



PROGRAM

PROGRAM RULES

The Accredited Speaker Program recognizes those Toastmasters members who have achieved a level of proficiency that enables them to be paid, professional speakers. Being an Accredited Speaker gives you a competitive edge and sets you apart from other professional speakers. That's because your talent and ability have been recognized by Toastmasters International, a world leader in communication and leadership development.

Unlike other professional certifications, you can't simply complete a list of tasks to become a Toastmasters Accredited Speaker; instead, you must demonstrate your speaking abilities before a live audience. Program candidates progress through two levels of evaluation and are judged by a panel of professional speakers. It is a rigorous, yet worthwhile process. Since the program's inception in 1981, less than 20 percent of all applicants have become members of this exclusive group.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

A potential applicant must meet the following requirements before applying:

- ▶ Be a current Toastmasters member in good standing
- ▶ Have earned one of the following education awards, or higher:
 - Able Toastmaster, Advanced Toastmaster Bronze or Advanced Communicator Bronze
- ▶ Have given a minimum of 25 speaking engagements to non-Toastmasters audiences within the past three years

Please note that international officers or directors, candidates for international officer or director, region advisors and applicants for region advisor are not eligible to participate in the Accredited Speaker Program.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

If you meet the above requirements, submit your application, fees and supplemental materials (described in the HOW TO APPLY section) between January 1 and February 1 each year. The initial application must also include a link to a video of one of your presentations, filmed before a live audience.

Level 1

Applications are reviewed for completeness, and video submissions from accepted applicants are reviewed by a panel of judges. An applicant who a majority of judges agree demonstrates high-caliber presentation skills is advanced to the next level.

Level 2

Applicants who pass Level 1 are invited to present before a live audience, including a panel of judges, at the International Convention held in August each year. Applicants whose live presentations meet the required level of professionalism (as agreed upon by a majority of judges) are awarded the prestigious Accredited Speaker designation.

RECOGNITION

Applicants who earn the Accredited Speaker designation will be acknowledged and awarded in the following manner:

- ▶ Ceremonial presentation of an official Accredited Speaker badge and a plaque at the International Convention
- ▶ Letter of commendation from the Executive Director of Toastmasters International
- ▶ News release sent to selected publications
- ▶ Hall of Fame acknowledgement in the *Toastmaster* magazine

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be received at Toastmasters World Headquarters by February 1. To be accepted, applications must include the following:

1. A list of 25 speaking engagements to non-Toastmasters audiences within the past three years (from date of application).
 - ▶ Presentations must be a minimum of 20 minutes in length
 - ▶ 15 of the 25 must be paid speaking engagements
 - ▶ A minimum of 20 people must be in attendance at each speaking engagement
2. A link to a video presentation. The presentation must be 20- to 45-minutes in length, spoken in English and recorded before a live, non-Toastmasters audience.
3. Five recommendations from five different clients for paid engagements. The official Accredited Speaker Program Recommendation Form must be used.
4. A non-refundable Level 1 application fee of \$100
 - ▶ If an applicant is advanced to Level 2, there is an additional, non-refundable \$150 fee.
 - ▶ Applicants who fail to pass Level 2 may reapply and present again at the International Convention. Repeat Level 2 applicants need not submit another recorded presentation but must submit an additional \$150 non-refundable fee for each attempt. The number of times a candidate may try to pass Level 2 is limited to three, after which the applicant must re-apply at Level 1.