PURPOSE

The purpose of the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a better understanding 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.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest shall 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 twenty (20) on the date of the National Contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school) in which the curriculum of said high school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (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. Further, to participate in the Florida contest, students and their parents/guardians must be legal residents of the state of Florida.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Florida Oratorical Scholarships are as follows:

1st Place	$2,500.00
2nd Place	$1,500.00
3rd Place	$1,000.00
4th – 6th Place	$ 500.00

Area contestants that do not advance to the State finals will receive a $100 scholarship.

In addition a $1,500.00 scholarship is awarded to each Department winner who participates in the National Contest Quarter Finals. Each Quarter Final winner who advances to, and participates in Semi-Finals, but does not advance to the Final Round, will receive an additional $1,500.
National scholarships are awarded as follows:

First Place	$18,000.00
Second Place	$16,000.00
Third Place	$14,000.00

PREPARED ORATION

The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States which gives emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same 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 be less than eight minutes or more than ten minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

In the Prepared Oration, as well as in the Assigned Topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

ASSIGNED TOPIC

The Assigned Topic discourse must not be 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 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**,

All Contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same Assigned Topic.

THE ASSIGNED TOPICS (4)

CONTEST REGULATIONS

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.

What to Wear — Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required by all contestants. Contestants are not permitted to wear awards or medals from a previous competition.

Travel Expenses — The Department of Florida will pay the travel and lodging expenses of Area Winners and their chaperone to the State Contest. *All contestants must be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age*.

Speaking Order — A drawing will be held to determine the order in which the contestants will appear.
Until the end of the contest, they will be introduced and known to the judges by number only.

Notes or Podium — *The use of notes, amplification, lectern or prompting in any manner* ***is not*** *permitted. Props* ***are not*** *permitted*.

Participation — Until it is their turn to speak, contestants are required to remain in a private room, where the discourse of the other speakers cannot be heard.

2017 SCHEDULE

Department of Florida
Contests will be complete
No later than:
Post Contests – Jan. 15, 2017
District Contests – Feb. 5, 2017
Area Contests – Feb. 26, 2017
State Contest - March 11, 2017
Orlando, Florida

National Contest
April 22-23, 2017
Indianapolis, Indiana

FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL TO:

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Florida

2017 National High School Oratorical Contest

NATIONAL FINALS
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
$ 18,000

FLORIDA FINALS
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
$ 2,500