

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



### 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.



### Judges

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

## 2024 Dates

### Department of Florida

*Contest must be completed by:*

Post Contests	January 21, 2024
District Contests	February 10 2024
Area Contests	March 09, 2024
State Contest	March 30, 2024

### National Contest

May 17-19, 2024

Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI

## Want to know more?

Information about the Florida American Legion Oratorical Program can be obtained by contacting either an American Legion Post in your community or The American Legion, Department of Florida.

Additional Information about The Florida American Legion Oratorical Contest can also be found on our state website at [floridalegion.org/oratorical](http://floridalegion.org/oratorical).

## Contact Us:

The American Legion, Dept of FL  
Attention: Oratorical

PO Box 547859  
Orlando, FL 32854

(800) 393-3378  
(407) 295-2631

[programs@floridalegion.org](mailto:programs@floridalegion.org)  
[floridalegion.org/oratorical](http://floridalegion.org/oratorical)

### Local Contact:



## HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*A Constitutional Speech Contest*

WIN UP TO \$2,500 STATE LEVEL WIN  
UP TO \$25,000 NATIONAL LEVEL

# A contest for students who **Welcome Learning**

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.

*This is a tiered competition:*



- 1 Post**  
*Contestants compete at Local American Legion Posts.*
- 2 District**  
*The winners of Post Level contests advance to District.*
- 3 Area**  
*The winners of District Level contests advance to Area.*
- 4 State**  
*The six winners of Area Level contests advance to State for a chance to win a \$2,500 scholarship.*
- 5 National**  
*The State Contest winner advances to National for a chance to win a \$25,000 scholarship.*

## Eligibility

To participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Citizen or lawful, permanent resident of the United States of America.
2. Under the age of 20, on the date of the National Contest.
3. Must be enrolled in a Florida high school, in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school level, with grades 9 - 12, during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

*\*High school can be public, parochial, military, private or home school.*

## Scholarship Opportunities

State Scholarships	
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$2,500
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$1,500
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$1,000
4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 500
National Scholarships	
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$25,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$22,500
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$20,000



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

Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$2,000 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 \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

## What to Prepare

**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 8 minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery.

**The 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 not take up less than 3 minutes or more than 5 minutes for delivery. The assigned topic shall be drawn at random by the contest official in full view of the audience.

*\*All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in English.*

## 2024 Assigned Topics

### Amendment 2

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

### Amendment 23

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct.

### Amendment 25, Section 3

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.

### Amendment 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.

## Application

**State:** Once you have signed up in a Post Level Oratorical Contest you will need to have your school principal complete the top portion of the Certification Form. If you are home schooled, your instructor and/or parent can complete the top portion of the Certification form. This form will be certified at the Post, District, Area, and State level as the winner progresses.

**National:** There is no application that needs to be filled out to participate in the National Oratorical Competition. The winner of the State Oratorical Competition will represent the State at the National Competition in Hillsdale, MI.

More information on the Oratorical competition and the assigned topics can be found in the Oratorical Student Manual. Contact the local American Legion Post's Oratorical Chairman or the Programs Director at Department of Florida for assistance with finding your local American Legion Post Chairman.