

OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR 2026

Spoken Language Performance *Category Description and Guidelines*

Students perform in Native languages. The spoken language category, as opposed to spoken prayer, spoken poetry and skits/short plays, involves telling stories, narratives, and original spoken language. Presentations promote fluency, confidence and creative expression in Native speech. Young language learners explore storytelling and dialogue in Native languages and gain experience with public speaking.

- Your performance can include song, but if singing is a major part of the performance, please register in either Modern Song or Traditional Song categories as appropriate.
- If the students are performing a skit, short play or puppet show, please register in the Spoken Language-Skit/Short Play or Spoken Language-Puppet Show (Electronic) categories.

Category	Age Ranges				Size		Award		
	P-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	Group	Individual	Trophy	Ribbon	Medal
Spoken Language	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		If present

- This is a live in-person category. You must be pre-registered and present to perform and to receive awards.

DO

- ✓ Pre-register online
- ✓ Focus on **NATIVE LANGUAGE USE**
- ✓ Keep a five-minute time limit (plus two minutes for set-up and exiting the stage)
- ✓ Use props, costumes and Native regalia

DON'T

- ✗ Use scripts, notes or cheat sheets
- ✗ Speak in English
- ✗ Have teachers on stage
- ✗ Teachers cannot assist or direct the performance.
- ✗ Use food, animals or organic materials (grass, bark, leaves) in the performance

Judging Performances

A panel of at least three elders, Native language teachers and/or Native speakers will judge performances on these criteria:

- Amount of Native American language used
- Ease and comfort of language use
- Presentation and poise of performance
- Spirit of performance

Notes

- You must pre-register to receive T-shirts and awards. Please do so as early as possible.
- Limited rehearsal space is available. This space is shared with other groups.
- Contact us if you're concerned about whether your props and regalia count as "organic."
- Group sizes and performance venues are subject to change based on registered entries.
- Students performing in multiple categories may experience scheduling conflicts. We try to avoid this but help us out and let us know if you see a potential problem.
- Questions? Comments? Help? Contact us at onaylf.samnoblemuseum@ou.edu or at (405) 325-7588.