Date: 1 October 2020

From: Oratorical Committee, Department of Oregon

To: Oregon High School and Home-Schooled Students, Parents and School Officials

RE: 2021 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

Preparations are underway for the 2021 American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program! Last year scholarships exceeding a combined total of $14,000 were awarded to high school students in Oregon winning post, district and department level oratorical contests.

We cordially welcome your participation in this year’s oratorical contest, and we look forward to meeting you!

The enclosed materials constitute the High School Contestant Packet. Among the materials you will find the official rules, required forms, details on the prepared oration and assigned topics, scholarship information and more. Please review this information thoroughly. When finished you may have more questions and, if you do, you are encouraged to contact the oratorical chairman at your local American Legion post. He/she will be a vital resource and contact for you on any questions you have, as well as, will have details on when and where the post oratorical contest will be held.

Important: Given the current, and varying, restrictions on gathering and in social distancing practices, it is possible a virtual contest may be conducted in place of an in-person contest. Additional details will be provided as warranted if/as any changes are made.

Should you have difficulty in locating the nearest American Legion post, please contact either of the following:

Cory Brockmann, Department Oratorical Committee Chairman
Email: cory.brockmann@comcast.net  Ph: (503) 313-5216

Flynn Phillips, Department Adjutant
Email: adjutant@orlegion.org  Ph: (503) 685-5006
ORATORICAL RESOURCES

An excellent source of information for The American Legion Oratorical High School Scholarship Program may be found online at the national American Legion and Department of Oregon websites.

Oratorical Dashboard:  https://www.legion.org/oratorical

- An excellent starting point for oratorical information! The dashboard provides links for details to About the Contest; How to Participate; Assigned Topics; State Contests; National Finals; and, much more.

Department of Oregon Oratorical Program:  https://orlegion.org/oratorical/

- This link accesses the required forms for the post, district and department level contests, as well as, contest details and official rules. *Information will continue to be updated as it becomes available.*

Contest Forms – Forms may be duplicated as needed for students and contest management. The completed original forms will be forwarded as warranted through each level of the contest.

- Oregon Oratorical Contest Acknowledgement Form
- Certification Form

Required items: Students will submit the completed original Oregon Oratorical Contest Acknowledgement Form, the Certification Form, and a copy of their prepared oration to the Post Oratorical Chair by December 1, 2020; or, prior to the post oratorical contest if conducted earlier.

High School Contestant Packet Contents

1. Oratorical Program Information
2. Oratorical Scholarship Explanation
3. Oratorical Rules Brochure
4. Oratorical Promo Brochure
5. The Prepared Oration Information Sheet
6. Assigned Topics Information Sheet
7. Oratorical Contest Acknowledgement Form
8. Certification Form

Enclosure

High School Contestant Packet – Digital copies are also available.
The Oratorical Program is a part of the Americanism Commission and is known as The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. "A Constitutional Speech Contest."

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among 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, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

Who is eligible to participate?

Eligible participants in the 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 20 years 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 and terminating with grade 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.

High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

Contestants must be either legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department.

What Topics Do Contestants Speak On?

Two orations are given - the Prepared Oration and the Assigned Topic. The subject to be used for the prepared oration of the contest must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligation of a citizen 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 eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

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. Four Assigned Topics are determined each year by National Oratorial program officials. At each contest one of the four topics is selected and used for that competition. The assigned topic must take no less than three (3) minutes and must not exceed five (5) minutes for time delivery.
Department of Oregon Contest

In the Department of Oregon three contest levels are conducted culminating in the department oratorical champion. Those levels are: Post, District, and Department. Post contests are held in December, District contests in January, and the Department contest in February/March.

The Department contests are conducted as follows:

Every contestant must begin at the Post level; only Post level winners will advance to the District Contest. The District contest winners will advance to the Department contest. The winner of the Department contest will represent the Department of Oregon in the National Oratorical Contest Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana which is usually held in April.

The scholarships awarded at the Department level are:

- 1st place: $5,000
- 2nd place: $3,500
- 3rd place: $2,500
- 4th place: $2,000

National Finals Contest

The National Finals contest is conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana and consists of three rounds culminating in a national contest winner. The national organization of The American Legion will pay the travel and lodging expenses of department winners and one chaperone to the national contest. All contestants must be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age, preferably a parent of the contestant.

The scholarships awarded at the National Finals are:

- Quarterfinal: $2,000 for the Department contestant participating in the National Finals.
- Semifinal: $2,000 for each Contestant eliminated; winners advance to Finals.
- 1st Place: $25,000.00
- 2nd Place: $22,500.00
- 3rd Place: $20,000.00

The national organization of The American Legion shall not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperone en route to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants certified into the national competition.

Contestants will travel by an air carrier selected by the national organization of The American Legion or personal automobile if previously approved by the national organization of The American Legion. Reference the official contest rules for further details.
EXPLANATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among 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, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

Contact your local American Legion post for a copy of the official contest rules and for details on the post and district contest dates, times and locations.

The Department of Oregon American Legion Oratorical Contest conducts three levels of contest in supporting the National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, which culminates in determining the department oratorical champion. Those contest levels are post level, district level, and department level. Contestants must begin at the Post level and winners at each contest level advance to compete at the department level contest.

The winner of the Department of Oregon American Legion Oratorical Contest will automatically advance to the National High School Oratorical Contest, earning the opportunity to attain additional scholarship funds.

Scholarships are awarded at each contest level – Post, District, Department and National. The Department and National contests award established scholarships which are prized and highly regarded. Post and District level scholarships vary and are at the discretion of the respective governing body.

**Important:** Given the current, and varying, restrictions on gathering and in social distancing practices, it is possible a virtual contest may be conducted in place of an in-person contest. Additional details will be provided as warranted if/as any changes are made.

Post Oratorical Contest

With 114 posts within the Department of Oregon there is a good likelihood that one is relatively close to your high school – check your local directory listings for the nearest American Legion post. Also, inquire of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program through your school’s speech and debate teacher, or your school’s scholarship contact and/or guidance counselor.

All eligible contestants begin at the Post level contest and compete for the opportunity to advance to the District contest. Scholarship awards are made at the discretion of the local post.

**Post Contest Date, Time and Location:** Contact your local American Legion Post.

District Oratorical Contest

There are 10 districts comprised within the Department of Oregon and each district contains a varying number of posts. Each District will conduct a District contest comprised of the Post contest winners within each respective district.

The District contest winners will advance to the Department contest. Scholarship awards are made at the discretion of each district, respectively.

**District Contest Date, Time and Location:** Contact your local American Legion Post.
**Department Oratorical Contest**

The District contest winners – a maximum of 10 – will compete in the Department contest to determine the department oratorical champion. In addition to the winning scholarship award, the winner of the Department contest will represent the Department of Oregon at the National Oratorical Contest Finals held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Expenses for the trip will be covered as detailed further below and within the official rules.

**2021 Department Oratorical Contest Scholarships** – awards for the Department Contest:

- 1st Place: $5,000.00
- 2nd Place: $3,500.00
- 3rd Place: $2,500.00
- 4th Place: $2,000.00

**Department Contest Date, Time and Location:** February 20, 2021 – Subject to change; time and location to be determined. Contact your local American Legion Post.

**National Oratorical Contest Finals**

Also known as National Finals, contestants representing 55 American Legion Departments from across the country and globe compete in the national level contest held in Indianapolis, Indiana. The national level contest consists of three rounds culminating in a national contest winner. Scholarship awards are achieved by competing as well as in winning and placing in the contest.

**Travel expenses to the National Contest**

The national organization of The American Legion will pay the travel and lodging expenses of department winners and one chaperone to the national contest. All contestants must be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age, preferably a parent of the contestant.

The national organization of The American Legion shall not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperone en route to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants certified into the national competition.

Contestants will travel by an air carrier selected by the national organization of The American Legion or personal automobile if previously approved by the national organization of The American Legion. Reference the official rules for more details.

**2021 National Oratorical Contest Finals** – awards for National Finals Contest:

- Quarterfinal: $2,000 for the Department contestant participating in the National Finals contest.
- Semifinal: $2,000 for each Contestant eliminated – winners advance to Finals.
- 1st Place: $25,000.00
- 2nd Place: $22,500.00
- 3rd Place: $20,000.00

**2021 National Finals Date, Time and Location:** April 9-11, 2021

Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel
2544 Executive Drive
Indianapolis, IN, 46241

*Contact your local American Legion post for the official contest rules and for dates, times and locations of the Post and District level contests.*
A selected history of Department of Oregon oratorical contest participation:

In 2020, Anwesha Mukherjee, West Union High School, Portland, Oregon became a two-time Department Contest champion amassing approximately $11,000 in scholarships through two years of competition.

In 2003, William Glaser, a home-schooled high school junior from Scio, Oregon won the Department Contest, then placed second in the National Finals and won $16,000.

In 1997, Kathy LaVeine, Tigard High School, Tigard, Oregon won the Department Contest and advanced to the first round of the National Contest; Kathy’s scholarship earnings totaled more than $2,000.

In 1996, Heather Cloutier, Crescent Valley High School, Corvallis, Oregon won the Department Contest and participated in the (then) Regional Contest. Heather’s scholarship earnings totaled approximately $3,000.

In 1988, T. J. Chandler, Canby Union High School, Canby, Oregon placed third in the National Finals and won a $10,000 scholarship.

In 1985, Anne Marie Dietering, Canby Union High School, Canby, Oregon placed second in the National Finals and won a $12,000 scholarship.

For more information contact your local American Legion Post or contact:
The American Legion Department of Oregon
PO Box 1730   Wilsonville, OR  97070-1730   Ph: 503-685-5006
General information

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among 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, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

Scholarships

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the final round of the national contest as follows: 1st place: $25,000; 2nd place: $22,500; 3rd place: $20,000. 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.

The national organization of The American Legion will award scholarships to the three finalists, department winners, and first round winners who are eliminated during the second round of competition. These scholarships may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

A contestant must give both his or her prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse to receive the scholarship.

In addition to the scholarships awarded by the national organization, there are several hundred scholarships awarded at the discretion of intermediate organizations, to participants at post, district or county, and department levels of competition.

Department contests

Arrangements for contests leading to the department finals shall be the responsibility of each department (state) organization of The American Legion. For those levels of competition prior to the department finals, the rules and regulations set forth in this brochure are not mandatory — they are offered as a guideline. However, all department finals contests shall conform with national contest procedures, rules and regulations, if the department wishes its finalist to compete in the national finals.

A winner certified to the National Americanism Division of The American Legion by a department which did not conduct its final competition in conformity with the rules and regulations as set forth herein may, in the judgment of the director of the Americanism Division or the director’s representative, be disqualified from competition in the national contest.

Each department may certify one contestant into the national contest. If for any reason the department winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion’s National Americanism Commission. A department first runner-up accepted into national competition will be entitled to all national awards, entitlements and compensation that the department winner would have received had she/he participated at that level.
Department contest winners MUST BE certified to the National Americanism Division, NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2021, by 5 p.m. EDT. Failure to meet this deadline WILL result in disqualification of the contestant.

For information about the Oratorical Contest in your state, contact your American Legion post or state headquarters.

Eligibility

Eligible participants in the 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 20 years 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 and terminating with grade 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.

High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

Contestants must be either legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department.

The three finalists of the national contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

Prepared oration

The subject to be used for the prepared oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen 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 eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. The copy may be electronic or paper form. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration until they exit the holding room in order to begin the contest. At that time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official who is monitoring the first holding room.

In the prepared oration, as well as in the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author’s name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

Assigned topic

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three minutes or more than five minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse 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 assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States selected from Articles and Sections. Below are the assigned topics for 2021.

Assigned topics for 2021

Article I, Section 7: All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States;[2] If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Article II, Section 3: He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.
Article III, Section 1. The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Amendment XXII, Section 1. No person shall be elected to the office of the 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. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

No foreign languages or songs

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language into the prepared oration and/or assigned topic in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. The vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must be delivered in the English language.

Also, the singing of a song in any language is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provided proper attribution is made.

What to wear

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required by all contestants. Contestants are not permitted to wear awards and medals from previous competition.

Contest regulations

A drawing shall be held by the official in charge of the contest to determine the order in which the contestants will appear. The contest chairman shall announce the title of the contestant’s prepared oration immediately after introducing him/her as contestant No. 1, contestant No. 2, etc. The chairman will request the audience to refrain from applause until the judges have made their decision.

A raised platform is not compulsory, however, it is strongly recommended. The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker’s stand by contestants or prompting in any manner is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

The use of any type of electronic/digital data gathering, receiving and/or transmitting equipment in any form by contestants or members of the audience is prohibited.

The time allotted for each contestant to deliver their prepared oration shall not be less than eight or more than 10 minutes, and for the assigned topic, not less than three or more than five minutes.

An official timer shall be named by the contest chairman whose duty it shall be to keep an accurate time record of each contestant, and she/he shall be located on the main floor in full view of the contestants. The timekeeper shall begin timing each contestant at the start of the prepared oration. The timer should be equipped with a stopwatch and time cards for the prepared oration carrying the figures 8, 9 and 10. When eight minutes have been used, the time warning card with the figure 8 thereon shall be placed in full view of the speaker, following with 9 and 10 as the speaker progresses. The same procedure shall be used with cards bearing 3, 4 and 5 during the assigned topic discourse. The contest chairman shall announce the time consumed by each contestant for the prepared oration and the assigned topic immediately after each contestant speaks for the benefit of the judges.

Contestants are required to remain in a private room, where the discourse of the other speakers cannot be heard, until it is their turn to speak (contestants will be under the supervision of an individual appointed by the contest chairman). As the contestants conclude their prepared orations, they must return to a sound-proof holding room. As each speaker concludes his or her assigned topic discourse, they shall not be allowed to associate with contestants who have not fulfilled the assigned topic requirement.

Approximately five minutes prior to the time of the delivery of the assigned topic discourse, contestant No. 1 will be informed of the topic drawn for the assigned topic and shall be permitted to retire to privacy under the direction of an individual appointed by the contest chairman, whose duty it shall be to see that no contestant is permitted to consult any text matter or notes having any connection with the subject matter upon which he/she is to speak, other than the actual words of the topic provided on the card drawn.

Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order in which she/he previously appeared. She/he shall also, in turn, be informed of the topic of the assigned topic discourse and shall then be escorted to privacy in the manner as provided for contestant No. 1.

Judges

The judges are an integral part of the Oratorical Contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging in all contests is the key to fairness and success of the program which results in the selection of a national champion.

All department finals and the national contest must use five judges. No publicity shall be given to the names of the judges in advance of the contest. During the contest, the judges will be seated in different locations in the auditorium and each judge shall render his or her final decision without consultation with other judges or any other person.

Judges will be advised that a lack of emphasis in the prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse on the duties and obligations of a citizen must result in their downgrading the contestant. Judges are permitted to downgrade a contestant up to a maximum of 10 points for failure to speak about the Constitution. The contest chairman will announce any violation of time for each contestant. A penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction
thereof, shall be assessed against the contestant’s total score. The judges, timekeepers, tabulators and the contest chairman, following the last assigned topic discourse, may proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation. The decision of the judges is final.

Tabulators

The contest chairman will appoint no less than three tabulators for the department finals contest. It will be their responsibility to review the judges’ scorecards to be certain they are fully tabulated and signed before they are submitted for final tabulation. Judges’ scorecards for department finals and the national contest will not be divulged to anyone at the site of the contest. All national contest judges’ scorecards become the property of The American Legion National Headquarters.

National finals contest

- The national finals contest will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West hotel April 9-11, 2021, in Indianapolis.Quarterfinal and semifinal rounds are scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 10. The championship is scheduled for Sunday, April 11.

- All contestants and chaperones will arrive on Friday, April 9. All contestants will be lodged at a hotel to be determined in Indianapolis.

- A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will be held the evening of Friday, April 9.

- A banquet honoring all contestants will be held the afternoon of Sunday, April 11.

- All contestants and chaperones will depart for home after the banquet on Sunday.

Travel expenses

The national organization of The American Legion will pay the travel and lodging expenses of department winners and one chaperone to the national contest. All contestants must be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age, preferably a parent of the contestant.

The national organization of The American Legion shall not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperone en route to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants certified into the national competition.

Contestants will travel by an air carrier selected by the national organization of The American Legion or personal automobile if previously approved by the national organization of The American Legion.

TV and radio

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests as well as filming or other types of media for later showing, provided: 1) the lighting and other site conditions are the same for all contestants; 2) the filming or broadcasts shall in no way distract the contestants or interfere with the announced scheduled time of the contest; 3) the normal speaking voice of the contestant is not interfered with or amplified within the auditorium; and 4) The American Legion is in no way financially obligated for anything without its prior approval.

For more information

Individuals interested in learning more about The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest should contact:
- For dates, sites and deadline information concerning local, district and state level competition, contact your local American Legion post or their state headquarters office of The American Legion.
- For information concerning the national contest, Americanism Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055; telephone (317) 630-1204; or email americanism@legion.org.
### A. CONTENT

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<th>Contestants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Was the speech original, fresh, and direct, applying the contestant's knowledge?</td>
<td>12 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared Oration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assigned Topic</td>
<td>4 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Did the contestant skillfully select examples, descriptions, analogies, and specific data?</td>
<td>12 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared Oration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Topic</td>
<td>4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Was the speech logical, well organized, and developed?</td>
<td>12 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared Oration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Topic</td>
<td>4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Did the contestant show a comprehensiveness of knowledge of the subject matter?</td>
<td>16 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared Oration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Topic</td>
<td>6 points</td>
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### B. SPEAKING SKILLS

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<th>Contestants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Did the contestant use volume, rate, pitch, and diction effectively?</td>
<td>6 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared Oration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Topic</td>
<td>4 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Rate the contestant's style: language use, word arrangement and selection, and transitions.</td>
<td>6 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared Oration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Topic</td>
<td>4 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Were body actions – poise, eye contact, posture, gestures, facial expressions – appropriate?</td>
<td>6 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared Oration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Topic</td>
<td>4 points</td>
</tr>
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**SUB-TOTAL**

**PENALTIES:**
- 1 point for each minute or fraction thereof over or under allotted time
- 1-10 points for failure to speak on the Constitution

**Final Total Points**

**Position Number - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**
(Highest Points = 1st place, second highest points = 2nd place, etc.)

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Score all contestants - NO TIES PERMITTED

Judge's Signature: ___________________________
American Legion department (state) contact information is online:

legion.org/departments

More information is available online:

legion.org/oratorical

THE AMERICAN LEGION
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1204
americanism@legion.org
www.legion.org

Follow The American Legion online:

www.legion.org/facebook
twitter.com/AmericanLegion
For students seeking an academic challenge and an opportunity to earn college scholarship money, the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. For more than 80 years, this constitutional speech contest has educated youth on our nation’s founding document, with an emphasis on citizenship.

The main purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among students. Participants also grow in leadership ability, their capacity to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and understanding of the rights, responsibilities, obligations and privileges of U.S. citizens.

Learn more about the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program at legion.org/oratorical.

For dates, sites and deadline information concerning local, district and state competition, contact your local American Legion post or state headquarters office.

For information concerning the national contest, contact The American Legion’s Americanism Division at (317) 630-1204 or americanism@legion.org.
Winners receive thousands in scholarships

The three finalists of the national contest earn some of the most generous scholarships college scholarships available to students: $25,000 for first place, $22,500 for second place and $20,000 for third place. Each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the first round of the national contest receives 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.

Scholarships awarded by the national organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any U.S. college or university.

Each department (state) is represented

Each department of The American Legion may certify one contestant for the national contest. If for any reason the department winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion’s Americanism Commission.

For information about the oratorical contest in your state, contact your local American Legion post or state headquarters. A listing of state headquarters’ addresses and phone numbers is online at legion.org.

Who is eligible to participate?

Eligible participants shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

All contestants must be younger than 20 years on the date of the national contest and enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited homeschool) in which the curriculum is considered to be high-school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 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.

High-school students who graduate early are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

Contestants must be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department. The three finalists of the national contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

The orations

The prepared oration – The subject used for the prepared oration must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with an emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations. 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 be delivered in no fewer than eight minutes and no more than 10 minutes. It must be delivered in the English language.

Assigned topic – The purpose of the assigned topic oration 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 it relates to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

Generally, the topic is a constitutional amendment; it could be the entire amendment or specific articles.

The assigned topic oration must be between three and five minutes. Each year, the list of assigned topics is made available prior to the contest and posted online at legion.org/oratorical/topics.

Contest judges

Fair and unbiased judging is integral for maintaining quality and integrity throughout all stages of the contest. The qualifications of all contest judges are carefully considered, and all judges have a thorough understanding of their roles.
THE PREPARED ORATION

Prepared oration

The subject to be used for the prepared oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen 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 eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. The copy may be electronic or paper form. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration until they exit the holding room in order to begin the contest. At that time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official who is monitoring the first holding room.

In the prepared oration, as well as in the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author’s name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

No foreign languages or songs

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language into the prepared oration and/or assigned topic in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. The vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must be delivered in the English language.

Also, the singing of a song in any language is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provided proper attribution is made.

What to wear

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required by all contestants. Contestants are not permitted to wear awards and medals from previous competition.
ASSIGNED TOPICS 2021

Assigned topic

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three minutes or more than five minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse 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 assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States selected from Articles and Sections. Further below are the assigned topics for 2021.

No foreign languages or songs

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language into the prepared oration and/or assigned topic in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. The vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must be delivered in the English language.

Also, the singing of a song in any language is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provided proper attribution is made.

What to wear

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required by all contestants. Contestants are not permitted to wear awards and medals from previous competition.
Assigned Topics for 2021 Oratorical Contest

Article I, Section 7

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States;[2] If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Article II, Section 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Article III, Section 1

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Amendment XXII, Section 1

No person shall be elected to the office of the 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. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.
OREGON ORATORICAL CONTEST
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read the Official Contest Rules and this form carefully and fully understand each one of the items listed. I acknowledge the following responsibilities:

- We understand that there will two (2) orations (speeches). One oration will be a prepared oration, 8 to 10 minutes in duration, on any topic from the U.S. Constitution. The second oration, 3 to 5 minutes, will be an assigned oration coming from a selection of four topics, usually from the amendments to the constitution. Only one will be drawn the day of the competition.

- Penalty points are given if the speeches are too short or too long. A penalty of one (1) point per minute or a fraction thereof if the speech is too short or the same if it is too long. This will be clearly established in the instruction packet that MUST be given to contestants (students). The Post Oratorical Chairman should double check to see that each contestant has a high school packet.

- It is understood that notes may be used only at the Post level competition. There are to be NO NOTES of any kind beginning at the District level of competition.

- The Post should provide a time for the contestants to present both orations and, if possible, in front of a Post meeting or a group of people using the format of the Oratorical Contest set by National Oratorical Contest. Even with only one contestant this should be done to acquaint contestants with the procedures of the Oratorical Contest.

- The date, time, and location should be clearly marked on this form for both the Post and District contests.

- This form must be signed by the high school student, a parent, and Post Oratorical Chairman. A copy will be kept by the Chairman as well as attached to the Certification Form.

Post Contest Date to give oration: ______________
Place and address to be held: _________________________________________________________

District Contest Date to give oration: ______________
Place and address to be held: _________________________________________________________

Signed by:
Student_______________________________________________________ Date_______________
Parent________________________________________________________ Date_______________
Post Chairman__________________________________________________ Date_______________
CERTIFICATION FORM

AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

CONTESTANTS: Must complete and return this original form to The American Legion Post Oratorical Chairman by December 1, 2020.

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT/ PARENT/SCHOOL:

Print or Type:
Contestant’s Name_____________________________Signature________________________

Address___________________________City_____________________State________Zip Code____

Area and Phone Number___________________________Social Security No_____________________

Name of High School_____________________________City_____________________Phone No____________

Grade_____ Age_______ Are You A Citizen of The United States, Or a Lawful Permanent Resident?___________

Parent/Guardian’s Name (Print)_____________________________Signature____________________________

Title of Prepared Oration (Print)_____________________________

Principal or
Representative’s Name (Print)_____________________________Signature____________________________

TO BE COMPLETED BY POST ORATORICAL CHAIRMAN:

Print or Type:
Post Chairman Name_____________________________Post Name and No_____________________________

Address___________________________City_____________________State________Zip Code____

Post/Chairman’s Area and Phone No.________________________Sponsoring Post______________________________

CONTEST DATES:

(1) Post Contest___________________________(2) District Contest___________________________

(3) Area Contest___________________________(4) Department Contest___________________________

Post Oratorical Chairman: The Certification Form, Acknowledgment Form and Post Chairman’s Contest Survey Sheet is to be completed and provided to your District Oratorical Chairman or District Commander immediately following the Post Contest.

District Oratorical Chairman: The 1st and 2nd Place District winner’s Certification Form, Acknowledgment Form and a rough copy of the winner’s Prepared Oration are to be mailed immediately to the Contest Chairperson of the Department Oratorical Committee: Cory Brockmann 21427 SW Susan Ln, Beaverton, OR 97003 Ph: 503-313-5216 Email: cory.brockmann@comcast.net

NOTE: The Certification Form, Acknowledgement Form, and Contest Rules, may be duplicated as needed for the student.

The American Legion | Department of Oregon | 2020-2021 Oratorical Program