



September 22, 2016

**To: Post Oratorical Chairman**  
**Subject: Post Oratorical Contest**

In an effort to enhance participation in the Oratorical Scholarship Program, the following have been suggested. Remember this is a fantastic opportunity for a student to receive up to an eighteen thousand dollar scholarship at the National Contest. If you have suggestions or ideas that have worked for your Post, please let me know.

1. A Post representative needs to contact the High Schools in your area and encourage interested students to participate in The American Legion Oratorical Contest, and to contact your Post.
2. Inform the students of what, where and when the contest will take place.
3. Advance only one student from each school to the District Contest with appropriate paper work submitted in advance.
4. District Contests may only choose one student for the Area Contest.
5. The Area Contest will then submit a single contestant for the Department Contest.

Insure that the appropriate paper work is forwarded to the District Chairman as quickly as possible. The paperwork must be received prior to the District Contest. This competition date will be set by the District Commander or District Oratorical Chairman.

Enclosed you will find the following documents:

1. One (1) copy of the Oratorical Contest Brochure
2. One (1) copy Chairman's Guide
3. One (1) copies of the Official Rules
4. One (1) copy Post Chairman's Contest survey sheet
5. One (1) copy Oregon Oratorical Contest Acknowledgement Form
6. One (1) copy Certification Form

The Oregon Oratorical Contest Acknowledgement Form and Certification Form may be duplicated as needed.

Dates for all contests will be forwarded as soon as established and will also be published in the Oregon Legionnaire.

This is a phenomenal opportunity for students to earn needed college funds for their college education and also learn how our citizens are protected by our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

For more information contact: Carole Bova-Rice 503-551-0596 or [bovarice@minetfiber.com](mailto:bovarice@minetfiber.com)  
Or Richard Ramey 503-657-4718 or [pi10teer39@comcast.net](mailto:pi10teer39@comcast.net)  
Department of Oregon  
Oratorical Chairman

POST CHAIRMAN'S CONTEST SURVEY SHEET  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

POST NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Post Chairman's Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of contestant's? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of Legionnaire's and guests attending contest \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many schools participated in the Oratorical Contest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If there was more than one contestant from any one school, you have to hold a separate contest for each school, how many contests did you hold? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Prizes or awards given to contestants? **NO CASH OR CHECKS**  
How Awarded?  
  
Certificates, plaques or bonds \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you think the chairman's papers, helped you conduct your local contest? \_\_\_\_\_

Immediately upon completion of your Post Contest. Post Chairman please fill out this form and forward with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place certification forms, to the District Chairman. If for some reason the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner cannot compete in the District contest your 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner can compete.

This form must reach the District Chairman no later than 1 week before the District Contest. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

District No \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# OREGON ORATORICAL CONTEST

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read the Official Contest Rules and this form carefully and fully understand each one of the items listed. I acknowledge the following responsibilities:

- We understand that there will two (2) orations (speeches). One oration will be a prepared, 8 to 10 minutes in duration, on any topic from the constitution. The second oration, 3 to 5 minutes, will be an assigned oration coming from a selection of four topics, usually from the amendments to the constitution. Only one will be drawn the day of the competition.
- Penalty points are given if the speeches are too short or too long. A penalty of one (1) point per minute or a fraction thereof if the speech is too short or the same if it is too long. This will be clearly established in the instruction packet that MUST be given to contestants (students). The Post Chairman should double check to see that each contestant has a high school packet.
- It is understood that notes may be used only at the Post level of competition. There are to be NO NOTES of any kind beginning at the District level of competition.
- The Post should provide a time for the contestants (students) to present both orations (speeches), if at all possible, in front of a Post meeting or a group of people using the format of the Oratorical Contest set by National. Even with only one contestant this should be done to acquaint contestants with the procedures of the Oratorical Contest.
- The time (date and hour) should be clearly marked on this form for both the Post and District contests.
- This form must be signed by the high school student, a parent, and Post Chairman. A copy would be kept by the Chairman and attached to the certification form.

Post date to give oration: \_\_\_\_\_ Place and address to be held: \_\_\_\_\_

District Date to give oration: \_\_\_\_\_ Place and address to be held: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by:

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Post Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATION FORM

**CONTESTANTS:** Must return this original form to The American Legion Post Chairman  
By December 1, 2016

**TO POST ORATORICAL CHAIRMAN  
AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST  
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED AS NEEDED AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY ALSO BE DUPLICATED FOR THE STUDENT

Print or type:

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area and Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Are You A Citizen of The United States, Or a Lawful Permanent Resident? \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardian's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Prepared Oration \_\_\_\_\_

Principal or Representative's Name(print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**POST CHAIRMAN FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING:**

Print or Type:

Post Chairman Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post Name and No \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Chairman's Area and Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring Post \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTEST DATES:**

(1) Post Contest \_\_\_\_\_

(2) District Contest \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Area Contest \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Department Contest \_\_\_\_\_

**Post Chairman:** The Certification form, Acknowledgment Form and Post Chairman's Contest Survey Sheet is to reach your District Chairman or District Commander immediately following you Post Contest.

**District Chairman:** The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place District winner's certification forms, Acknowledgment Form and a rough copy of the Winners Prepared Oration are to be mailed immediately to the Area Contest Chairman (Member of the Department Oratorical Commission).

**Area Chairman:** Are to mail the Certification forms for all Area Contestants clearly marked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. winners of that Area Contest, the Acknowledgment Forms and Oration copies to the Department Chairman immediately after Area Contest

Additional Copies may be requested from: The American Legion Department of Oregon  
PO Box 1730, Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730 Phone (503-685-5006)



# Rules and Regulations

## Eligibility

Eligible participants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department that they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one department.

High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

The three finalists of the national contest are ineligible for further participation at any level.

## Regulations

The official in charge of the contest conducts a drawing to determine the order by which contestants will appear. The contest chairman introduces each contestant, then announces the title of the contestant's prepared oration. The audience must refrain from applause until the judges make a decision.

A raised platform is not mandatory; however, it is strongly recommended. The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker's stand or any manner of prompting is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

Contestants and audience members may not use any form of electronic/digital data gathering, receiving and/or transmitting equipment.

Contestants must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than eight minutes and no more than 10 minutes. The assigned topic runs no fewer than three minutes and no more than five minutes.

The contest chairman names an official timer who keeps an accurate time record of each contestant. The timer is located on the main floor in full view of the contestants and will begin timing each contestant at the start of the prepared oration. The timer should have a stopwatch and time cards displaying the numbers 8, 9 and 10 for the prepared oration. When eight minutes have gone by, the time warning card with the number 8 is placed in full view of the speaker, followed by 9 and 10 accordingly. The same procedure is used during the assigned topic discourse with cards bearing 3, 4

and 5. The contest chairman will announce the time each contestant uses for the prepared oration and the assigned topic immediately after each contestant speaks in front of the judges.

Until their turn to speak, contestants must remain in a private room where other speakers' discourses cannot be heard. The contest chairman will appoint an individual to supervise each contestant. As the contestants conclude their prepared orations, they must return to a soundproof waiting room.

Speakers who conclude their assigned topic discourse may not associate with contestants who have not finished speaking.

Approximately five minutes before the start of the assigned topic discourse, the first contestant will be informed of the assigned topic drawn. He or she retires to privacy under the direction of an individual appointed by the contest chairman; it's this individual's duty to see that the contestant doesn't consult any text matter or notes with any connection to the subject. Contestants may only reference the actual words of the topic provided on the card drawn.

Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order that he or she previously appeared. He or she will also, in turn, be informed of the topic of the assigned topic discourse and shall then be escorted to the same privacy provided for the first contestant.

Contestants must give their prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse to receive the scholarship monies to which they are entitled.

## What to wear

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required for all contestants. Contestants may not wear awards and medals from previous competitions.

## Travel expenses

The American Legion pays travel and lodging expenses for department winners and their chaperones. A chaperone over 21 years of age must accompany each contestant.

The American Legion does not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperone en route to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants accepted into the national competition. The American Legion selects an air carrier for contestants' travel.

## Tabulators

The contest chairman will appoint no fewer than three tabulators for the department finals contest. It's their responsibility to review the judges' scorecards to be certain they are fully tabulated and signed before being submitted for final tabulation.

Judges' scorecards for department finals and the national contest will not be divulged to anyone at the site of the contest. All national contest judges' scorecards become property of The American Legion National Headquarters.

## Judges

Judges are an important part of the oratorical contest. Their qualifications are carefully considered, as their decisions are final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging is the key to fairness and success of the program, which selects a national champion.

All department finals and the national contest have five judges, who are not allowed to receive any publicity before the event. During the contest, judges sit in different locations, and each renders his or her final decision without any sort of consultation.

Judges are advised to downgrade contestants who fail to emphasize the prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. Judges can downgrade a contestant up to 10 points for failure to speak about the Constitution. The contest chairman will announce any time violations for contestants. A penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, shall be assessed toward the contestant's total score.

Following the last assigned topic discourse, the judges, timekeepers, tabulators and contest chairman may proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation.

## Television and radio

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests, as well as filming, taping or other types of media for later showing, provided:

1. Lighting and other site conditions are the same for all contestants.
2. Filming or broadcasts in no way distract the contestants or interfere with the pre-announced scheduled time of the contest.
3. The normal speaking voice of the contestant is not interfered with or amplified within the auditorium.
4. The American Legion is in no way financially obligated without prior approval.

# Assigned Topics

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his or her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under assigned topics for the current year's contest in this brochure.

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

## Assigned Topics for 2017 Oratorical Contest

### **Amendment 7**

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### **Amendment 10**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

### **Amendment 16**

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

### **Amendment 17**

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

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# OREGON ORATORICAL CONTEST

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- Penalty points are given if the speeches are too short or too long. A penalty of one (1) point per minute or a fraction thereof if the speech is too short or the same if it is too long. This will be clearly established in the instruction packet that **MUST** be given to contestants (students). The Post Chairman should double check to see that each contestant has a high school packet.
- It is understood that notes may be used only at the Post level of competition. There are to be NO NOTES of any kind beginning at the District level of competition.
- The Post should provide a time for the contestants (students) to present both orations (speeches), if at all possible, in front of a Post meeting or a group of people using the format of the Oratorical Contest set by National. Even with only one contestant this should be done to acquaint contestants with the procedures of the Oratorical Contest.
- The time (date and hour) should be clearly marked on this form for both the Post and District contests.
- This form must be signed by the high school student, a parent, and Post Chairman. A copy would be kept by the Chairman and attached to the certification form.

Post date to give oration: \_\_\_\_\_ Place and address to be held: \_\_\_\_\_

District Date to give oration: \_\_\_\_\_ Place and address to be held: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by:

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Post Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATION FORM

**CONTESTANTS:** Must return this original form to The American Legion Post Chairman  
By December 1, 2016

**TO POST ORATORICAL CHAIRMAN  
AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST  
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED AS NEEDED AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY ALSO BE DUPLICATED FOR THE STUDENT

Print or type:

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Area and Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Are You A Citizen of The United States, Or a Lawful Permanent Resident? \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardian's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Prepared Oration \_\_\_\_\_

Principal or Representative's Name(print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**POST CHAIRMAN FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING:**

Print or Type:

Post Chairman Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post Name and No \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Chairman's Area and Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring Post \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTEST DATES:**

(1) Post Contest \_\_\_\_\_ (2) District Contest \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Area Contest \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Department Contest \_\_\_\_\_

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**District Chairman:** The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place District winner's certification forms, Acknowledgment Form and a rough copy of the Winners Prepared Oration are to be mailed immediately to the Area Contest Chairman (Member of the Department Oratorical Commission).

**Area Chairman:** Are to mail the Certification forms for all Area Contestants clearly marked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. winners of that Area Contest, the Acknowledgment Forms and Oration copies to the Department Chairman immediately after Area Contest

Additional Copies may be requested from: The American Legion Department of Oregon  
PO Box 1730, Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730 Phone (503-685-5006)



POST CHAIRMAN'S CONTEST SURVEY SHEET  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

POST NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Post Chairman's Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of contestant's? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of Legionnaire's and guests attending contest \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many schools participated in the Oratorical Contest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If there was more than one contestant from any one school, you have to hold a separate contest for each school, how many contests did you hold? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Prizes or awards given to contestants? **NO CASH OR CHECKS**  
How Awarded?  
  
Certificates, plaques or bonds \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you think the chairman's papers, helped you conduct your local contest? \_\_\_\_\_

Immediately upon completion of your Post Contest. Post Chairman please fill out this form and forward with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place certification forms, to the District Chairman. If for some reason the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner cannot compete in the District contest your 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner can compete.

This form must reach the District Chairman no later than 1 week before the District Contest. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

District No \_\_\_\_\_

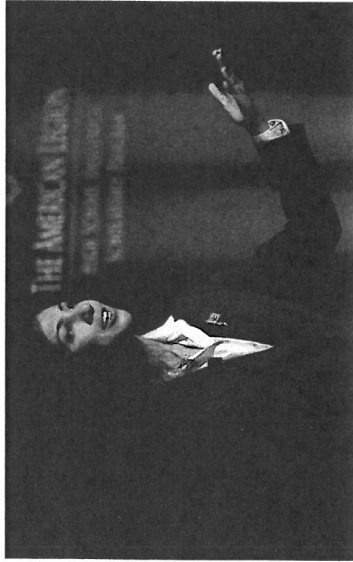
Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## *This contest is for students who* **Welcome Learning**

For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn about our country's Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 75 years.



*"Who we vote for matters. The leaders we elect should reflect the spirit of our society. Their main goal should be the preservation of our rights as written in our founding document. Failure to vote, then, is the equivalent of rejecting the freedoms bestowed on each individual by our Constitution. These freedoms, like a family heirloom, should be treasured and held dear."*

- Geeta Minocha, Florida  
2015 National Champion

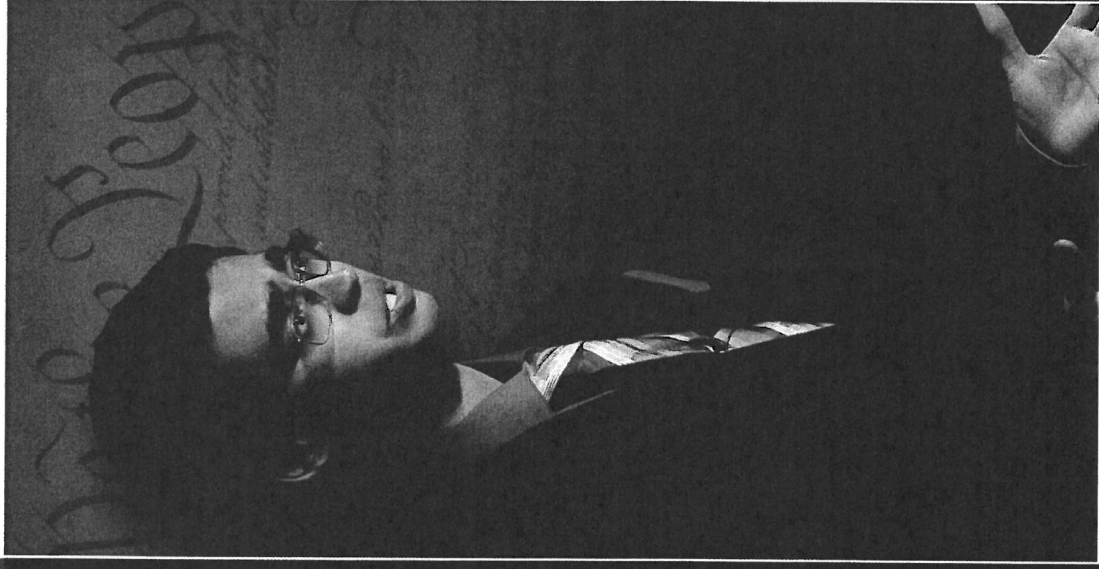
The main purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

## HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*"A Constitutional Speech Contest"*



For more information on The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, look on the Legion website at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical), or contact the following:

- For dates, sites and deadline information concerning local, district and state level competition, individuals should contact their local American Legion post or their respective state headquarters office of The American Legion.

- For information concerning the national contest, contact:

The Americanism Division

The American Legion

PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 630-1204

[oratorical@legion.org](mailto:oratorical@legion.org)



THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 630-1204

🌐 [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

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# THE AMERICAN LEGION | HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Winners receive scholarships

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists of the national contest as follows: **1st place: \$18,000; 2nd place: \$16,000; 3rd place: \$14,000.** Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a **\$1,500 scholarship.** Each first-round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional **\$1,500 scholarship** to pursue education beyond high school.

The scholarships awarded by the national organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

## Each department (state) is represented

Each department of The American Legion may certify one contestant into the national contest. If for any reason the department winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission.

For information about the oratorical contest in your state, contact your local American Legion post or state headquarters. A listing of state headquarters' addresses and phone numbers can be found on the Legion website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

## Who is eligible to participate?

You are eligible to participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program if you are a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States. Further, all contestants must be bona fide students under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest



and must be enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum of the school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

## Contestants address Constitution topics

**The prepared oration.** The subject to be used for the prepared oration must be on some aspect of the United States Constitution with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

**Assigned topic.** The purpose of the assigned topic is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution.

The assigned topic must take no less than three minutes and must not exceed five minutes for time of delivery. Each year, the list of assigned topics will be made available prior to the contest and posted on the Legion website at [www.legion.org/oratorical/topics](http://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics).

## Independent judges select winners

The judges are an integral part of the contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Five judges are used in the process, which ultimately results in the selection of a national champion each year.