

## Events at Regional and State

### Oral Tests (scored by judges)

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

### Written Tests (multiple-choice, except Spelling)

- Culture (Levels I, II, III, IV/V)
- Grammar (Levels I, II, III, and 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)
- Written Test for Advantaged Speakers (combination of all six test types)

### Declamation

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

### Drama

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

### Music (no level distinctions)

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



### Arts: (no level distinctions)

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

### Other

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

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

\*\* Plays are performed at some but not all regionals, but all regionals send plays to State.

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



## Texas German Contests

HOUSTONFEST  
SPRACHFEST  
WINTERFEST  
TEXAS STATE GERMAN  
CONTEST



### Houstonfest

Director: Rustin Buck  
rustin.buck@fortbendisd.com  
www.houstonfest.org

### Sprachfest

Director: Suzy Holland  
suzy.holland@gmail.com  
www.sprachfest.org

### Winterfest

Director: Beth Smith  
fraubeth@att.net  
www.ntrwinterfest.org

### Texas State German Contest

Director: Jennifer Christianson  
jgchristianson@gvtc.com  
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 **8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 \$10 (early bird) or \$12 (regular deadline) per student allows a student to compete in as many events as he/she 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 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> 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:** San Antonio (exact location TBA)  
**Winterfest:** Jasper High School, Plano  
**Texas State German Contest:** Texas State University, San Marcos

### 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.

