

## 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.



## 2025 CONTEST DATES

### Department of Florida

Contest must be completed by:

Post Contests	January 19, 2025
District Contests	February 09, 2025
Area Contests	February 23, 2025
State Contest (Orlando)	March 15, 2025

Orlando, Florida, Department Headquarters

### National Contest

Final Contest (Michigan)	May 2025
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Hillsdale, Michigan, at Hillsdale College



To participate in this program contact:

The American Legion, Department of Florida  
P.O. Box 547859  
Orlando, FL 32854-7859

(407) 295-2631 | [programs@floridalegion.org](mailto:programs@floridalegion.org)

Learn more at [www.floridalegion.org/oratorical](http://www.floridalegion.org/oratorical)

# HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL

A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST



Win up to **\$2,500** State Level  
Win up to **\$25,000** National Level

 AMERICAN  
LEGION

Department  
of Florida

## 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:**

POST ➔ DISTRICT ➔ AREA ➔ STATE ➔ NATIONAL

- 1 POST**  
Contestants compete at Local American Legion Posts.
- 2 DISTRICT**  
The winners of Post Level contests advance to District Level.
- 3 AREA**  
The winners of District Level contests advance to Area Level.
- 4 STATE**  
The six winners of Area Level contests advance to State Level for a chance to win a \$2,500 scholarship.
- 5 NATIONAL**  
The State Contest winner advances to National Level for a chance to win an \$18,000 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:** 1st \$2,500 | 2nd \$1,500 | 3rd \$1,000 | 4th-6th \$500  
**NATIONAL:** 1st \$25,000 | 2nd \$22,500 | 3rd \$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 \$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.



## PREPARATION

**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.*

## 2025 ASSIGNED TOPICS

### Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging of freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peacefully to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment 7

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

### Amendment 18, Sections 1-3

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of submission hereof to the States by Congress.

### Amendment 26, Sections 1-2

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.