

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.

2027 CONTEST DATES

Department of Florida
Contest must be completed by:

Post Contests	January 17, 2027
District Contests	February 07, 2027
Area Contests	February 21, 2027
State Contest (Orlando, Dept. HQ)	March 13, 2027

National Contest
Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI

National Contest	May 14-16, 2027
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To participate in this program contact:

The American Legion, Department of Florida
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Orlando, FL 32854-7859

(407) 295-2631
programs@floridalegion.org

Learn more at www.floridalegion.org/

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 \$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 (public, private, boarding, or homeschool), 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.

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

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

2027 ASSIGNED TOPICS

The Preamble

We The People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty.

Article 6, Paragraph 2

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and al Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land.

Amendment 14, Section 3

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same.

Amendment 22, Section 1

No person shall be elected to the office of President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once.

