

2017

Toyama Cup – 21st Japanese Speech Contest

富山カップ日本語スピーチコンテスト

Background of Contest:

In 1996, Toyama Prefecture and the State of Oregon invited the Japan-America Society of Oregon to work with them in presenting a speech contest for university and college students studying Japanese in the State of Oregon and southwest Washington. Oregon has enjoyed a sister-state/prefecture relationship with Toyama since 1991 and the speech contest was held in celebration of the 5th year of this relationship. The contest was held in June in 1996 and in October in 1997. In order to better accommodate university schedules, we decided to hold the contest in the spring to give first year students a longer period of study time. This year celebrates the 26th Anniversary of the Oregon-Toyama sister-state relationship and 21st Anniversary of Toyama Cup Japanese Speech Contest.

Purpose: The purpose of the Toyama Cup is to promote a stronger relationship between the peoples of Toyama and Oregon by promoting Japanese language education in Oregon and Southwest Washington universities and colleges.

Date and Time: Sunday, April 23, 2017. Time: 1-5PM (TBA)

Location: KPMG 1300 SW 5th Ave 38th FL, Portland, OR 97201

Eligibility: Any non-native speaker of Japanese undergraduate student studying Japanese at a college (community colleges included) or university in the State of Oregon or Southwest Washington.

Levels of Competition:

1.) **Level 1:** Any student who has studied Japanese at a college or university for less than 2 years and who has not lived or studied in Japan for more than 3 months in the last three years.

*(Please realize that first year students competing with second year students in the same division will have substantial differences in their linguistic abilities. For that reason, care has been taken to inform the judges of the number of years that each contestant has studied.)

2.) **Level 2:** Any student who has studied Japanese at a college or university for more than two years and/or who has lived or studied in Japan for more than 3 months in the last three years.

Speech Topics and Length

Speeches should be at least 4 minutes but no more than 6 minutes in length.

Contestants are free to select their own topics. Examples might include:

- **Why I am Studying Japanese**
- **Japan-Related Experiences**
- **Favorite Japanese Food**
- **Your choice of topic**

Questions and Answers

Each contestant will be asked two questions (in Japanese) by a designated person from the judging panel.