

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Legion invites high school students to compete in speech contest

Winners will earn scholarship money and a chance to compete in national finals

High school students of *(community or name the school)* have been invited by *(name of post, District or Area)* Post No. _____ of The American Legion to compete in the 81st Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The invitation to enter the competition was extended today by Post Commander *(or Post Oratorical Chairman)* *(full name and contact information—email and phone number)*.

The contest for *(community or name the school)* students has been arranged with the full cooperation of local school officials and *(full name and title)* of the *(school name)* faculty who will assist with the contest arrangements.

This is a multi level contest where students first compete at the Post level, then progress to the District, Area and then State level. The winner of the State contest advances to the National Contest held in Indianapolis, IN in April of 2019.

The contest is open to any student in grades 9 through 12, including home schooled students.

To compete, the student must prepare and deliver an original 8 to 10 minute memorized speech about some aspect of the Constitution, with an emphasis on a citizen's duty to their country and government.

In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of competition, college scholarships of \$18,000, \$16,000, and \$14,000 will be awarded to the first through third places in the national finals. Each state winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The top three youth orators who have won all previous elimination rounds of the contest will vie for top honors in the national contest in April in Indianapolis.

The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

High school students in *(community or school)* who are interested in entering the competition will find complete rules and contest information at www.floridalegion.org/oratorical