This contest is for students who

Welcome Learning

For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn about our country's Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 75 years.

"Who we vote for matters. The leaders we elect should reflect the spirit of our society. Their main goal should be the preservation of our rights as written in our founding document. Failure to vote, then, is the equivalent of rejecting the freedoms bestowed on each individual by our Constitution. These freedoms, like a family heirloom, should be treasured and held dear."

- Geeta Minocha, Florida
2015 National Champion

The main purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge 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.

For more information on The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, look on the Legion website at www.legion.org/oratorical, or contact the following:

- For dates, sites and deadline information concerning local, district and state level competition, individuals should contact their local American Legion post or their respective state headquarters office of The American Legion.
- For information concerning the national contest, contact:
  The Americanism Division
  The American Legion
  PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
  (317) 630-1204
  oratorical@legion.org

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

Winners receive scholarships

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists of the national contest as follows: **1st place: $18,000; 2nd place: $16,000; 3rd place: $14,000.** 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.

The scholarships awarded by the national organization of The American Legion may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

Each department (state) is represented

Each department of The American Legion 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.

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 can be found on the Legion website at **www.legion.org**.

Who is eligible to participate?

You are eligible to participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program if you are a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States. Further, all contestants must be bona fide students under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest

and must be enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum of the 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 contest.

Contestants address Constitution topics

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 eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

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 take no less than three minutes and must not exceed five minutes for time of delivery. Each year, the list of assigned topics will be made available prior to the contest and posted on the Legion website at **www.legion.org/oratorical/topics**.

Independent judges select winners

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