



Be a  
#ForceForNature



## Speak up for Trees and Nature

### Competition Guide

Inspire your Young Tree Champions to find their voice and turn their knowledge, ideas and feelings about trees, nature and the climate and ecological crisis into a powerful speech. Then help them share their speech to inspire their friends, school, family and even the nation.

Here are some steps to help you:

1. Talk to your Young Tree Champions about the competition opportunity. Reflect with them on ways they can be a Force for Nature and connect, learn and share their knowledge, ideas and passion through this competition.
2. Find out more information about how to support your students with their speeches by watching this [webinar](#) by Speakers Trust and the [accompanying presentation](#).
3. Judge the competition entries in your school. There is judging criteria on the next page that you can use. Decide on your top 5 speeches. Each speech must be **no longer than 2 minutes**.
4. You can only enter **one winning speech per school**, so organise a second round of judging or an assembly to select a winner to be put forward to the national competition. Involve the headteacher or other teachers with selecting your winning speech.
5. Film your winning entry and upload it as a video clip on the club space by **Friday 8 October** for Scotland and Northern Ireland. We will showcase winning entries on our website.
6. Our final winner will be announced at the Force for Nature Festivals.  
The Festival dates are:

○ Scotland and Northern Ireland

Monday 1 November

You may also want to share and celebrate your top 5 runners up on your school's website or on social media #ForceforNature! You can download a certificate for your top 5 from the club space. We look forward to hearing your Young Tree Champions find their voices and Speak Up for Trees and Nature.

Good luck and may the Force of Nature be with you!



## Speak Up for Trees and Nature - Judging form

Name of judge:

Date:

<p><b>Content:</b> A positive message. Original ideas, interesting knowledge, a unique #ForceForNature message (max 20 points)</p>	<p><b>Delivery:</b> Use of voice and body language to increase the impact of the speech (max 20 points)</p>	<p><b>Structure:</b> A 'hook' at the beginning. Carefully crafted content. A message or challenge at the end (max 20 points)</p>	<p>Excellent: 17 – 20 Very good: 13 – 16 Good: 9 - 12 Fair: 5 – 8 Poor: 0 - 4</p>
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Remember we are looking for speeches that align with our motto to be a #ForceForNature. If you feel that students present interesting knowledge, ideas and feelings to nurture and advocate for trees and nature mark higher for 'content'.  
*Star any speeches that really stand out!*

	Speaker name	Content (20)	Delivery (20)	Structure (20)	Total	★	Speech topic/notes
1					/60		
2					/60		
3					/60		
4					/60		
5					/60		
6					/60		
7					/60		
8					/60		
9					/60		
10					/60		
11					/60		
12					/60		
13					/60		
14					/60		
15					/60		
16					/60		
17					/60		
18					/60		
19					/60		
20					/60		
21					/60		
22					/60		
23					/60		
24					/60		
25					/60		
26					/60		
27					/60		
28					/60		
29					/60		
30					/60		

Top 5:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can enter the competition?

Only Young Tree Champion Clubs that have registered an account on [our website](#).

### How many entries can one school upload?

The national competition is limited to one video entry per school.

### When is the deadline?

The deadline for schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland is **Friday 8 October**.

### How long are the speeches?

Each speech must be no longer than 2 minutes.

### What categories are there for the competition?

1. Infant School
2. Junior School
3. Secondary School
4. College or Sixth Form
5. Special School

### Why have some schools received support from Speakers Trust?

Some schools were selected to receive additional support from Speakers Trust for two reasons:

- 1) The impact their project is having in their school as evidenced in their project application.
- 2) The high percentage of Free School Meals in their school.

### Is this additional support considered in the judging process?

Yes.

### Who will be judging our competition entry and what criteria will they be using?

Our judges are specially selected teachers, young people, expert speakers and The Tree Council team. They will be using the same judging criteria as schools.



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### What is the topic of the speeches?

The broad topic of the speeches is trees, nature and tackling the climate and ecological crisis by 'Speaking Up for Trees and Nature'.

### Why speak up for trees and nature?

Trees have a critical role to play in balancing the Earth's climate. Trees and forests provide a home for millions of different species of plants, insects and animals, which are vital to supporting life on Earth. Trees provide the oxygen we need to breathe, the water and the food and materials we need to live. Research has shown that trees even help us feel calm and relaxed, reducing our stress levels and improving our health and wellbeing.

### How can we produce a powerful speech?

Watch the webinar delivered by Speakers Trust and use the judging criteria below.

- **Content**  
A positive message which connects with their audience. Original ideas, interesting knowledge, a unique #ForceForNature message (max 20 points).
- **Delivery**  
Use of voice and body language to increase the impact of the speech (max 20 points).
- **Structure**  
A 'hook' at the beginning. Carefully crafted content. A message, action or challenge at the end (max 20 points).

### Are there prizes?

Yes, every school club that uploads a speech (selected from their top 5) will receive a National Finalist certificate. Our judging panel will select an overall winner this winner will also receive a prize.

### When will the winners be announced?

The winners will be announced at the online Force For Nature Festivals.

### When are the online Festivals?

For Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Festival is **Monday 1 November**.

The festival will take place on YouTube Live.

If you have any other questions, please email us at [schools@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:schools@treecouncil.org.uk)