support children should receive as they prepare for their speeches. It is our recommendation that it is in the best interest of the children to write their own speeches, with minimal support from parents or other adults.

Parents/Mentors may sit with children to read and discuss the book and questions, however the children should write their own answers. Parents/Mentors may verbally support the children develop thoughts, suggest the ways and means to use better language without providing exact language to use in the speech.

If your child's speech is prepared in Punjabi, it must still follow the guidelines above. If it is prepared in English, it can be translated into Punjabi after it is created per the above guidelines. However, once the speech is in Punjabi, your child should understand the speech in its entirety.

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## GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: III (11 to 13 years)

Time allotted: 6 minutes

**Book:** Selected Episodes from Sikh History – Part 3

Publisher: Sikh Missionary College, Ludhiana

**I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):**

1. Explain the importance of knowing true stories of Guru history that are logical in approach and are in line with the message of Guru Granth Sahib ji. Use the story of Bibi Bhani ji in your book as the point of reference.
2. Is it good enough just to know and feel proud about our history, or is it also necessary to sincerely lead a life according to the guidelines for becoming a good Gursikh?
3. What lessons have you learned from the story of Bhai Tilka ji? How would these lessons help you in becoming a better human being?

**II Presentation (40 points):**

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

Time allotted to finish the speech for this group is **6 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 6 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 6 minutes and 30 seconds have elapsed, one point would be deducted for every extra 10 seconds or part of 10 seconds, from every judge's score for the participant.

**III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:**

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**IV Suggestions on preparing youth for the Sikh Youth Symposium:**

Given that the primary purpose of the Sikh Youth Symposium is for our children to focus on their learning, we would like to clarify the appropriate levels of support children should receive as they prepare for their speeches. It is our recommendation that it is in the best interest of the children to write their own speeches, with minimal support from parents or other adults.

The participants should read the books independently, asking parents/mentors for support to understand the text and questions as needed. The participants should independently write their speeches, asking parents/mentors for suggestions, Gurbani references and reference points.

If your child's speech is prepared in Punjabi, it must still follow the guidelines above. If it is prepared in English, it can be translated into Punjabi after it is created per the above guidelines. However, once the speech is in Punjabi, your child should understand the speech in its entirety.

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## GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: IV (14 to 17 years)

Time allotted: 7 minutes

**Book:** Guru Granth Sahib: A Supreme Treasure

**Author:** Dr. Sarup Singh

### **I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):**

1. What makes the message of Sri Guru Granth Sahib universal? How would you justify it to be the guide to the entire humanity?
2. Sri Guru Granth Sahib repeatedly emphasizes that everything is in Waheguru's hands and we should accept Waheguru's hukam smilingly and willingly. At the same time, there are many places where the fruits of living as a Gurmukh and the problems of living as a Manmukh are discussed. If nothing is in our own hands, then how can we determine whether to live as a Gurmukh or a Manmukh?
3. As explained in the book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib advises us to be good to even those who have been evil to us. How can we justify being good to those who try to harm us? Even if we decide to not take revenge, should we not at least teach them a lesson so that they are not evil to others?

### **III Presentation (40 points):**

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness.

Time allotted to finish the speech for this group is **7 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 7 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 7 minutes and 30 seconds have elapsed, one point would be deducted for every extra 10 seconds or part of 10 seconds, from every judge's score for the participant

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The participants should independently read the book and answer questions and ask adults for support only as reference points or to ask for guidance on Gurbani references.

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## GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: V (16 to 22 years)

Time allotted: 8 minutes

**Theme:** Importance of giving Gurgaddi to Guru Granth Sahib

**Book:** No book assigned

The theme for this year is the importance of giving Gurgaddi to Guru Granth Sahib. Understanding this is important for comprehending one of the basic aspects of Sikhi, as well as for enhancing our relationship with our Guru. Please research and think about various aspects of the concept, and about how they shape some of the important principles of Sikhi.

The judges will consider the development of the arguments presented. They do not have to agree with the speaker; in fact, the viewpoint presented may be unusual, different or even unpopular. What matters is the logic, its development and its strength.

Competition at the International level will involve discussions around the above theme and various related issues. We hope to encourage an understanding of the Sikh philosophy and Sikhi values, as well as promote the habits of critical thinking. This will also help in developing skills to discuss difficult issues with other Sikhs and with non-Sikhs.

For the speech competition at the Center and the Regional levels, the participants should address the three specific questions given below.

### **I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):**

1. Who initiated the idea of having Shabad as the Guru and how was it supported by all the Gurus? Justify your answer by providing evidence from historical sources and from Gurbani.
2. Why did Guru Gobind Singh jee transfer the Guruship to Sri Guru Granth Sahib? What were its significance and implications?
3. The message of Sri Guru Granth Sahib is a universal message, and even some non-Sikhs have said that it is a scripture for all, and that it should be brought into the reach of as many people as possible. What can you do to bring the message of Sri Guru Granth Sahib to all, Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike?

### **II Presentation (40 points):**

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness. Time allotted to finish the speech for this group is **8 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 8 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 8 minutes and 30 seconds have elapsed, one point would be deducted for every extra 10 seconds or part of 10 seconds, from every judge's score for the participant.

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The participants should independently research the theme and answer questions and ask adults for support only as reference points or to ask for guidance on Gurbani references.

If your child's speech is prepared in Punjabi, it must still follow the guidelines above. If it is prepared in English, it can be translated into Punjabi after it is created per the above guidelines. However, once the speech is in Punjabi, your child should understand the speech in its entirety.

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### ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION - GROUP V

*For group V, the guidelines at the International level are different from those at the Center and the Regional levels.* The format at the International level is specifically designed to foster discussion and critical thinking.

What follow next are guidelines that are specific for the competition at the International level. *The Regions may, if they so desire, implement these guidelines at the Regional level also.*

- A. Hold the presentations in a setting like a hotel convention room or a college auditorium, although there is no reason why this could not also be done in a gurdwara.
- B. Arrange the participants in a circle. The audience can sit in a wider circle behind and around the participants. Appoint a moderator whose job is to stimulate discussion, in case it is flagging, and to keep it focused.
- C. **Phase 1.** Each participant will have two minutes to make an opening statement. The order of the participants is to be chosen at random. The opening statement does not necessarily need to cover every specific question and sub-question mentioned within the three questions that are addressed at the local and the regional level, but it needs to cover the overall theme in a competent manner.
- D. After each opening statement, another participant chosen at random will be asked to respond to the opening statement. Time allotted for the response would be one minute.
- E. After each opening statement and the response to it, there will be an open discussion among the participants for about five minutes.
- F. **Phase 2.** Each participant, chosen at random, will be asked a question by the moderator. The participant will have one minute to answer the question.
- G. After the participant has answered the question asked by the moderator, there would be an open discussion among the participants for about five minutes.
- H. During the discussion mentioned in E and G above, the moderator will ask questions from the participants as necessary to keep the discussion alive. The moderator will ensure that the discussion stays on track and that no one participant gets to dominate the discussion.
- I. **Phase 3.** Following the discussion, each participant will get one and a half minute to make a closing statement. The order of presentations is to be chosen at random.

The competitive part of the program will conclude here and judges will complete their evaluation at this point. What follows is equally useful but not part of the competition.

- J. **Optional Phase 4.** Following the program detailed above, if time permits, there will be an open discussion (20 to 30 minutes) on the subject but it will also allow the audience to participate. This will keep the audience interested and awake. The adults will learn, as will the young.

The moderator will carry a critical burden on his/her shoulders