

Events at Regional and State

Oral Tests (scored by judges)

- Directed Dialogue (Levels I, II)
- Extemporaneous Speaking (Levels III, IV/V, Advantaged)
- Oral Presentation (Levels IV/V and Advantaged) (digital submission***)
- Pair Discussion (Level III)
- Sight Reading (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)

Written Tests (multiple-choice tests, except Spelling and Timed Writing)

- Culture (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)
- Grammar (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)
- Listening Comprehension (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)
- Reading Comprehension (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)
- Spelling (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)
- Timed Writing (Levels I, II)
- Vocabulary (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)
- Advantaged Speaker Test (combination of all above test types except Timed Writing)

Declamation

- Poetry Memory (Levels I, II, III, IV/V, Advantaged)
- Poetry Reading (Levels I, II, III, IV/V) (digital submission***)
- Prose Memory (Levels I, II, III, IV/V, Advantaged)
- Prose Reading (Levels I, II, III, IV/V) (digital submission***)

Drama

- Duet Acting (Lower Level [I-II], Upper Level [III-V])
- Puppet Show (Lower Level [I-II], Upper Level [III-V])
- Skit (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)

Music (no level distinctions)

- Classical Ensemble
- Contemporary Music
- Einzeltanz (Couples Folk Dance)
- Folk Dance (Team)
- Polka Band
- Vocal Solo



Arts: (no level distinctions)

- Club Album
- Crafts
- Digital Logo Design (digital submission***)
- Doll Costume
- Gingerbread House (Traditional & Non-Traditional)
- Needlework
- Original Models
- Photo Essay (digital submission***)
- Photography
- Poster Design
- Shirt Design
- Video Show (digital submission***)

Other

- Pass auf! (Novice* & Varsity levels)**
- Research Paper (digital submission***)
- Scavenger Hunt

* Event is offered at some or all regional contests but does not advance to State.

** Pass auf! is a team event with a quiz-show format (students buzz in to answer questions on grammar, geography, culture, etc.).

*** For events marked "digital submission," contestants submit their entries online one week before the date of the contest.



Texas German Contests

HOUSTONFEST

SPRACHFEST

WINTERFEST

TEXAS STATE GERMAN

CONTEST



Houstonfest

Director: Rustin Buck
houstonfest@texasstategermancontest.org
www.houstonfest.org

Sprachfest

Director: Suzy Holland
sprachfest@texasstategermancontest.org
www.sprachfest.org

Winterfest

Director: Madeline O'Bryan
winterfest@texasstategermancontest.org
www.ntrwinterfest.org

Texas State German Contest

Director: Jennifer Christianson
director@texasstategermancontest.org
www.texasstategermancontest.org

Basic Information

WHO is involved in the Texas German contests?

Over 1500 students from over 90 schools compete every year in the **Texas State German Contest** and its three regional "feeder" contests. This makes the Texas system of German contests the largest in the nation. Every Texas teacher who has students of German in the **8th through 12th grade** is invited to enter as many students as he/she would like in one of the regional contests.

WHAT exactly are these contests?

Three regional contests are held simultaneously each year:

Houstonfest for the greater Houston area,
Sprachfest for Central and South Texas,
Winterfest for the Dallas and North Texas area.

Each regional contest features competition in over 40 events encompassing speaking, drama, music, language mechanics, and visual arts.



Many events have separate categories for Levels I, II, III, and IV/V so that students can compete on an even playing field. There are also several events for "advantaged" speakers of German (those who have lived for a substantial period in a German-speaking country). One low registration fee of only \$12 (early bird) or \$15 (regular deadline) per student allows a student to compete in as many events as they can physically squeeze into one day. Students who place in the top five in any event at a regional contest receive trophies, medals, or ribbons and advance to the Texas State German Contest. At State, the top five winners in each event are recognized at an awards ceremony, and those in 6th through 10th place receive ribbons. Schools also compete, both at Regional and at State, for sweepstakes honors in either the large-school or the small-school division. At both levels, events are judged by teachers as well as college students, professors, and other members of the German-speaking community.

WHEN are the contests held?

The **regional contests** (Houstonfest, Sprachfest, Winterfest) are usually held on the **first Saturday of February**.

The **Texas State German Contest** is traditionally held on the **last Saturday in February**.

WHERE are the contests held?

Houstonfest: Heights High School, Houston
Sprachfest: Sandra Day O'Connor High School, San Antonio
Winterfest: Skyline High School, Dallas
Texas State German Contest: Texas State University, San Marcos
(Double-check regional websites to confirm contest locations each year.)

WHY should I bring my students?

We all know that students love to compete, but German contests are not just competition for its own sake. As students prepare their artwork, poetry, skits, and so on, they strengthen and deepen the language skills and cultural knowledge that they acquire in your class. The contest experience will also promote bonding among your students and build loyalty to your German program. And ask any teacher who has attended a German contest: ES MACHT VIEL SPASS!

HOW do I get involved?

Visit the website of the nearest regional contest or contact the regional director by e-mail. Then register your students by the January deadline and show up to compete in February. We're always thrilled to have new schools join us.

