NEW ENGLAND OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN
hosted by Harvard University

Dear students:

We invite you to participate in the New England Regional Olympiada of Spoken Russian 2020, a unique and enjoyable event that gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their Russian language skills in making presentations and reciting poetry as well as familiarity with Russian-speaking civilization. This experience will help you gain confidence in your ability to speak Russian.

It’s a chance to be recognized for your efforts in learning a very challenging language and an opportunity to interact with students of Russian from other colleges and universities in New England.

The Olympiada is open to all undergraduate students studying Russian as a foreign language (unfortunately, heritage or native speakers of Russian or other Slavic languages are not eligible to participate at this time).

You will be competing against others in four categories: 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year and 4th year Russian.
The Format

1. Speech + questions
Short speech on one of the topics:
1st year students (2-4 mins):
- Я и мой мир
- Самый важный человек в моей жизни
- Город, где я никогда не буду жить
2nd year students (3-5 mins)
- В гостях хорошо, а дома лучше
- Мой любимый праздник
- Как трудно быть студентом!
3rd-4th year students (5-7 min)
- Легко ли быть молодым?
- Кто много видел, тот много знает
- Герой нашего времени

The speech will be evaluated based on its content, originality/creativity, the delivery, as well as grammatical and lexical accuracy.
Participants are allowed to use notes written on one side of a 3X5 index card during their speech. The judges will ask three questions at the end of the speech based on its content.

2. Poem Recitation (optional)
We encourage students to recite a poem by heart in Russian of their choice although this part of the Olympiada is optional.

3. Russian culture contest (optional)
Olympiada participants can take part in a written test of Russian culture and history (in English)